



MINNESOTA DANCER

April 2019

An Official Publication of USA
Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011

**The Annual Tea Dance
is coming soon!
Hosted by USA Dance-
Minnesota #2011.
See details on [page 9](#).**

Photo by David Chin.

[Round and Round They Go](#)

[President's Letter](#)

[Tea Dance Sponsorships](#)

[Competition Calendar](#)

[New! Lyndale Dance Night](#)

[Queen Mary 2 Asia Cruise](#)

[Dance Contacts](#)


[Costume Spring Cleaning](#)



Contents

Round and Round and Round They Go	3
President's Letter	6
Tea Dance Sponsorships	9
Competition Calendar.....	10
New! Lyndale Dance Night.....	11
Queen Mary 2 Asia Cruise: Trip of a lifetime	13
Dance Contacts	18
Dance Costume Spring Cleaning	20

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Minnesota Dancer

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota

Chapter #2011

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 was formed in 1991. Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members receive discounts on admission to monthly dances, as well as other benefits.

The Minnesota Dancer is published monthly by the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011, to provide information and news about ballroom dancing.

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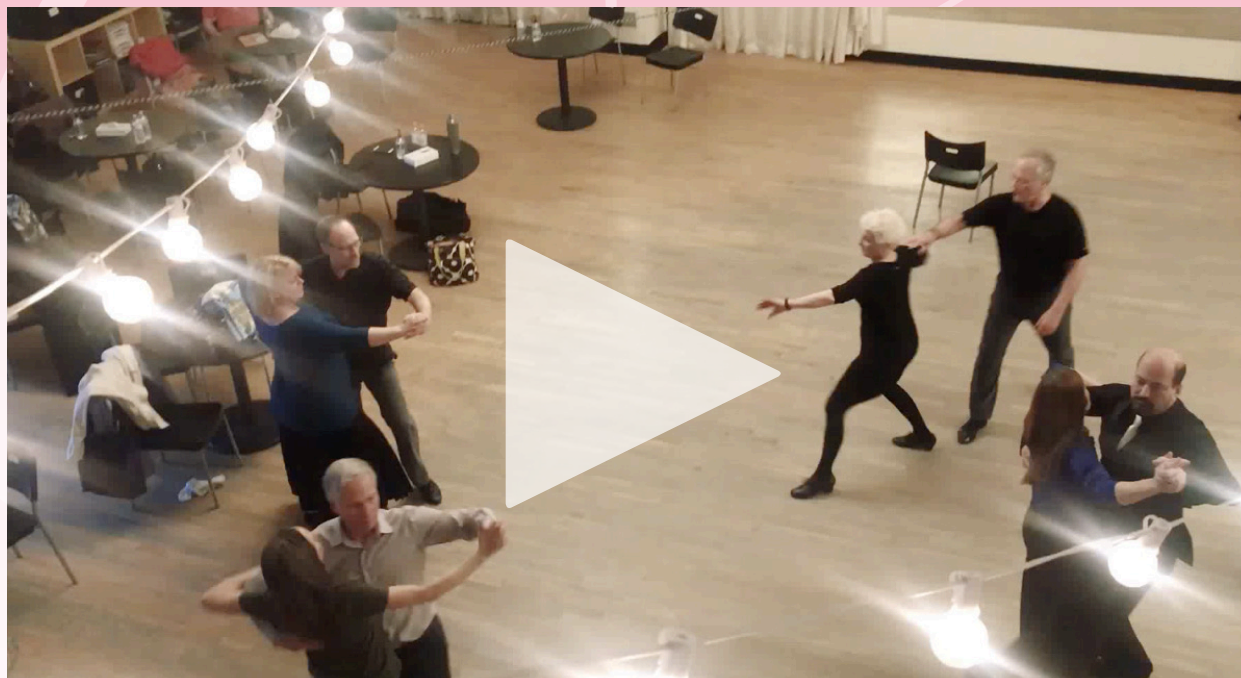
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Round and Round and Round They Go

Couples Dancing Practice Rounds at Cinema

Article and photos By Bonnie Burton

Are you planning to dance at a ballroom competition? Want to improve your ballroom dance floor-craft? Maybe you're interested in building stamina and athleticism. Competition ballroom dance rounds will help get you there! Rounds are to dancers like practice runs are to runners, prior to a big event.

We were excited when Cinema Ballroom recently offered supervised rounds classes, because Ed and I like to compete. We attended the first event along with a dozen other couples. All of us danced American Smooth and International Standard dances around obstacles, and each other, dance after dance after dance. The session required that all dancers attend with a partner or with the permission of their Cinema instructor.

