

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

April 2010

Star of the North 2010 *A Celebration*



Photo by Jack Yan, Creative Pro Studio
See more photos on pages 11-14

Inside this month's issue...

Star of the North 2010, Chicago DanceSport Challenge, & More



Dancers Nite Out



- Sa 4/3 Ballroom & Latin Dance Party – and cake provided for James' birthday! Tropical Ballroom: 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125; Lesson: 7:30-8:30 pm Dance: 8:30-11 pm \$10, FMI: 651-414-0644, www.tropicalballroom.com
- Sa 4/3 "The Dance Extravaganza" at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105; 11 am-7 pm competition and seminars; 7-11 pm dinner dancing & show! FMI: 651.699.5910; www.cinemaballroom.com
- Sa 4/10 Cafe Bailar Dance Club dance at Tropical Ballroom 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125; Lesson: 7:30-8:30; Dance: 8:30-11:30 pm DJ: James Wood; \$10 or \$8 with Cafe Bailar membership card; www.cafebailar.com 651-414-0644, www.tropicalballroom.com
- Fr 4/16 Country & Swing Variety Dance Party! Tropical Ballroom 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125; Line Dance Lesson 7:30-8 pm; Country Waltz lesson: 8-8:30 pm; Dance: 8:30-11 pm; \$10, 651-414-0644, www.tropicalballroom.com
- Sa 4/17 **USA Dance at Retro Ballroom**, 5810 W 36th St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 Lesson: 7-8 pm; Dance: 8-11 pm dance with DJs Pete & Joyce \$10. **See ad this page.**
- Sa 4/24 The Squires Band & Cash Bar at Tropical Ballroom! East Coast Swing Lesson: 7:30-8:30 pm; Dance 8:30-11:30 pm Dance everything from Waltz and Slow Foxtrot to Polka and Swing! Cash bar! \$12 admission; 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125 651-414-0644, www.tropicalballroom.com
- Sa 4/24 American Classic Ballroom Expo, 550 Market St, Chanhassen, MN 55317; 10 am-4 pm: group classes, show and dance! FMI: www.americanclassicroom.com
- Su 4/25 USA Dance Tea Dance at the Lafayette Country Club 2800 Northview Road, Wayzata (Minnetonka Beach), 11 am-1 pm Brunch; 1-4 pm Ballroom music by Pete & Joyce; \$30 per person, brunch reservations needed before Apr 22nd.
- Fr 4/30 5th Friday Variety Dance at Retro Ballroom, 5810 West 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416, Lesson: 7:30-8:30 pm; Dance: 8:30-10 pm. FMI: www.retroballroom.com or 952.928.7803

American Classic Ballroom (952) 934-0900
www.americanclassicroom.com, 550 Market St., Chanhassen, MN 55317 (494 west to Hwy 5, right on Market Blvd, right on Market St.)

Arthur Murray Dance Studio (651) 227-3200
 534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar (651) 228-9274
 308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance from 8-11 pm/\$3.

Blue Moon Ballroom (507) 288-0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.net 2030 Hwy 14, East Rochester, MN; Fridays: Latin Night, 7:30 pm - 12:30 am; Saturdays: Live Bands!

Cafe Bailar Dance Club (612) 600-5129
 2nd Saturdays at Tropical Bllrm, Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125. 4th Saturdays at Retro Bllrm, 5810 W 36th St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Lesson 7:30-8:30 pm. Dance 8:30-12 am. \$10, or \$8 members. Membership \$20/yr. www.cafebailar.com or tricia@cafebailar.com

DNO continued on page 23

Join us for USA Dance's

April Monthly Double Dance!



Saturday, April 17th

7-8 pm Int Foxtrot Lesson
Instructor: Deanne Michael

7-8 pm Beg Foxtrot Lesson
Instructors: Retro Ballroom

8-11 pm Ballroom/Latin Variety Dance
Music DJs: Pete Maki & Joyce Thompson

\$7 USADance members ■ \$10 non-members
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USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467
www.usadance-mn.org

Call for information on dance events.
 Leave a message for membership information.

Theme of
the Month...

Star of the North 2010 DanceSport Classic

From the Board

*Minutes of the Monthly USA Dance MN #2011
Board Meeting – March 2, 2010. Submitted by
Leslie Whitney.*

*In attendance: Sue Zeller (President), Leslie Whitney
(Secretary), Craig Hagnesick (Treasurer), Debbie
Thornquist, Cathy Dessert, Mike Jones, Julie Elholm,
Bill Nunn, Min Chong, Jackie Dalton, Carol Mayo,
Adrian Suncar*

Location: Byerly's Ridgedale Minnetonka, MN

Call to order: Quorum established. Agenda
approved. February minutes approved.

Organizational Matters:

Regional Meeting: Mike Jones attended the
regional meeting in Chicago and reports that
the 6 regions will be changed to 11 districts.
He summarized discussions about how district
supervisors will be identified and fund raising
events that have proven successful for chapters.

Treasurers Report: Craig is submitting an annual
report to the national committee detailing the
chapter's account. The February dance showed
a profit and we gained 3 new members.

By-Laws and Chapter Liability: There are
changes in the 2010 by-laws. Some concerns
include the size of the chapter board, financial
well-being and the holding of a yearly
membership meeting. The subcommittee dealing
with the liability of the dance floor is meeting
with appropriate stake holders later in the month.

Projects:

Star of the North: Min reported that SOTN
resulted in a profit for the chapter. The event had
the most participants in its history. A discussion
followed of what could be done to express our
appreciation to the SOTN committee. We
identified what worked well and the future
challenges in promoting and organizing SOTN.

Tea Dance: Preparations for this event are in
place. Sue has tickets and will distribute them.

Fall Special Dance Event: Bill has checked into
the Women's Club in Minneapolis. We continue
to discuss location, music and differentiating it
from the Tea Dance.

Communications/Marketing: This committee
continues to focus on content and board approval
of the mission statement. We discussed how to
better market USA Dance and will continue with
this discussion in the future.

Miscellaneous: Debbie Thornquist is resigning
as a board member.

Meeting adjourned with Youth Outreach and
Volunteer Appreciation/May Monthly Dance
tabled for the next meeting agenda.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30 PM
Byerly's, 13081 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a non-profit organization formed to
preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both
as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota
chapter, USA Dance MN, was formed in 1991.

Membership in **USA Dance** is open to dancers
of all levels. There are several categories to
choose from: Social, Competitor, Junior
(17 and under), Collegiate, and Associate
(professional/instructor).

