

MINNESOTA

# DANCER

April 2018



USA Dancers Tom and Linda Crable  
Doing a Bolero Lift at Dancers Studio Showcase



# 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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## USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

April  
Saturday, April 21

Cinema Ballroom  
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul

7-8 pm lesson - Samba  
Instructor: TBD  
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

June  
Saturday, June 16

DanceLife Ballroom  
4444 76th St. West, Edina

7-8 pm lesson - Quickstep  
Instructor: Shinya McHenry  
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

May  
Saturday, May 19

American Classic Ballroom  
1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria

7-8 lesson - Waltz  
Instructor: Paul Botes  
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

\$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!

Submitted by Carol Post

Attendees: Lee Whitney (President), Carol Post (Secretary), Bonnie Burton, Stephanie Clausen, Gary Stroick and Leslie Whitney. (Absent: Jane Phipps, Joyce Thompson and Marla Heisterkamp). Quorum was met.

Location: Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

1. Agenda: Approved 6/6.
2. Board Minutes Jan 2, 2018: Approved 5/6 (1 abstention: not present at Jan meeting).
3. Treasurer Report: No report.
4. 2018 Budget Development: Tabled until March.
5. Special Projects:
  - a. February 24-25 Dance Camp: Sanction approved. Event being advertised. Flash Mob choreography will be introduced during event.
  - b. Tea Dance: Motion to approve budget. Approved 6/6.
6. Communications:
  - a. Minnesota Dancer: Advertising for layout and writers.
  - b. Website: Advertising for webmaster support.
7. Social Dance:
  - a. Chapter monthly dances: Feb 17-Dance with Us America (Tango), March 17-Dancers Studio (Hustle), April 21-Cinema (Samba), May 19 -American Classic (Waltz).
  - b. Tapestry Partnership: 2nd Friday each month. Chapter provides DJ.
  - c. Project Dance: Feb: n'Motion Dance Center (WC Swing) none held Feb 25, Mar: Dancers (Cha Cha), Apr: DanceLife (Bolero), May: Bloomington Ballroom (Waltz).
8. K-12 Report: Opportunity for funding/support of St. Paul high school dance program. Leslie will follow up.
9. Dancing Classrooms: Demo opportunity at Nokomis Community Center Feb 14. Will promote Heart of Dance and USA Dance. Contact Yvonne.
10. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Report: Rochester scrimmage 17 Feb. Chapter to provide floor and site support. Latin team U of M unable to attend due to class conflicts. Dance Camp and Tea Dance sponsorships to be advertised at event.
11. Membership Report:
  - a. 2017 January members - 241.
  - b. 2018 January members - 247.

Meeting concluded at 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting: 6 pm, Tuesday, Mar 6, 2018, Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN.



# Beginner Bolero



Sunday, April 08 — 2:00 pm  
Sunday, April 15 — 2:00 pm  
Sunday, April 22 — 2:00 pm  
Sunday, April 29 — No Class

Classes with Shinya McHenry at  
**DanceLife Ballroom**

4444 West 76th Street  
Suite 250  
Edina, MN  
612.345.4219

[www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)  
[info@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto: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](http://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.

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# DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

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## USA DANCE

**USA Dance – Monthly** - 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, April 21, at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul. Lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 11 pm. Lesson - Samba. Instructor: TBD.

**Project Dance** - April 8, 15 and 22 at DanceLife Ballroom, 4444 West 76th St, Suite 250, Edina. Lesson at 2 pm. Lesson: Beginner Bolero. Instructor: Shinya McHenry.

**Tea Dance** - April 29. See the flyer on page 10 for details.

## WEEKLY DANCES

**Awakened Dance (at 'nMotion Dance Center)** - Friday, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 9 pm.

**Ballroom & Latin Dance Club** - Friday, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 10 pm.

**Cinema Ballroom** – Wednesday, Practice Party, 8 – 9 pm.

**Costa Rica Ballroom** – Wednesday, Practice Party, 8:15 - 9 pm.

**Dance With Us America** - Thursday, Practice Party, 8:15 - 9 pm.

**DanceLife Ballroom**– Friday, Variety Dance, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 9:30 pm.

**Dancers Studio** – Thursday, Variety Dance, 8 - 9:30 pm.

## OTHER DANCES

**Argentine Tango Milonga** - Second Saturday of each month, April 14, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See [mntango.org](http://mntango.org) for more information.

**Café Bailar Dance Club** – Saturday Variety Party, April 14 and 28, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

**Cinema Ballroom** – Night at the Movies, April 20, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

**Cinema Ballroom** - Sunday Night Dancing with Jerry O'Hagen and His Orchestra, April 8 and 22, 6:15 -10 pm.

**MN West Coast Swing Dance Club** - 2nd and 4th Fridays, April 13 and 27, B-Dale Club, Roseville. 7:30 pm lesson free with admission and 8:30 pm dance.

**Tapestry** – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, April 1 and 15, dance 6 – 9:30 pm.

**Twin Cities Rebels** – WCS and Variety Dance, April 7 (Saturday), 15 and 29, at DanceLife Ballroom, new location at 4444 West 76th Street, Suite 250, Edina, dance from 7 – 10:30 pm.

### Elle Van – Another Angel Dancing in Heaven



ELEANORE GRACE VAN, age 99 years, passed away on March 10, in Pocatello, Idaho. Elle was an avid West Coast swing dancer and a devoted member of MN West Coast Swing Dance Club. At 96 years, Elle was dancing with the West Coast Swing group at the State Fair! Many dancers also know her from Sunday night dancing at Cinema Ballroom with the Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra. You may leave a comment at <http://www.downardfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Eleanore-Grace-Van?obId=3007102#/celebrationWall>.