Click arrows on either side of photo to view the slideshow.

Continued on the following page.



The delightful Michelle Hudson, owner of Cinema Ballroom, ran the class and played the music. She good-naturedly joked we would have to do push-ups if we ran into another couple – fortunately, she was kidding! Sometimes she varied the speed of the music, which is always challenging. After the first round, she put obstacles (chairs) on the floor – as if dancing with 12 other couples (two dozen bodies) wasn't challenging enough! At the end of the class, she provided each couple with specific helpful written critiques of what they could do to improve their performances.

Competitors may have a love-hate relationship with rounds – they know they must do them to prepare for the competition floor, but they know they'll have to work hard and go through a little suffering in the process. For example, Ed and I try to dance practice rounds in the weeks leading up to a competition, because I occasionally have breathing issues that can be helped by conditioning. Rounds are very similar to high intensity interval training (H.I.I.T), if done properly.

A little background. Competition dance, also known as DanceSport, demands high levels of strength, stamina, flexibility and technique. Ballroom dancers who participate in dance competitions compete in groups of similar age and skill level. They dance a sequence of dances together on the same floor while being judged on their speed, elegance, body action, and dramatic movements by judges who evaluate and score each routine.

A typical American smooth round requires couples to dance waltz, tango, foxtrot, and Viennese waltz, in that order, in sequence, without stopping. Each dance is about 1 to 1-1/2 minutes long, with 20-30 seconds between each dance to set up for the next one. A full American Smooth round will last about 9-10 minutes from the moment competitors walk on to the floor until they exit the

floor. That may sound like a deceptively easy and short period of time – but remember these dancers are going full out, flying down the floor, requiring high levels of strength, stamina, and flexibility. Think about running from one end of the long Cinema Ballroom dance floor performing American Viennese Waltz and Quickstep, with perfect technique, over and over! It is hot, tiring work.

There are a many rules and customs associated with dancing rounds, such as:

- The leader offers his right arm to the follow and the couple walks onto the dance floor. He does the same for each subsequent dance to lead her to the next location on the floor where they will start their next dance.



The winners' podium at the Royal Palm DanceSport Competition in Ft. Lauderdale, Ed Soltis, Bonnie Burton, Leslie Whitney, and Leland Whitney.

*Photo by Moon Dance Studio.
Continued on the following page.*

- At the end of each dance, the couple performs a “roll out” where they bow/curtsy/present themselves and acknowledge the audience and each other.
- Couples must make every effort to NOT run into each other on the dance floor, which requires navigating to negative space and making artful use of pauses as needed to avoid collisions.
- Couples are encouraged to smile, show emotive expression, and perform at full capacity with excellent technique in order to connect with the audience and judges.
- Most competition dance is performed to choreography which is an agreed upon sequence of steps. Rounds are best performed AFTER couples already know their choreography, as there is no time to stop to practice or re-do a move.
- Sometimes one or the other partner forgets their choreography. It is up to the leader to determine what happens next to get back on track. It is the follow’s job to smile, stay poised, and support the partnership until the dance ends. The couple should never show they have done (or failed to do) anything other than their intended dance moves. Afterwards, it is completely permissible to ask your partner, “What the #%#@# happened out there?!”

There are variations competitors may use to build stamina and technique, such as by dancing 3-minute dances in each round, instead of the customary 1-1/2 minutes; or wearing weights on their arms to train them to hold their ballroom frame more effortlessly; or dancing each round very S-L-O-W-L-Y. It is easy to get sloppy and let the arms and frame droop or the footwork become indistinct when

fatigue sets in, as it is prone to do at the end of the round, or series of rounds. These training tools, like the practice rounds offered by Cinema Ballroom, help competition dancers become more polished and prepared.

There were three USA Dance-Minnesota couples (25% of the couples) participating in this first session. Competitive dancers with partners may want to consider attending future sessions. We thoroughly enjoyed the class and will return soon!



President's Letter

By Joyce Thompson

Joyce Thompson is a long time volunteer of Minnesota Chapter #2011, and is current President of the chapter.



Kudos to the Minnesota Dancer communications team on the new enhancements to our publication! I encourage you to check out the videos and additional pictures in the interactive version. I remember when the original newsletter was printed in black and white with no photos.

USA Dance National Championships will be held April 12-13 in Orem, Utah. We wish our Minnesota competitors the very best, showing off their hard work in preparing for this special event.

There will not be a 2nd Friday dance at Tapestry in April because of a special weekend event being held there. See you May 10th for the next 2nd Friday dance.