USA Dance MN sponsors monthly dances
and other special dance events. Members
are entitled to discounts on admission to the
monthly dances, as well as access to a great
network for meeting other dancers.

As a member, you'll have fun dancing
and meeting many new friends. For more
information, call the **USA Dance MN
HOTLINE: 651-483-5467.**

The *Minnesota Dancing Times* is published
monthly by the members of the Minnesota
Chapter of USA Dance, providing information
and news of ballroom dancing to members
and friends.

EDITOR: Greg Moore, gmoore9449@hotmail.com

Design/Layout: Janie Nordberg (763) 797-5230

Copy Editor: Mike Youngdahl (764) 441-0646

Marketing/Ads: Cathy Dessert (651) 415-0375

Mailing: Yvonne Viehman (763) 553-1202

Contributors: Paul Botes, Donna Edelstein,
Jack Munday, George Roscoe, Yvonne
Viehman, Sue Zeller

Contributions: Articles submitted may be
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Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event
or professional service, submit a digital file
(300 dpi pdf or jpeg format ONLY)
or camera-ready artwork to **Cathy Dessert**
(651-415-0375 or cathydessert@comcast.net)
along with payment to **USA Dance MN**.
Advertising for charge cards, insurance,
or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be
typeset or designed for a small fee, contact
Janie. Payment to accompany ad.

Full page	7.5" wide x 10" high	\$130
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" high	\$80
	OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high	
Qtr. page	3.5" wide x 4.75" high	\$60
Business Card	3 consecutive months	\$50

SWAPLINE ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines
available to subscribers (dance merchandise
only). Send to: annelatourelle@comcast.net

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH
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From the Editor

By Greg Moore



A Glamorous Madness

There is no sound, rational reason for ballroom competition. You might claim that competition elevates the quality of dance by rewarding excellence with public recognition. But this argument implies that the best dancers are competitors. It is just as reasonable to assume that there are superb dancers out there, somewhere, who have never had the slightest inclination to compete. These outstanding non-competitive dancers would be a rare breed: driven only by their inner passion to demonstrate just how incredibly sublime ballroom can be. True artists.

In 1996, when we were first learning to dance, Janis and I considered ourselves members of this elite sect of ballroom purists. We were infatuated with the miracle of ballroom transcendence: the conjoining of two people to create a new life form that is greater than the sum of its parts. We didn't think or speak of it in such terms at the time. We just knew we were onto something really, really big. We didn't want to be the best. We just wanted to be the best that we could be. We worked long and hard, and we were content to perform our little showcase routines at our studio, basking in the warmth of the applause from an appreciative audience.

Of course, we weren't living on some desert island in a pre-competition epoch where art was practiced only for its own sake. Many of our studio mates were competitors. Some were just getting started, others were veterans. But, listening to their conversations, we heard certain common themes: the pressure of deadlines, the expense of admission and costuming, and the bitter medicine of disappointment. We listened to these heroic tales of hardship and uncertainty with the condescending patience of vegetarians at a pig roast. We could afford to be smug because we knew it would never happen to us. We were above all that.

But, sooner or later, even a saint must face the test of temptation. For us the test came in the form of an obscure event called Star of the North. And we flunked.

Early in 1997 Janis told me about a dance competition she had watched the summer before. It was part of the State Games, an Olympic-style get-together for amateur athletes put on by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, featuring everything from figure skating to softball to bowling. In addition to the usual multi-dance rounds, the ballroom competition also included a wide

variety of single dance heats at various proficiency levels. There was formation dancing and even a Jack & Jill event. Best of all, the price of admission was unbelievably low. Most ballroom competitions we had heard about sounded like endurance contests with lots of rules and fees. Star of the North sounded friendlier, less formal. We decided we could dance at Star of the North without violating any of our anti-competition values. Since there was no dress code, we could use costumes from our various studio showcase routines and save even more money. For our events we chose Beginner Waltz and Cha Cha (?!). Then we set about cobbling together a couple of routines out of our social figures. This was going to be such fun!

In June the bad news arrived: not enough dancers had signed up and the ballroom competition was cancelled. We felt more than disappointed – we felt cheated, like children who had been tempted with candy and then told we couldn't have any. Soon afterward, however, we heard the good news: USABDA MN (which later became USA Dance MN) had teamed up with MASC to produce the next SOTN. Janis and I immediately volunteered for the organizing committee.

Star of the North was conceived as a means for social dancers to get a taste of competition and find out whether it is something they want to pursue. But Janis and I had already abandoned our puritanical attitude, made the great philosophical leap, and announced to our coach that we were "ready to compete." We weren't sure exactly what that meant, but we soon found out that our program would have to expand dramatically: regular private lessons, longer practice sessions, a gown for Janis, and a tuxedo for me. And, of course, there was the time and expense of travelling to out-of-state comps. We accepted our new challenges without hesitation or remorse.

When the big day finally arrived, we performed well and went home with a few awards and many wonderful memories. For me, however, no experience since then has ever matched the thrill of raising Janis's hand and leading her out onto that enormous floor for the very first time. In the years that followed, ballroom competition would drive us crazy and force us to learn the most amazing things about ourselves as dancers and as human beings. It was a wild ride, and it all started at Star of the North.

The President's Corner Star of the North

The word is, Star of the North 2010 was a big hit! Participants were filled with excitement as they shared their experience of the event and sounded confident about coming back next year. The energy in the room Saturday evening of the event was great. The entire Star of the North event was very well attended and appeared to be enjoyed by all.

The USA Dance MN board on behalf of our membership extends our thanks to the leaders who are responsible for this outstanding amateur competition. **Min Chong, competition chair** and **Frank Kohlasch, registrar**, dedicated themselves to creating Star of the North. Min and Frank gave an extraordinary amount of time and effort to insure this event was pulled off well. Other committee members giving to the success of the event were:

Mike Jones – Volunteer Coordinator
Hieu Le – Website
Janie Nordberg – Graphic Design
Larisa Smith – Advertising and Officials
Craig Hagensick – Treasurer
Tom Nyberg – Awards

Many other volunteers step into place to be sure every detail of the competition was covered.

Most dancers who registered and participated in the Star of the North put in hours and hours of preparation to perform for the judges and spectators. For some inexperienced competitors, it was also a case of nerves that had to be faced. It is Star of the North, through which USA Dance MN hopes to encourage greater participation in dance. Some will continue to compete; others will become involved in performances; and many will have great fun dancing socially.

