

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

USA Dance Greater Macon Chapter 6059

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Monthly Dance. We have a dance each month on the second Saturday. Please join us **Saturday, Jan 11, 2020** at the Howard Community Club, 5645 Forsyth Road, Macon, for **our monthly dance**, complete with music provided by DJ Chester Gibbs, and good friends.

A complimentary East Coast Swing lesson will be provided at 7:30 by Nancy Raper.

Those arriving by 7:30 are also entered into our early-bird drawing.

Feel free to bring a dish, dessert, or snack.

Future Dance Dates:

January 11

February 8

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

Our outgoing dance coordinator, Dianne Kent, served for several years in that position. Dianne devoted much time and effort to ensure our dance classes and activities were excellent. The Board and all chapter members wish to thank Dianne for her service!

Thanks, Dianne!



USA Dance Greater Macon Chapter 6059 co-founder Paula East and chapter members Daniel Boudreault and Laura Thomason were invited to present dance demonstrations and instruction at the inaugural meeting of the Association of Filipinos and Friends of Georgia (AFFGA) held December 7 at La Pirada in Macon. Daniel and Laura performed a rumba and a foxtrot demonstration while Paula got the AFFGA membership up on their feet to learn some basic steps and start the evening's social dancing with plenty of positive energy. Event coordinator Zeny Gonzales wrote to Paula, "Thank you so much for the wonderful participation and for going to our organization's event. I know you had injured your hand and couldn't dance with a partner but yet you were able to get the audience to participate in dancing. Thank you for helping us with this program and helping us to raise the funds for our nonprofit organization. I hope we can do this again in the future. If there's anything we can help you with for your organization, just let us know. Thank you again!"

We thank Paula, Laura, and Daniel for volunteering their time and efforts and representing USA Dance.

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January Activities

Chapter Board Meeting-Wednesday, Jan 8, 7:00 pm, American Legion, 5530 Thomaston Road, Macon. All members are welcome to attend.

Paula East: Paula may be reached at paulaeastdance@yahoo.com or 478-750-0802 for private lessons

Dianne Kent: Four-week classes are held at Howard Community Club on Mondays. 7:00 pm line dance lessons and 8:00 pm ballroom lessons. dkdancelessons@gmail.com 478-986-4110 for private lessons

Debra Leathers: Contact Debra at djsmckea@gmail.com for private lessons

Daniel Boudreault and Laura Thomason: Email dldancers.com for private lessons.

Carl Candiano: unvcandy@yahoo.com for private lessons

American Legion: There is a different dance or lesson every Friday at 8:00. Admission is \$5 for individual or \$8 per couple and a canned vegetable each. And don't forget the dance with a live band every Saturday night at 8:00.

Argentine Tango group normally meets and dances at Marco Ristorante Italiano on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. Also, a professional group lesson is taught once a month by Clint Rauscher (normally the last Sunday of the month at 4 pm). Contact Carol Frayne for confirmation.

An additional Argentine Tango group focusing on beginners meets at the VFW, 4864 Harrison Rd from 7:00 to 9:30 on Tuesdays. Call Darrel Carter at 404-805-8793 for more info.

Julia Juarez: The Dance Society will host a dance at the Warner Robins Moose Lodge, 400 Carl Vinson Pkwy On Jan 18. Dance starts at 7:30. \$5 donation. A west coast swing lesson will be provided by Julia.

The Macon Shag Club meets Thursdays at 7 pm at the Holiday Inn North. They teach a free shag lesson each week starting at 6:30.

If I left anything or anyone out, it was unintentional. Email me at darrelcarter29@gmail.com and advise me what you would like to see in the newsletter.

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Member Spotlight: David Leathers

To understand how David Leathers came to USA Dance you'd have to start with his background. He was born into a dairy farm family in 1962 where he raised calves, shoveled manure, hoed tobacco and generally worked his butt off in rain, sleet, snow...well, you get the picture. His parents are strict Southern Baptist. Apparently that means no dancing. He learned this after having raised the most funds for his senior prom only to be informed that he couldn't go. After the dance was well underway he was allowed to slip away to the school where he pulled himself up to a window. Seeing all he was missing, his heart broke. Years later, his first marriage didn't work out so well. His wife enjoyed Designing Women and other programming that was demeaning to men. So when, many years after his divorce, he stumbled into Paula East's ballroom class on Waltz he was delighted to find that ladies are very happy to have a man around, and esteem them greatly. To his surprise he found that the men are not expected to be great dancers, and are graciously allowed mistakes. The only thing the ladies asked was for the man to be a gentleman and show up. Instructors Paula East, Di-anne Kent, and Jim Riley taught David Leathers in the early years how to behave as a gentleman. And the welcome he felt from the ladies kept him coming back. "There's a bit of healing every time I extend my hand, and a lady accepts" David is 'oft known to say. And his parents? He asked his mother about their beliefs one day. She traced it back to a time when his dad took her to a club in Louisville KY where ladies got on the tables and took off their clothes. After showing his parents photos and video of our dances, David's parents are content, and even happy for the quality people of USA Dance and the friendships formed through ballroom dance. We call it social dance now, but David has reason to be nostalgic: It was through Paula East's First Friday ballroom dance at the Macon Sports Hall of Fame that he fell in love with and then married the most gracious Debra



McCullough Leathers. David now encourages others, saying that while forming new relationships gets harder as we get older, it becomes easy and enjoyable though dance.

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CHAPTER NEWS:

Several members attended the Christmas party at Carlyle Place in Macon December 13 and helped get the dancing off to a good start. Attending were Dwayne Crocker, Don Deiter, Paul Karpinecz, and Darrel and Teri Carter. Thanks, Sandy and Walter Barnet for the invitation. The band and food were great! And we enjoyed the dancing!

Dwayne Crocker has been appointed as Social Dance Coordinator for our chapter for a two-year term.

Carl Candiano has served on the board and was the recent Vice President. Carl resigned from the board at the end of 2019 for personal reasons. We thank Carl for his service to the chapter. Darrel Carter was appointed as chapter Vice-President. All other board positions remain the same for this year.

Many of our chapter members participated in a Thanksgiving food donation with the local American Legion Post. **Fifteen** needy families received food from this effort. Thanks to all that participated.

Do you have any suggestions? Can you assist or help in any way? This is your/our club. Do you want the chapter to succeed and flourish? Get involved,. There is plenty to be done. We can use your talents and expertise. And we can ALWAYS use help breaking down and cleaning up after the monthly dances!

Board Members

President Laura Thomason

VP Darrel Carter

Treasurer Bob Morgan

Secretary David Leathers

Chester Gibbs

Carol Frayne

Briana Warner

Your chapter is online: usad6059.org

Also check our facebook page: facebook.com/USAD6059 for event reminders, photos, and videos. If you desire not to have your picture taken and/or posted, let Bob Morgan know such when you arrive at the dance. Thanks,

Darrel