Project Dance continues to be a popular program with about 50 attendees learning West Coast Swing with Bonnie Inveen each week at The Tapestry Folkdance Center. April 7th will be the last session for this series. Space was not available on the 14th, the 21st is the Easter Holiday and the 28th is our annual Tea Dance. Mark your calendars for May and June for waltz at Duende Dance Studio with instructor Troy Lerum.

The deadline for early bird registration for the Tea Dance is rapidly approaching. This is my favorite event. Make your reservations before April 15th to receive the early discount. You do not need to have a partner to attend this event—everyone is welcome to join us!

Happy dancing!



Progressive West Coast Swing

Sunday, March 3 — 1:30 pm
Sunday, March 10 — 1:30 pm
Sunday, March 17 — 1:30 pm
Sunday, March 24 — 1:30 pm
Sunday, March 31 — 1:30 pm
Sunday, April 07 — 1:30 pm

Classes with
Bonnie Inveen

Tapestry Folkdance Center
3748 Minnehaha Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.772.2914

www.usadance-minnesota.org
info@usadance-minnesota.org
Follow us @USADanceMN



USA Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$5. Non-members pay \$10.

Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org or fill out a membership form available at class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.



USA DANCE CHAPTER #2011 MONTHLY EVENTS

April

Monthly Dance

No Friday Dance in April

Monthly Dance

Saturday, April 20
Cinema Ballroom

1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul
7–8 pm Foxtrot lesson
by Alyssa O'Neal
8–11 pm Variety Dance

Project Dance

Sunday, April 7
Tapestry Folkdance Center

3748 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls.
Progressive West Coast Swing
lesson by Bonnie Inveen.
1:30–2:30 pm
2:30–3:00 pm is practice time

**Only one lesson in April due to
Easter Sunday, USA Chapter
#2011 Annual Tea Dance and
space availability**

May

Monthly Dance

Saturday, May 18
Cinema Ballroom

1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul
7–8 pm Hustle lesson
Instructor TBD
8–11 pm Variety Dance

June

Monthly Dance

Saturday, June 15
American Classic Ballroom

1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria
7–8 pm Tango lesson
by Paul Botes
8–11 pm Variety Dance

Admission to USA Dances:

\$5 Students under 25 with ID
\$10 USA Dance Members
\$15 Non-Members

**If you join USA Dance at a
monthly dance, you attend that
dance for free!**

Admission to Project Dance:

\$5 USA Dance Members
\$10 Non-Members

**You can sign up to become a member at Project Dance! Yearly
membership is only \$35⁰⁰.**

SPECIAL EVENTS

27th Annual Tea Dance

Sunday April 28, 2019

Brunch, dancing and live entertainment at the historic Lafayette Country Club
2800 Northview Road, Wayzata, MN
Tea Dance brunch and dance 11:00-4:00 pm

[See full details on page 9](#)



USA Dance –MN Chapter #2011 Board Meeting Minutes February 5, 2019

Submitted by Carol Post

Attendees: Joyce Thompson (President), Leland Whitney (Vice President), Carol Post (Secretary), Stephanie Clausen, Leslie Whitney, Bonnie Burton and Marla Heisterkamp. Absent: Russell Alliev (Treasurer) and Gary Stroick.

The meeting conducted by teleconference due to treacherous weather and called to order at 6:35PM

1. Agenda: Approved 7/0/0
2. Confidentiality
3. Board Minutes 1/9/2019 as amended: Approved: 7/0/0
4. Treasurer Report: Approved: 7/0/0
 - a. Budget tabled until March
 - b. Quick Books options explored. Motion: Purchase “QB Essentials” on monthly basis. Approved: 7/0/0.
5. Communications Report:
 - a. Minnesota Dancer: New format will roll out in upcoming issue. Format has new look and is expecting to draw a larger viewer base.
 - b. Website upgrades: Chapter site upgrades completed by Gary. Has similar look as other USA Dance chapters. Able to add/move activities more easily.
6. Special Projects Report:
 - a. Tea Dance - On track for advertising and site support. Announcements will be made at USA Dances and other events. Flyers will be distributed to colleges and chapters.
 - b. Longest Day fund raiser request: Alzheimer’s Association request for monetary support for Annual fundraiser declined.
 - c. Dance Camp - On hold for 2019.
7. Social Dance Coordinator Report:
 - a. Chapter Monthly Dances: February 16-Dancers Studio-Quickstep; March 16- Dance With Us America Ballroom-Samba; April 20 –Cinema Ballroom-Foxtrot (Treats provided); May 18-Cinema-Hustle; June 15-American Classic Ballroom-Tango.
 - b. 2nd Friday Dance- February 8-(Co-hosted with Tapestry).
8. Project Dance Report: March-April-Tapestry; May-June-Duende Dance Studio. Concurrent sessions have been a success. Attendance is up.
 - a. Motion: Free admission to dance for the 10 attendees who have attended 50% or more of the sessions in 2018. Approved: 7/0/0.
9. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Report: Leslie will contact Macalester about Ballroom Club.
10. Marketing and Publicity Report: Exploring marketing platforms. Additional report in March.
11. Membership Report:
 - a. 2018- February: 251
 - b. 2019-February: 254
 - c. Increased interest for Am/Am competition opportunities for local dance community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm. Next meeting is Tuesday March 5. Byerlys, St. Louis Park Community Room 6:30-7:45pm.