Where would we be without our dance professionals? Taking part in judging the Star of the North competition were many outstanding professionals. Head judge was Paul Botes. Ballroom/Latin-Judges were Scott Anderson, Kathryn Bratt, Nathan Daniels, Robert and Jennifer Foster, Eric and Michelle Hudson, Julie Jacobson and Andrea Mirenda. Gary Stroick-Scrutineer; Pete Maki and Joyce Thompson-Music D.J. and Chris Van Houten-Emcee created the right energy and an engaging atmosphere. We also had Argentine Tango, Lindy Hop, Hustle/West Coast Swing, Judges and DJ's. We are so grateful for the support we have from the professionals.

Large donations were made so that many university students were able to participate and scholarships could be awarded. This generosity made it possible for many to

compete at Star of the North. We appreciate this kind of dedication to dance.

The Star of the North committee is exhausted and needs time to recuperate from an extraordinary effort to pull this event off so well. I'm already excited for next years Star of the North. Great thanks from the USA Dance MN board, to the Star of the North committee, volunteers and judges for creating a great amateur competition event!

Sue Zeller, USADance MN President



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\$30.00* per person (**\$25.00 – student**) Tea Dance ticket includes brunch and dancing
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**Brunch tickets must be purchased in advance by April 22, 2010.*

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Purchase tickets at USA dances or from USA Board members
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Star of the North 2009

DanceSport Classic

Submitted by Jack Munday

There is a joyful, happy spirit in the Star of the North that comes from the amazing dance communities that we are fortunate to have in the Twin Cities. The event is a special competition for everyone, from social ballroom dancers to Lindy Hoppers and from Argentine Tango dancers to those who compete at any level.

This year, the 13th annual gathering of dancers proved just how varied those communities are, and how they contribute to a wonderful blend. The event is a great opportunity to dance with others up and down from one's own skill level. There is very low stress, in part because the heats have up to eight or more couples so that the focus is not on only one or two dancers. One couple I spoke with is new to competition, though they have been dancing for many years socially, and said they felt very comfortable in the morning heats. "We were judged without a spotlight on us," the lady said.

The Star of the North has come a long way in its thirteen years. Part of the Minnesota State Summer Games for its first five years, the competition took place in different parts of the state, some of which do not have many ballroom dancers. Mike Jones, who coordinated the many volunteers at this event, said that he remembered his first Star of the North had only six couples. This year hundreds of gentlemen and ladies registered to dance in 231 heats, some with ten or more couples. Mike praised the many volunteers who came to help the event to run so smoothly. "Without their help, we couldn't afford to put this on," he said.



Volunteers at Star of the North 2010

After the five years, founder Steve Vespested called the director of the games and was given permission to move the event to the Minnesota State Winter Games. This allowed it to be located in the Twin Cities where there are many fine dancers. It also allowed the organizers to use the same facility each year. In time, the Star of the North

became sanctioned by USA Dance and was able to keep the name. This year it is self sanctioned, which has allowed the organizers to bring in judges for non USA Dance certified dances like the Polka, Argentine Tango, Hussle, Lindy Hop and West Coast Swing. The intention is to open the competition up for dancers who more often dance at nightclubs, allowing those couples to also experience the glamour of competition in a very friendly way.

Minnesota is fortunate to be able to have an event like the Star of the North. Most other states don't have the clubs and studios concentrated like we have in the Twin Cities. Also, Minnesota is one of the few states to have ballroom dancing in its state games, summer or winter. Competitive ballroom dancing is a sport but hasn't reached the Olympic Games yet.

Nels Peterson has long been involved in the Star of the North and is responsible for getting college and university dance clubs to participate. He has helped find scholarships for those dancers. This year five colleges sent a total of nine teams of three dancers each. A total of 79 students were also participating in other parts of the competition. Nels introduced me to two ladies from the University of Minnesota dance club. He danced with them in mixed proficiency dances, which he explained is dancing by a couple with different levels of achievement or skill. Only the lower ranked dancer is judged, and it is a good way to experience competition. These young ladies had a lot of enthusiasm for dancing and laughed as they compared rhythm and smooth dances.

Both Steve and Nels stressed that the Star of the North is not really about competition, since it is not sanctioned. "It's about marketing," Nels offered. "We are introducing people to dance. Especially the mixed proficiency dances lets everyone participate at their own level. We are trying to make learning ballroom dancing like an escalator, not a stairway."

Another feature of this competition is that it is only for amateur couples. Who is an amateur is an interesting question that may be the topic of an entire other article. The latest issue of Minnesota Dancing Times has a two page letter from the vice president of DanceSport USA Dance that has this statement: "Amateurs are permitted to have legitimate jobs in studios and retain their amateur status as competitors."

In any event, there were some very excellent dancers performing and they were a pleasure to watch. I'll be back next year and am planning to dance.

Reasonably Close and Very Competitive – The Chicago DanceSport Challenge

By George Roscoe

Even though my wife, Kelly, and I like dancing at The Star of the North DanceSport Classic, we have typically danced with very few, if any, other couples in our heats. Since this year's Chicago DanceSport Challenge was a Nationals Qualifying Event, we knew that there would be a lot more competitors in Senior I for us and some in Junior for our son, Geordie, and his partner, Anna.

Traveling from the Twin Cities to Chicago in February can be a risky proposition, but for us the weather was fairly cooperative. We drove down on Friday, while our son's partner flew down with her father that evening. This year's Chicago DanceSport Challenge was held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, which is just across the street from the Rosemont Convention Center and a short hotel shuttle ride from Chicago O'Hare airport.

Normally one might expect a hotel of this quality to be over-the-top expensive, but the Chicagoland Chapter #2001 of USA Dance did a fantastic job of securing greatly reduced rates for rooms, parking, and meals. We grabbed dinner that night and breakfast the next day at the hotel and prepared our son and his partner for the Bronze Junior and Youth Latin events on Saturday morning.

After the kids were done dancing on Saturday, we all headed off by train to downtown Chicago for a short visit to the Museum of Science and Industry. Just a few blocks from the hotel, we hopped on the Metra Blue Line, transferred to the downtown loop and walked over to the Millennium Station. From there we caught one of the Metra Electric District trains to within a few blocks of the museum. We didn't have much time, but we made quick work of seeing some of our favorite exhibits. On the way back we had dinner at one of the eateries that lined the hall of the underground Millennium Station.

On Sunday we got up early to prepare for dancing Standard. Our son's two heats, Junior Bronze Standard and Youth Bronze Standard, were between 8:30 and 9am, and our first heat, a semi-final for Amateur Senior I Silver Standard, went off at about 9:10am. I found the floor a bit inconsistent and a little crowded with eleven couples, but we gave it our best effort even though we felt like we might not make the finals. About an hour later we did dance in the finals for Senior I Silver Standard and not but a heat later we danced in six-couple heat for Senior I Gold Standard. Because they were using the Online/Onsite Competition software, awards were handed out after each final. It was a pleasant surprise to win first in both of our heats because of the level of competition and the fact that we had not competed any other couples in over a year.

Anyway, with a long seven-hour drive ahead of us, we packed our bags and headed off quickly to avoid some winter weather that was threatening the Chicago area. Thankfully we got out ahead of it and never saw any of the precipitation. In the end, we were very pleased with the entire trip. A warm Minnesota thank you goes out to the event staff of The Chicago DanceSport Challenge, which was expertly managed and supported by a large contingent of helpful volunteers. If you are looking for a good competition on next year's calendar, I strongly recommend this event as one to consider.

Here are the results for the Minnesota couples that competed in Chicago:

Jeremy Anderson & Yuko Taniguchi

Amateur Adult Novice Smooth – 4th Place

Amateur Adult Novice Rhythm – 3rd Place

Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Smooth – 2nd Place

Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Rhythm – 1st Place

Amateur Adult Championship 9 Dance – 1st Place

Amateur Senior I Novice Smooth – 1st Place

Amateur Senior I Novice Rhythm – 1st Place

Amateur Senior I Pre-Champ Smooth – 2nd Place

Amateur Senior I Pre-Champ Rhythm – 2nd Place

Amateur Senior I Championship 9 Dance – 1st Place

Jay Cai & Neli Petkova

Amateur Adult Novice Latin – 4th Place

Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Latin – 2nd Place

Christopher Hurst & Lorie Bjorkman

Amateur Adult Bronze Standard – 2nd Place

Amateur Adult Bronze Latin – 11th Place

Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth – 2nd Place

Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm – 2nd Place

Amateur Adult Silver Standard – 1st Place

Amateur Adult Silver Latin – 8th Place

Amateur Adult Silver Smooth – 2nd Place

Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm – 6th Place

Nels Petersen & Theresa L. Kimler

Amateur Adult Championship Smooth – 1st Place

CHICAGO DANCESPORT CHALLENGE cont. on page 9

Greg & Sue Prasch

Amateur Senior I Silver Standard – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior I Silver Smooth – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior I Silver Rhythm – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior I Gold Standard – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior I Gold Smooth – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior I Gold Rhythm – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior II Silver Standard – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior II Silver Smooth – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior II Silver Rhythm – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior II Gold Standard – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior II Gold Smooth – 1st Place
Amateur Senior II Gold Rhythm – 2nd Place

Jeff Prasch & Alexandra Albrigton

Amateur Adult Bronze Standard – 7th Place
Amateur Adult Bronze Latin – 11th Place
Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth – 2nd Place
Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm – 2nd Place
Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm – 6th Place

Geordie Roscoe & Anna Gonikman

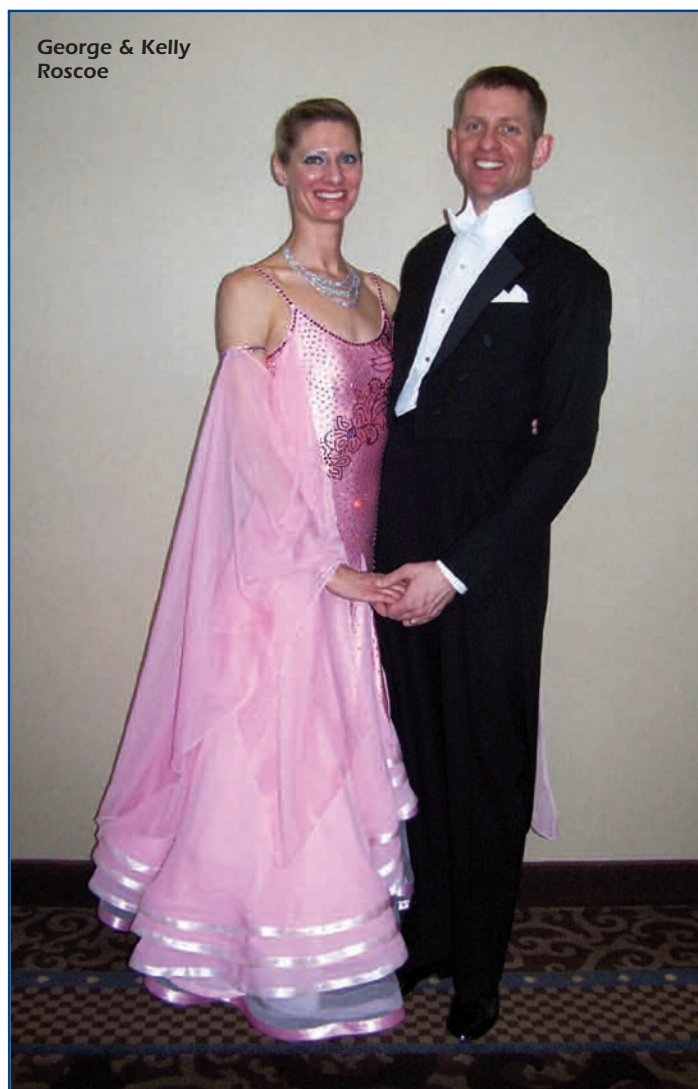
Amateur Junior Bronze Standard – 1st Place uncontested
Amateur Junior Bronze Latin – 1st Place
Amateur Youth Bronze Standard – 1st Place uncontested
Amateur Youth Bronze Latin – 3rd Place

George & Kelly Roscoe


Amateur Senior I Silver Standard – 1st Place
Amateur Senior I Gold Standard – 1st Place

Leland & Leslie Whitney

Amateur Senior II Silver Standard – 5th Place
Amateur Senior II Silver Rhythm – 3rd Place
Amateur Senior II Gold Standard – 4th Place
Amateur Senior II Gold Smooth – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior II Gold Rhythm – 4th Place
Amateur Senior II Novice Smooth – 1st Place
Amateur Senior II Championship 9 Dance – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior III Silver Standard – 2nd Place
Amateur Senior III Silver Rhythm – 1st Place
Amateur Senior III Gold Standard – 1st Place
Amateur Senior III Gold Smooth – 1st Place
Amateur Senior III Gold Rhythm – 1st Place
Amateur Senior III Novice Smooth – 1st Place
Amateur Senior III Championship 9 Dance – 1st Place