Tea Dance Sponsorships

Every year, generous members of our dance community graciously provide Tea Dance sponsorships for college ballroom dance students. These sponsorships allow students an opportunity to attend the annual Tea Dance. Be a part of this memorable tradition. Tea Dance brunch and dance tickets for college students are \$34 per ticket.

Make checks payable to: USA Dance Chapter 2011. Please indicate the number of student sponsorships in the memo column. Payment must be received by April 15.

Mail to:
USA Dance Chapter 2011

Attention: Carol Post
3600 France Avenue South
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

For more info:
teadance2019@gmail.com



27th Annual Tea Dance

SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2019

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011
invites you to enjoy an elegant afternoon of brunch,
dancing and live entertainment at the historic
Lafayette Country Club
located at 2800 Northview Road, Wayzata, MN



Checks payable by April 23rd to
USA Dance Chapter #2011-Tea Dance
c/o Carol Post
3600 France Ave., S.-St Louis Park, MN 55416
include phone number and email

**EARLY BIRD RESERVATIONS THROUGH APRIL 15, 2019
BRUNCH (11:00AM-12:15 PM) AND DANCE (1-4PM)**

ADULT \$39

STUDENT \$34

**RESERVATIONS MADE APRIL 16-APRIL 23, 2019
BRUNCH (11:00AM-12:15 PM) AND DANCE (1-4PM)**

ADULT \$45

STUDENT \$40

DANCE ONLY 1PM-4PM

ADULT \$25

STUDENT \$20

For further information call: 952-926-7648 or email: teadance2019@gmail.com

2019 COMPETITION CALENDAR

April

12-13

**USA Dance National
DanceSport Championships**

Orem, UT
Hosted by USA Dance Nationals
Org. Committee

June

28-30

**Gumbo DanceSport
Championships-NQE**

New Orleans, LA
Hosted by the LA Gumbo USA
Dance Ch. #5031

September

7-8

**Kansas City Dance Classic -
Registered Event**

Overland Park, KS
Organized by Matt & Ellen Pansing

November

16

**California State DanceSport
Championships - NQE**

Hosted by NorCal USA Dance
Chapter # 4004

May

4

**New England DanceSport
Championships-NQE**

Dedham, MA
Hosted by MASSabda USA Dance
Ch. #3002

19

**Go Wild DanceSport
Competition**

Bloomington, MN
Hosted by Donna Edelstein

17-19

**San Antonio DanceSport
Classic-NQE**

San Antonio, TX
Organizers: Wayne & Marie
Crowder

July

18-21

**Twin Cities Open Ballroom
Championships**

Minneapolis, MN
Hosted by Scott & Amy Anderson

26-28

**OKC Dreamcatcher
DanceSport Championships-
NQE**

Oklahoma City, OK
Organized by Wayne & Marie
Crowder

October

4-6

**2019 Carolina Fall Classic
DanceSport Championships-
NQE**

Charlotte, NC
Organized by Wayne & Marie
Crowder

25-27

**Chicago DanceSport Challenge-
NQE**

Chicago, IL
Hosted by Chicagoland USA
Dance Chapter #2001

2020

COMPETITION CALENDAR

January-
February

31-2

**Southeastern DanceSport
Championships-NQE**

Dunwoody, GA
Organized by Wayne & Marie
Crowder

New! Lyndale Dance Night

By Bonnie Burton

It started with a simple idea to host a birthday dance for herself in June. Patricia Soulak asked David Schmit, the owner of the old DanceLife Ballroom, "I want to throw myself a birthday party. How much to rent the ballroom?" David quoted her a price. But, before the week was out, he offered her a deal she couldn't refuse: would she want to reserve the ballroom for every Friday night from 7-10 PM and hold dances?

After thinking about it briefly, she decided, "Why yes! Yes, she did!" She and many others had missed the fun Friday night dances that had been a regular event there for years. Why not try to recreate those fun times once again? And so the *Lyndale Dance Night* event was born.

Lyndale Dance Night will be a regular Friday night variety dance party, held at the old DanceLife Ballroom at 6015 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls., MN. The first dance, a Preview Party, will be held Friday, April 5, 2019, with a lesson from 7-8 PM, and a variety dance following the lesson from 8-10 PM. The Preview Party special promotion admission is \$10 for the dance and lesson. (*The regular price is \$15 for the dance with a complimentary free lesson.*)

Pat Soulak is your hostess for Lyndale Dance Nights. Laia Olivier will be the instructor at the April 5 preview party and Rhett Romsaas will DJ the dance. Pat says they expect to have different instructors teaching on a rotating basis.

Pat is a registered nurse (R.N.), a graduate of St. Catherine University, and currently is Clinical Nursing Supervisor for the Minnesota Veterans Home. She has two grown children and a granddaughter. She has loved to dance socially all her life and

started taking ballroom dance lessons five years ago at DanceLife Ballroom. She has become a self-described dance addict and has competed in several dance competitions locally. Her favorite dance is the Rumba.

Lyndale Dance Night

*Preview Party, Friday,
April 5*

*6015 Lyndale Ave, S.
Mpls, MN*

7 PM - Lesson with Laia

8-10 PM - Variety Dance

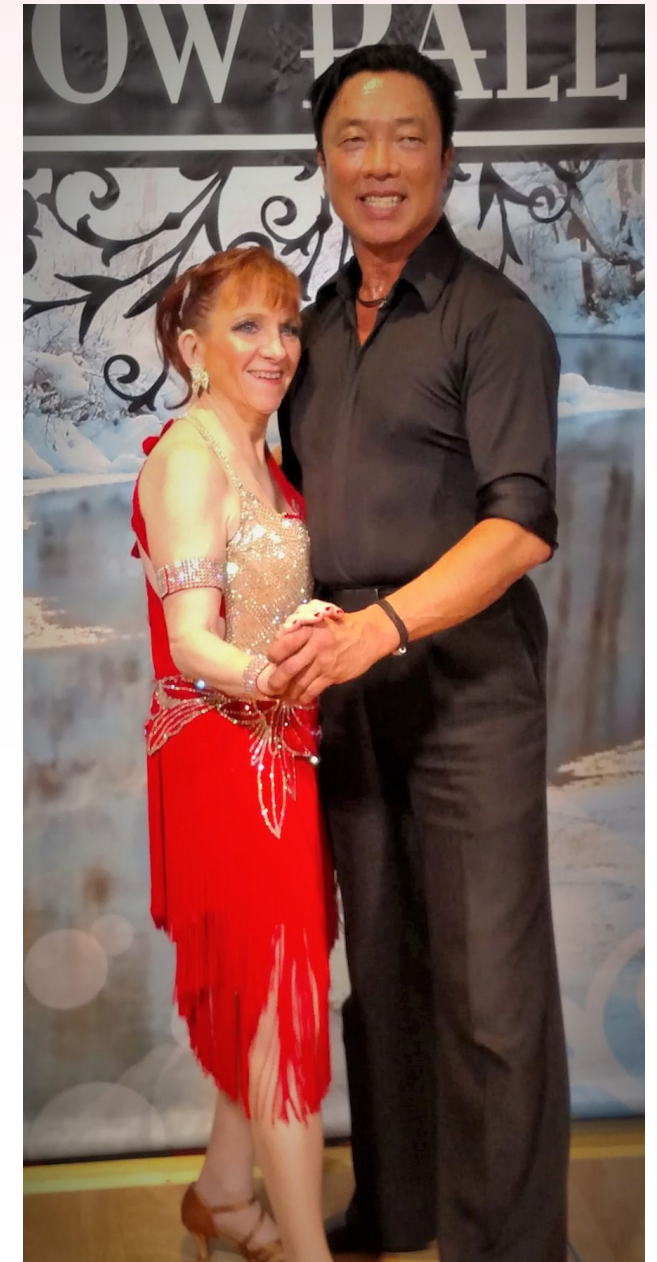
*Special promotion price:
\$10 Lesson & Dance*

Host: Pat Soulak

DJ: Rhett Romsaas



Patricia Soulak and Shinya McHenry.



Photos submitted by Patricia Soulak.