George & Kelly
Roscoe



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"[Eric & Michelle Hudson] are a very powerful and emotional couple. They show nice relationships and a difference in mood from dance to dance. This is what [American Smooth] should be!"
-Victor Russo, DanceBeat

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Star of the North 2010

February 26-28, 2010
Ukrainian Event Center



Sr I Bronze American Smooth Winners



Bronze American Smooth Tango Winners



Bronze International Standard Waltz Winners



Bronze American Rhythm ChaCha Winners



Bronze International Standard Tango Winners



Photography by
Cathy Dessert



Bronze American Rhythm Swing Winners



Bronze American Smooth Waltz Winners

Star of the North 2010

February 26-28, 2010
Ukrainian Event Center



Championship,
Pre-Champ,
& Adult
Events!



Photography by Jack Yan, www.creativeprostudio.com



Photography by Jack Yan,
www.creativeprostudio.com

Star of the North 2010



U of M Rochester Dance Team



International Team Match Winners



American Collegiate Team Match Winners

Photography by
Cathy Dessert

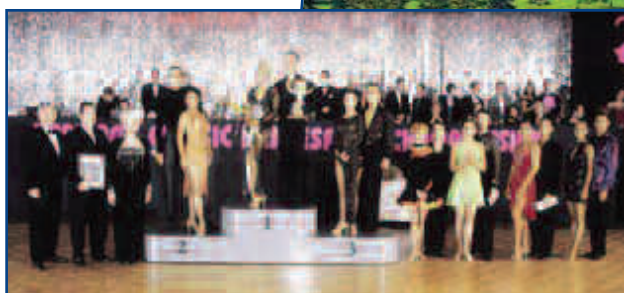


Wisconsin Badger Dance Team

USA Dance-MN proudly invests \$5200 in scholarships at this year's Star of the North, in addition to the thousands of volunteer hours. Shown here are appreciative collegiate competitors receiving their due rewards. The USA Dance-MN chapter is one of the very few that puts forth such effort to draw people to this great adventure we call partner dancing.

Retro Ballroom Brings Home Top Awards at Heritage Classic

On Your Toes School of Dance and Retro Ballroom Owner, Jeff Nehrbass attended Heritage Classic Dance Competition with student Julie Goetsch. Jeff received top studio and top teacher awards, while Julie was recognized as the top lady in American style and was in the top 20 world pro/am dancesport series students.



Retro Ballroom

New Group Classes at Retro Ballroom
With Donna Edelstein and Jay Larson
Every Thursday at 7:00pm and 8:00pm

New Friday Night Dance Parities
Join us every Friday night
7:30pm-8:30pm Group Classes
8:30pm-10:00pm Social Dancing
Visit www.retroballroom.com for details

USA Double Dance at Retro Ballroom
Saturday, April 17th, 2010 7:00pm-11:00pm
Tango Lesson with Deanne Michael 7:00pm

Friday Night Dancing

Join Us Every Friday
Night at 7:30 For Group
Classes and Social Dancing!

Weekly Events

Tuesday

7:00PM Silver Waltz/Foxtrot with Jeff Nehrbass
8:00PM Hustle Plus with Jeff Nehrbass

Wednesday

7:00PM Beginning Ballroom and Rhythm
8:00PM Sodal Dancing 101

Thursday *New Group Classes*

7:00PM Technique with Donna Edelstein
8:00PM Silver Rhythm with Jay Larson

Friday

7:30PM Lesson 8:30PM-10:00PM Dance Party



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Monthly Dance Photos

March 20, 2010, Cinema Ballroom



Photography by Jeannie Hill

Spring Fling Dance

University of Minnesota

Ballroom Dance Club

Spring Fling Dance

Saturday April 17th

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Dance 8pm to 11pm

\$10 students

\$15 non-students

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ASK DR. DANCE

Paul Botes and Donna Edelstein are popular coaches and judges.

Donna Edelstein is a coach, judge and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition. Paul Botes is owner of American Classic Ballroom.

Q We have two grade school kids, one boy and one girl. We would like to get them into ballroom dancing. Should we match them up as partners or let them train separately?



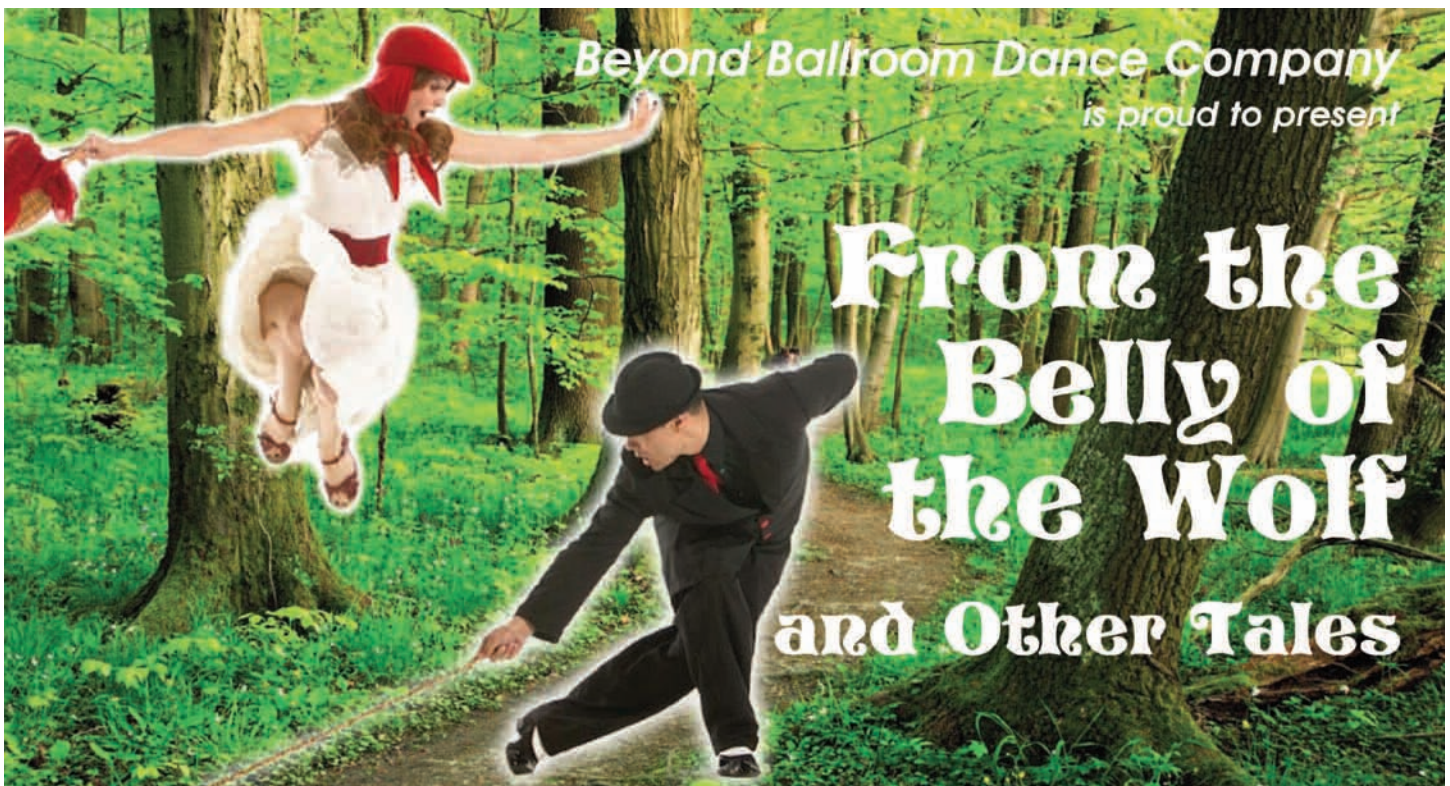
He Said:

I don't have children and have little experience with children that young, but common sense would suggest that if they get along, partnering up would be ideal. It is also a good idea to have them train separately as well, since their progress would reflect their individual efforts. You might find though, that in the end, it would depend on your kids to determine what works best. Good luck!



She Said:

If your children are close in age, it would be ideal to match them up as a partnership. You will pay half for lessons since they will share the cost of one teacher, and they will have a partner to practice with so they can improve quickly. It is great that you are encouraging your children to dance. Enjoy!



the Southern theater

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April 9-11, 2010

Gentlemen Lead



by Jack Munday

People watched whatever Winter Olympics sport was of primary interest to them. Some of our ballroom dancer friends have naturally commented on the ice dancing competition. The tango seems to be the most popular ice dance, based the conversations we've had with our friends.

One thing that I noticed is that the gentlemen ice dancers put their right hand on the lady in a closed position precisely at the place where I have been taught to establish contact in our frame. I mentioned this to Monica, and she seemed pleased that I would notice that. She replied, "I wonder if the ice dancers are getting ballroom dance coaching?" Probably they do, we thought.

In order to keep up on what is happening in this very busy world, I check in on the internet several times a day for breaking news. Radio and television news is becoming more and more about talking heads giving their opinion about what might happen instead of what has already happened. To use a dancing analogy, it's like sitting on the sidelines at a dance party and telling your partner what patterns you might lead if you ever get out on the dance floor. Anyway, I saw a headline that said, "Ice dancing: Worst and best of the games. The blog, by Alan Abrahamson, criticized some of the costumes in the folk dance segment. He went on to say this:

"Moreover, ice dancing speaks directly to the very essence of the Olympic ideal, in particular the expression of a touch of beauty – and in a wider sense of something better – in our world so often riven by conflict and turmoil."

When I thought about a touch of beauty, I agreed, especially in the tango, where the couple skated with their cores linked in the same way that we do when we get "that" feeling of being in true partnership on the dance floor.

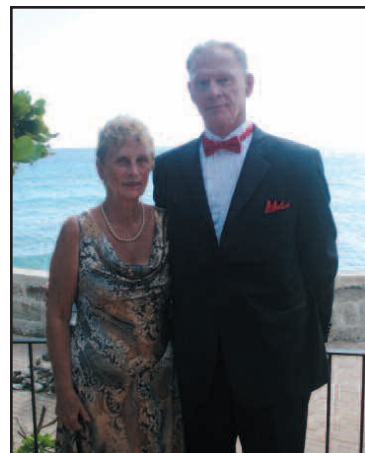
Because I keep up on breaking news, and because of some work I do other than writing, I am also aware of the way our globe is riven or torn apart by conflict and turmoil. We

can't deny the troubles and we really can't hide from them. What we can do is put them in perspective by doing something better, which obviously is to dance.

Whether one is a serious competitor rehearsing seven days a week or a social dancer at an occasional dance party or lesson, one can express beauty on the dance floor and get that sense of something better, moving with our partner. Ballroom dancing does not involve conflict and turmoil, but is the very opposite of the way of so much of the world.

Fran and I are preparing for a showcase at Cheek To Cheek in April. We are being coached, and we practice. If all goes well we will be like the ice dancers in the Olympic games, not winning a medal but exhibiting a touch of beauty. It will be a very good day.

John S. Munday is a writer and lawyer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife Fran. They dance at the Cheek to Cheek studio. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn and Fran is a student of Harry Benson. Jack's most recent book, Cilantro, Not Coriander, is a novel published by Plain View Press in July, 2009.



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Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler continue their winning ways, dominating their divisions at both The Heritage Classic and the Chicago DanceSport Championships.

Competition Calendar

Apr 9-11, 2010 2010 National DanceSport Championships

USA Dance 2010 National DS Championships to be held at JW Marriott, Los Angeles at LA Live

May 8-9, 2010 Columbia Star Ball - NQE

Organized by Mark W. Tabor and Tiffanie Rhodes to be held in Portland OR. Qualifying event for 2011 Nationals.

May 16, 2010 MN Star Ball

Hosted by Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas. Held at the Marriott Southwest, Minnetonka, MN, www.mnstarball.com

May 21-22, 2010 2010 Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Greater Knoxville USA Dance Chapter #2060 in Knoxville TN. Qualifying event for 2011 Nationals.

Jun 25-26, 2010 2010 Gumbo Dancesport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Louisiana Gumbo USA Dance Chapter #5031 in Baton Rouge LA. Qualifying event for 2011 Nationals.

July 8-10, 2010 Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Organized by Scott and Amy Anderson at the Marriott City Center. For more information see the website at www.twincitiesopen.com.

Jul 9-10, 2010 IDSF Open Latin & Open Standard Championships

Held at Desert Classic Dancesport Championships in Palm Desert CA

Jul 17, 2010 River City Ball

Hosted by Portland USA Dance Chapter # 1006 in Portland OR

Oct 2-3, 2010 2010 Heartland Classic - NQE

Hosted by Heartland USA Dance Chapter #2022 in Indianapolis IN. Qualifying event for 2011 Nationals.

Oct 22-24, 2010 High Point Classic Dancesport Champ. - NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in High Point NC. Qualifying event for USA Dance 2011 Nationals.

Oct 23-24, 2010 Northwest DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Seattle WA USA Dance Chapter #1004 - Qualifying event for 2011 Nationals.



Correction:

- In the January issue we published an article by Kristine Goodrich titled "Dancing With The Students." This article was reprinted from the White Bear Press Suburban newspaper and not written for the Dancing Times.

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☞ **Contact AnnaMaria @ 612-280-6869 or annamariagregerson@comcast.net**
Retiring from competitive dancing, selling my gowns, rhythm dresses, and accessories. Wide variety of smooth gowns and latin dresses.

Princess White Championship Gown, beautiful white lace one-piece, chiffon layered skirt, multicolored AB stones with flower details, open back, accessories available, Marsha Wiest-Hines designed, asking \$1300.

Black smooth gown gives great movement on the floor. Open back, V-front straps, hand-sewn pearls, Swarovski crystals size 6-8, newly offered, asking \$1250.

Yellow smooth gown to Show your beautiful back, elegant, size 4-6, covered with Swarovski crystals, great movement on the floor, newly offered, asking \$1000.

Fuchsia rhythm dress (size 2-8) bell sleeves, open back, asymmetrical/slit open shows leg movement, AB stones, beautiful low back, accessories available, asking \$500.

Sexy-hot Yellow rhythm dress, stunning yellow with contrasting royal blue appliques, AB and Swarovski stones, you will be noticed!, accessories available, asking \$1200.

Light pink rhythm dress, bust covered in Swarovski crystals and sequins. For those who Dare to Bare tastefully. Open back, halter top, one of a kind. Asking \$1,800.

Gorgeous black rhythm dress, size 6-8, open back, really shows great legs, tons of AB and Swarovski stones, 3 layers of black hand-beading/asymmetrical, will be noticed. Asking \$1275.

Many more showcase gowns/dresses, and evening wear. Sizes 4-8, some 10-12. Gorgeous accessories to help you shine on the floor. AB and Swarovski hair jewelry/earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings. Affordable.

☞ **Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net**

Black Championship ballgown Size 2-6. Feel luxurious in this gown with maribu boa hem, collar, and on long sleeves. Beautifully designed wotj open back - shows off curves. Gown is completely covered in beautiful AB multicolored stones. Championship dress. Asking \$1200.

Peach Championship ballgown Size 2-6. Amazing gown made by Marsha Weist Hines - one of a kind! Gorgeous open sexy back, stretch satin skirt with layers add fullness to movement. Fully stoned bodice and elegant gloves to match! Like new! Asking \$1200.

Black/fiery orange ballgown Size 2-6. Stunning gown has fiery orange tones and yellows accents on long sleeves, bodice and chiffon layers of skirt, sexy slit shows some leg, beautiful patterned stoning. Asking \$900.

Pink fantasy of color & stones! Size 2-8. Amazing dress - tons of stones, beautiful pearl beading and flirty skirt! Bracelets, necklace, accessories included. A showstopper! Asking \$700.

Black/fuschia ballgown Size 2-8. Striking gown with multi-layered chiffon skirt. AB and AB color stoning! Asking \$450.

Gold/rose-red rhythm dress Size 2-6. Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmery gold, bell sleeves, flare skirt, AB color stones! \$350 obo

Brand new gowns to show - may sell for right price! Some gowns available to rent. Payment plans accepted. Call for details.

☞ **Contact Stacie @ 612-251-8108 or SPIERSON0081@yahoo.com**
Purchase, rent to own or rental available. Pictures available.

Sea foam green Latin/rhythm dress. Short playful skirt. Includes matching bracelets, choker and ear-rings. Sizes 0-6. Reduced to \$1,950.

Black Latin/rhythm dress with bugle beads and Abs. Dress worn on Dancing with the Stars and in movie Take the Lead. Choker bracelets and ear rings included. Size 0-6. Reduced to \$1,850.

Wine color Smooth/Standard Gown. Bodice is all lace with full lace sleeves, open back. Seen in movie Take the Lead. Detachable float transforms into Standard Gown. Size 0-6. Reduced \$2,150

Royal Blue Latin/rhythm dress. Full sleeves, open back, short skirt with feather tail for movement. Earring included. Size 2-8. \$2,450.

Lady Supadance Latin shoe, 2.5" heel, fits an American 5-6, never worn, style #1066, sell for \$151 asking \$100.

Additional standard, smooth, rhythm/latin dress for sale or rent.

☞ **Contact Joan @ 6123864174 or jdazerc@comcast.com**

Royal Blue Smooth Gown. Dress is covers with full nude sleeves and back. Earring included. Size 6-10, \$2,850

☞ **Contact janislivi@msn.com for the following:**

Super sale on many ballgowns. Under 5'3" and 130 pounds? try these: The Millennium Gown, Silver sparkle all over, white sheer netting on sleeves with AB stones, peridot stones, and crystal stones scattered. Zipper entry. hand washable. asking \$300. The Tangerine Dream Gown, neon tangerine color stretch lycra, swimsuit entry, AB stones, floats, hand washable. Asking \$125. The Genesis Gown, neon yellow, orange roses, yellow stoning, yummy to wear, swimsuit entry, smooth/standard floats. hand washable. \$125. May sell Pink Champagne Gown for the right price.

☞ **Contact Theresa at theresakimler@yahoo.com or 651-773-3511**

Size 2-6: Ultimate sparkle and elegance...black ballgown. Fox fur cuff on left arm, long sleeves, slim-fit. This dress shimmers on the floor due to the megdose of stones from head to toe. Made by Randall Designs... you've seen his costumes on Dancing with the Stars! Championship dress. \$3000. Other dresses may be available!

Size 2-6: Current style red Chrisanne standard gown. Multi-tiered tulle material skirt shows beautiful movement. Slimming stone design through bodice and hips. International Dance Championship dress worn by world finalist. Fits 5'5" and taller best, but could be altered to fit. Ask about rental, too! Pictures available. \$3000.