USA DANCE
2019 NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Much-Awaited Debut in Orem, Utah
 Showcasing America's Top DanceSport Athletes
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 WDSF World Events

Scholarships for Championship Divisions
 Selecting USA World Teams for WDSF World Championships

APRIL 12-13, 2019
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OREM, UTAH

Andrew Maliyava & Avital Ayzerov (NJ)
USA Dance 2018 National DanceSport Championships
National Champions, Junior II 10-Dance
USA World Team, Junior II Latin
LISA DUBINSKY/BOSTON

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Lynne's Dance News

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.



for a comprehensive list of dance events in the Twin Cities and surrounding area see:

www.lynnesdancenews.com



Queen Mary 2 Asia Cruise: Trip of a Lifetime

Article and photos By Patricia Soulak



Joyce Thompson, Ann Bundgaard, Therese Meszaros, Un Hui Shonley, and Pat Soulak

On February 10th, five ladies - Ann Wagner, Un Hui Shonley, Therese Meszaros, Joyce Thompson and myself - braved a Minnesota winter blizzard to get to MSP airport. Our flight was delayed 30 minutes, but we were getting out of Minnesota to a warm climate, no matter what! We were going on a 14-day cruise to Asia aboard the Queen Mary 2! In Singapore, we met up with Shinya McHenry who was flying in from Hawaii to meet us. We arrived in Singapore at midnight on February 11th and checked into the Singapore Orchard Hotel for the night. After a breakfast buffet the next morning, we boarded the Queen Mary 2. Shinya had organized the travel arrangements through Carousel Travel in Richfield.

The Queen Mary had just arrived for a two-day stay in port. We got settled in our rooms aboard, then toured the amazing ship. Joyce, Shonley and I went to our first High Tea in the Queens Room. Waiters served us with their white gloved hands. We enjoyed delightful sandwiches, desserts, and of course, light and fluffy scones with our tea to background music of a Harpist. Several hours later, after an elegant five-course dinner, the six of us went to the Queens Ballroom for our first night of dancing on a wonderful dance floor to the live orchestra.

Shinya danced with us, but there were also eight dance hosts to dance with us and the other passengers as well. Six of the dance hosts were from England, two were from America and all were very proficient dancers, dancing International Style Ballroom. They enjoyed dancing with us, since we had quite a bit of dance experience as well.

The next day Shinya and the ladies took the “Highlights of Singapore Tour” where we saw the Orchard Road from colonial times of the Singapore plantations, stopped at the Sri Mariamman Temple (Hindu), Chinatown and then the National Orchid Gardens in the Singapore Botanical Gardens. What a beautiful experience in a rainforest with tropical plants and trees! We also saw many of the buildings from the movie, “Crazy Rich Asians” on the tour. Singapore is one-degree from the equator so it is hot and fair skinned people can get easily sunburned without sunscreen.

Continued on the following page.

On February 14th and 15th we were at sea and headed for Vietnam. During the day on the cruise there is something to do all the time if you want, or you can just relax. There are many clubs and groups that meet on the cruise from fitness, singles, knitting, singing and dancing lessons to name a few. We ate many times during the day and then Shinya, Joyce, Shonley and I would exercise in the fitness center or walk laps around the ship. February 14th was the Valentine Gala Ball and we had a wonderful dinner, with dancing to follow, of course. After dancing we went to the 11 PM nightly buffet for more food, where we shared photos and talked about the day.

February 16th, we landed at Chan May, Vietnam. Joyce, Shonley, Therese and Ann took a tour of Da Nang and Non Nuoc Beach. This was a favorite part of Joyce's trip. She found that it was a jammed packed tour visiting a large collection of sandstone sculptures, embroidery artwork, marble carvings, the famous dragon bridge, and a last stop at Non Nuoc Beach with beautiful white sand and crystal blue water. It was fun to take the cycle Rickshaw ride through the streets of Da Nang, which was a unique opportunity. This area is now a resort. There is a significant amount of building of resorts and hotels to accommodate plans for tourism to improve the economy.

I didn't take the tour, but took the free shuttle to Non Nuoc Beach, but then hired a cab and went into DaNang to walk around into the shops and had lunch at a little Vietnamese café. Luckily there were subtitles on the menu, so I knew what I was ordering and it was delicious.

The next day was a sea day and later we arrived in Hong Kong. Therese Meszaros has a son who lives and works in Hong Kong, so he picked her up and she spent the day with him. Her special memory is having high tea with her son at the beautiful Peninsula



Joyce Thompson, Shonley, Therese Meszaros, Pat Soulak and Shinya McHenry

Hotel. In Hong Kong we went on a tour of the Chi Lin Nunnery with large wooden architecture treasures and Buddhist relics as well as the Kowloon Walled City Park from early 1640's Hong Kong. We were in Hong Kong for two days. We realized we are so fortunate to have the housing space we have in America. Most people in Asia live in tall high rises with a living space of 200 to 600 square feet.