Lady's smooth shoes, size 36 (american 7). Tan satin, closed toe, strap at ankle. 2.5" heel. 2 pairs available. One pair is new, other was worn for 1 practice session. Both in original boxes. See the shoe style at www.dance-america.com. Dancefeel brand, model F30. Paid \$119. Will sell for \$60/pair.

Supadance 1012 court shoe with strap. Flesh satin color, 2-1/2" heel, size 4.5 British (6.5 American). Ideal for Standard or Smooth. Worn for only 4 dances at a competition. New \$149, selling for \$75.

☞ **Contact Shannon xin9264@hotmail.com (651)230-8901(c)**

Design Dress by Vesa, One-of-a-kind dress yellow stretch velvet drapes elegantly in front and back. Covered in crystal and citrine rhinestones. Large citrine rhinestones and other decorative beads accent shoulders and panel at front and back, beneath the waist. Also large gold pallettes on the panel. A fringe skirt in front and back creates movement. Sides open to show off lines. Matching wristband, headband, feather hair accessory inc. Worn once by British prof rising star. Fit 0-6, 5'1"-5'5". Asking \$950.

☞ **Contact Cathy at cathydessert@comcast.net.** Stunning, eye-catching, not to be missed! Chrisanne standard gown, silvery blue, tons of tulle and rhinestones. Former Pro dress. Sz 0-6. Gently worn. photo available. \$2500.

☞ **Wanted: Tailsuit.** College student looking for a used men's dance suit or tail coat set, 6'0" 150#, approx. size 37L. Contact Andreas at 651-983-5348 or amantius@comcast.net

☞ **Several custom made Smooth & Latin dresses available.** All professionally made, one of a kind costumes, competition quality. CHEAP - all priced between \$50 - \$400. Located in Edina for easy try on's. Some not worn at all, some worn by professional only once or twice. Call 651-436-4110 or email wilkinson0985@msn.com

☞ **Contact Sherri Earley at 651-271-7690 or wwp2005@gmail.com**
Red salsa or Latin beginners dress. Can fit anywhere from a 2 to 6. Adorned with black, silver & gold disc bangles. Comes with matching earrings & arm bands. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

Black beginners Smooth gown. Fits a ladies size small/2-4. Skirt is 3 layers. Red and silver stones. Optional black gloves can be included, \$10 extra. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

☞ **Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos**
Gently used **International latin dance shoes**, size 7.5, dyed beige strappy heels. Great deal at \$40 plus will throw in a free pair of fishnet tights!
Many dance instructional tapes, mainly West Coast Swing but other styles too. \$5 each.

☞ **Champion dance dresses, Jennifer Foster at 952-938-0048**

☞ **Contact Lisa Wu at 651-278-4434 or lisa_wu_us@yahoo.com**

Green & blue rhythm dress sz. 4-10 green body & skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 nego.

Purple & white Smooth Gown. Sz. 6-10, \$300 New Latin & Ballroom Shoes for sale, sz. 7, 8 & 9 \$40

☞ **Contact Eileen @ 651-636-6306 or eileen@arcilla.net**

Bright Blue Satin Smooth/Standard Gown. Get noticed in a bright shiny satin gown. Full skirt and cut makes you feel like you're floating! Open back with fully stoned inset and skirt hemmed with satin band. Cut is flattering for many figures. Comes with matching earrings, hair piece, neckband and arm bands. Professionally designed/created by Flair Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$1200.

Lavender Latin/Rhythm Dress. Lavender latin/rhythm dress, halter style top, ruffled hem, open back. Entire dress stoned in different color stones which will make you sparkle! Dore Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$2100.

Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members and subscribers the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

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 Coon Rapids. Harry Benson.

Cinema Ballroom (651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN,
 Dancing Fridays to DJ music and Every Sunday to Live music.
 Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am. See website for details or e-mail
info@cinemaballroom.com

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 169) Dance parties: 1st & 3rd Friday of every month: 7:10 pm –
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 8-9 pm party follows! Cost: \$15/group & party, \$10/party only.

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MN West Coast Swing Dance Club (651) 777-5599
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com B-Dale Club, 2100 N.
 Dale St., Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm,
 Dance 8:30 pm. \$5/WCS members, \$8/non-members.

Naar Grille Salsa Night (952) 946-6227
 11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night
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On Your Toes School of Dance (952) 928-7803
 1st Sat & 4th Fri Ballroom Dances. www.onyourtoes.org and
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Rebels Swing Dance Club (952) 941-0906
www.tcrebels.com New location for dances: Social Dance
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Rendezvous Dance Studio (612) 872-1562
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Social Dance Studio (612) 418-4046
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 Minneapolis, 55407

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 55125 (inside Valley Creek Mall); James & Tricia Wood.

Dance Contacts

Instructors

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Paul Botes, Andreas Mantius, Natalie Palmer	
Scott Anderson	612-816-4446
Harry Benson	763-843-2285
Gene Bersten	1-888-706-0220
Klaudyna Borewicz	612-203-9123
Paul Botes	952-934-0900
Champion Ballroom	952-934-2160
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Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
Wendi Davies	973-449-7654
Joy Davina	612-418-4046
Jennelle Donnay	651-357-2060
Donna Edelstein	612-910-2690
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David Hanson	218-722-0742
Julie Jacobson	651-261-6442
Tony Karadjov	612-203-5429
LaDanza Dance Club Stillwater	651-439-3152
Mark or Wanda Bierbrauer	
Jay Larson	651-387-3886
Tom Larson	612-371-0300
Deanne Michael	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn	612-874-0747
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass	952-928-7803
Mariusz Olszewski	612-242-5159
On Your Toes	952-928-7803
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass, Elly Mae Toupin, Laurel Behning, Julie Delene	
Todd Paulus	612-968-2401
Eric Remsen	612-724-3156
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Champion Ballroom, Chanhassen	952-210-6252
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids	763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul	651-699-5910
Dahl Dance Center	507-252-1848
Dancers Studio, St. Paul	651-641-0777
E.R.V. Dance Studio	952-303-3339
Fred Astaire Dance Studio	651-451-6300
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park	952-928-7803
Rendezvous Dance Studio	612-872-1562
Social Dance Studio, Mpls	612-418-4046
Tropical Ballroom, Woodbury	651-414-0644

Clubs

Café Bailar	612-600-5129
LaDanza Dance Club Stillwater	651-439-3152
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club	651-777-5599
REBELS Swing Dance Club	952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota	763-576-3349
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter	651-483-5467

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Bill Dessert 651-633-4600

Next Newsletter Deadline: April 10th, 2010