The last stop was Shanghai China. We had a beautiful 5-star hotel across the street from many little shopping markets. Therese, Shonley and I made wonderful purchases of pearl jewelry and cashmere scarves that were so inexpensive and beautiful. Shinya found a restaurant on the last night at a wonderful Chinese restaurant, where the locals ate. We ordered many entrees and side dishes at a huge round table with a lazy Susan and shared the food with a bottle of wine. Later we walked the streets of Shanghai with all the colorful lights. Everyone is out walking at night with their families. In one square, they were celebrating the Year of the Pig with beautiful decorations.

The next day, after a wonderful breakfast buffet at the hotel, Shinya helped us onto the airport shuttle and he took a flight back to Hawaii. It was a fun trip of a lifetime in Asia, getting to know my fellow dancers, and dancing every night on the Queen Mary 2.





117th Weekend Getaway

Friday April 12th - Sunday April 14th, 2019

Rates starting at \$375 pp

(includes resort fees)

Includes: Lodging ♦ 7 Meals ♦ Cocktail Party/Open Bar
Wine/Champagne Party • Over 50 Hours of Workshops
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Caribbean Dance Cruise XVII



February 4th - February 14th, 2020

Costa Luminosa

10 Nights • Departs from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Itinerary

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Bonnie Inveen and Chris Kempainen teaching West Coast Swing.

Photos and video by Julie Johnston. Click the play button to be taken to video.

Dance Contacts

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to bonnieburton@comcast.net

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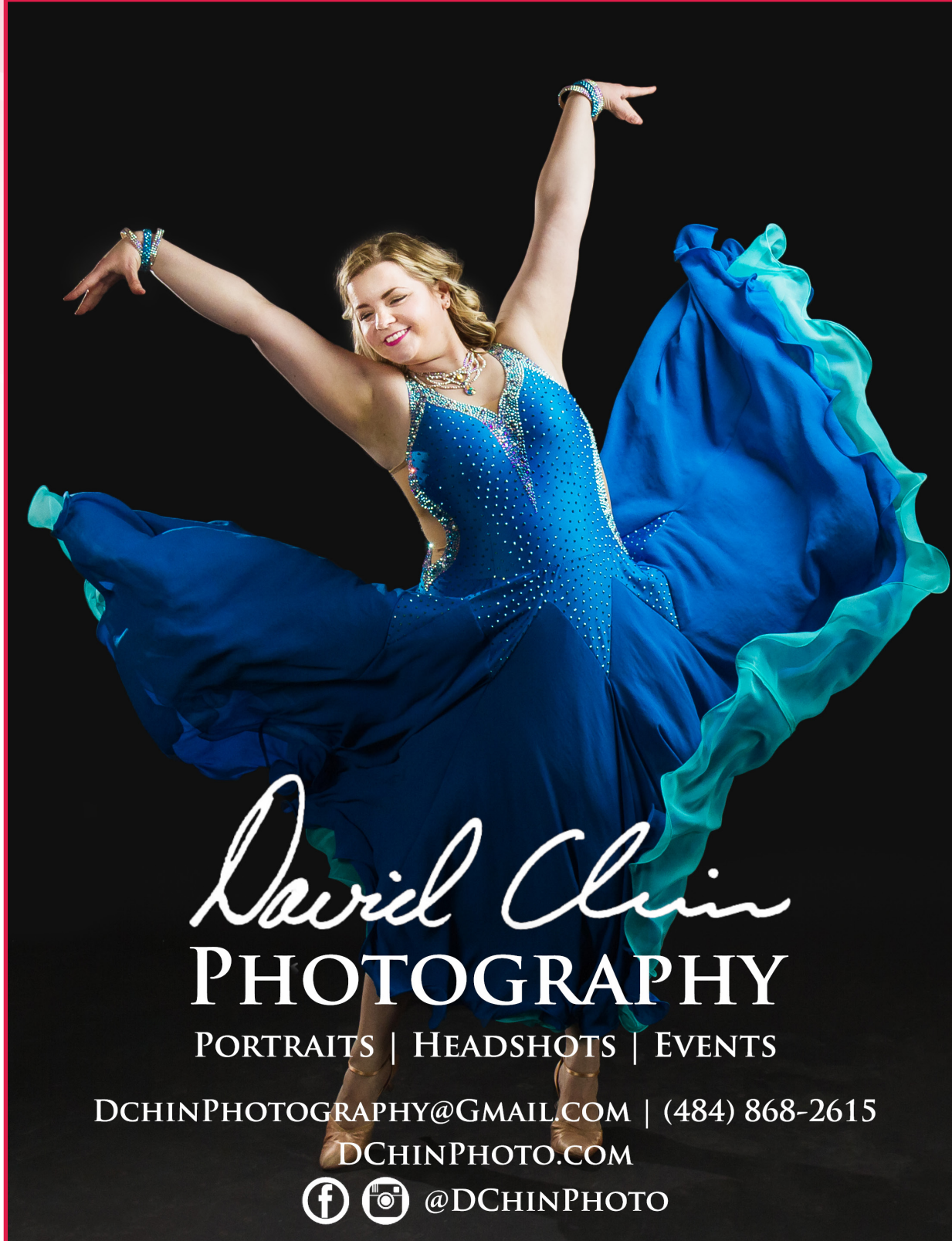
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Dance Costume Spring Cleaning

© Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

Deborah Nelson is the Founder and Head Designer of Satin Stitches Ltd, a custom performance costume manufacturer in Minneapolis. Deborah is a leader in the fashion/costume industry with 40+ years of professional design, fitting, alterations, and patternmaking experience. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Major: Fashion Design) degree and is a former instructor at The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD). For more information about Satin Stitches, visit their website at: www.satinstitcheswcom



We all do it! We buy new clothes and then we just keep accumulating. We hate to throw things out, so our closet becomes overcrowded, making it difficult to see what we actually have. The outfits that we don't wear become harder to find and, in turn, don't stand a chance to ever be worn again.

What we *should* do when clothing begins to pile up, is what all experts suggest: if we haven't worn something in the past year, we most likely will never wear it again and should purge it from our closets. The same holds true for dance costumes. If you haven't worn a particular costume in the past year, it's time to send it packing.

The beginning of a new season is the perfect time to sort through all of your clothes and rid yourself of the items you know you won't be wearing again. As we head toward the summer months, why not take this time to look at your old costumes and decide which you want to keep and which you would like to get rid of?

First, you'll want to determine the reason you haven't worn your costume:

1. If it is because it needs repair, then fix it.
2. If you aren't wearing the costume because it smells bad – use Fresh Again® and de-odorize it.
3. If your costume is too small or too large:
 - a. Get it altered to fit
 - b. Give it to someone who will fit
 - c. Sell it to someone who will fit
4. If you simply don't like a particular costume anymore:
 - a. Determine why you don't like it. If you feel it really doesn't flatter you – give it away or sell it.
 - b. If you think you would like it with some style alterations (adding trim or changing parts of the costume) then arrange to do this.

Sometimes you may truly love a costume but, because of any of the above reasons, you just can't wear it anymore. If you have the additional space, you could simply archive it in your costume closet. If you don't, then, as the popular songs says...“let it go, let it go!”

I know I am guilty of not letting go of some of our historic costumes here at Satin Stitches (and also my personal clothing), but I try to remember that if you have documentation of a particular costume in the form of fabulous photographs, I CAN live with my memories! The trick is that these photographs need to be easily accessible. Unfortunately, in an era where we have no real, tangible photo albums, the digital photographs have the potential to be lost forever with just one quick click. They can also get buried in our never ending digital filing system, which can be quite similar to losing it forever.

Continued on the following page.

But, if both the costumes and the photographs are lost, will the images in your memory suffice? Not necessarily. Ever since my college days, when I was first advised to document my work with photographs, I have stood by this advice. Although I probably have far too many photographs of our Satin Stitches' costumes, there are still occasions when we did not get a photograph of a particular costume for various reasons, and I've found that I often forget those costumes. I am currently scanning and digitizing our old costume photo albums, saving for 'posterity'!

So, if you are wrestling with having limited space to save your beloved dance costumes, if you have fabulous photographs of those costumes, and especially photos of yourself competing in those costumes, this is a much more space-efficient way to save your memories. Instead of adding a closet to your house or carving out a storage facility in your apartment, you can take out your photos and reminisce!

If you do really need the comfort of having satin, feathers and rhinestones at your fingertips, perhaps you can limit yourself to a specific number of your favorite costumes. Then, when you want to add a new one to your collection, you can just decide which older costume you would like to give away. And, just remember, you will still have your photographs!



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The Answers To My Life ... D. Arthur Tsang

Searching ... searching ... for the answers to my life,
History chasing after me into tomorrow's sunset,
But tomorrow's dream may not be after today,
So today is my moment to rain or shine.

I longed for the perfect syncopation in my life,
Now I've learned the hard way, that some dances are out of step,
Some dances don't have a clear beginning, middle and end,
And sometimes we just have to dance in the rain.

I will no longer search for the answers to the rhythm of my life,
For I would not be able to live with them today,
But I will dance with those questions in the rain,
And one day those answers will shine through with the rainbow.