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# DANCE CONTACTS

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to [bonnieburton@comcast.net](mailto:bonnieburton@comcast.net).

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## STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM  
1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria, MN 55386  
952.934.0900  
[www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO  
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul  
651.227.3200

AWAKENED DANCE COMMUNITY  
(at 'nMotion Dance Center)  
7988 University Ave NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
[www.awakeneddance.com](http://www.awakeneddance.com)

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB  
1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville  
952.292.0524  
[www.ballroom-club.com](http://www.ballroom-club.com)

BLOOMINGTON BALLROOM DANCE CENTER  
3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington  
952.392.9631  
[www.bloomingtonballroom.com](http://www.bloomingtonballroom.com)

BLUE MOON BALLROOM  
2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester  
507.288.0556  
[www.BlueMoonBallroom.com](http://www.BlueMoonBallroom.com)

CINEMA BALLROOM  
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul  
651.699.5910  
[www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE  
STUDIOS  
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins  
952.303.3339  
[www.costaricaballroom.com](http://www.costaricaballroom.com)

DAHL DANCE CENTER  
4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester  
507.252.1848  
[www.dahldance.com](http://www.dahldance.com)

DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT  
651.605.5784  
[tricia@danceandentertainment.com](mailto:tricia@danceandentertainment.com)  
[www.danceandentertainment.com](http://www.danceandentertainment.com)

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY  
3142 1st Ave S, Minneapolis  
612.822.8436  
[www.mndance.com](http://www.mndance.com)

DANCE WITH US AMERICA  
10 Southdale Center, Edina  
612.564.5483  
[www.dancewithusamerica.com](http://www.dancewithusamerica.com)

DANCELIFE BALLROOM  
4444 West 76th Street, Suite 250, Edina  
612.345.4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

DANCERS STUDIO  
415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul  
651.641.0777  
[www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO  
1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis  
612.342.0902  
[www.fourseasonsdance.com](http://www.fourseasonsdance.com)

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO  
1975 Seneca Road, Eagan, MN  
651.451.6300  
[www.FredAstaireMN.com](http://www.FredAstaireMN.com)

MILL CITY BALLROOM  
[www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO  
Bloomington, MN  
612.799.4147  
[Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio](https://www.facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio)

RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO  
Minneapolis  
612.872.1562  
[www.theplacetodance.com](http://www.theplacetodance.com)

STUDIOJEFF  
701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201,  
St. Cloud  
320.266.4137  
[www.studiojeff.com](http://www.studiojeff.com)

## CLUBS

CAFÉ BAILAR  
[www.cafebailar.com](http://www.cafebailar.com)

LA DANZA DANCE CLUB  
Stillwater, MN  
651.439.3152  
[Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub](https://www.facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub)  
Contacts: Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB  
320.763.6432  
[danceclub@lakesideballroom.org](mailto:danceclub@lakesideballroom.org)  
[www.lakesideballroom.org](http://www.lakesideballroom.org)

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN  
Email: [latindc@umn.edu](mailto:latindc@umn.edu)  
[sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/](http://sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/)

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB  
[info@mwcsdc.com](mailto:info@mwcsdc.com)  
[www.mwcsdc.com](http://www.mwcsdc.com)

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB  
952.941.0906  
[www.tcrebels.com](http://www.tcrebels.com)

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB  
952.475.0586  
[billcarlson@usinternet.com](mailto:billcarlson@usinternet.com)

STARDUST DANCE CLUB  
[stardustdanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:stardustdanceclub@gmail.com)

SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB  
Woman's Club of Minneapolis,  
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis  
952.894.1412  
[www.suburbanwinterset.com](http://www.suburbanwinterset.com)

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA  
612.224.2905  
[www.mntango.org](http://www.mntango.org)

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER  
3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis  
612.722.2914  
[www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
BALLROOM DANCE CLUB  
[bdc@umn.edu](mailto:bdc@umn.edu)  
[ls.gd/umnbdcc](http://ls.gd/umnbdcc)

USA DANCE, MINNESOTA  
CHAPTER 2011  
[info@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:info@usadance-minnesota.org)  
[www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)

## DANCE INSTRUCTORS

Meghan Anderson and	
Igor Afonkin	612.816.5904
Scott Anderson	612.816.4446
Nathan Daniels	763.464.1021
Michael Dinsmore	763.218.3096
Jennelle Donnay	651.357.2060
Loisa Donnay	612.822.8436
Julie Delene	612.598.5355
Donna Edelstein	612.910.2690
Jennifer Foster	952.922.8316
Robert Foster	952.922.8316
Esther Granbois	612.872.1562
Lindsey Rebecca Hall	612.940.9546
Bonnie Inveen	612.978.9371
Julie Jacobson	651.261.6442
Jay Larson	651.387.3886
Deanne Michael	612.508.9255
Monica Mohn	612.874.0747
Mariusz Olszewski	612.242.5159
Mary Rosenstiel	612.720.2584
Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

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# COMPETITION CALENDAR

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April 6-8, 2018

**National DanceSport Championships**

Baltimore, MD

May 12, 2018

**New England DanceSport Championships NQE**

Dedham, MA

June 9-10, 2018

**NJ DanceSport Classic - Summer Sizzler NQE**

Hackensack, NJ

June 29 - July 1, 2018

**Gumbo DanceSport Championships NQE**

Baton Rouge, LA

August 10-12, 2018

**OKC Dreamcatcher Championships NQE**

Oklahoma City, OK

October 5-7, 2018

**Carolina Fall Classic NQE**

Charlotte, NC

October 26-28, 2018

**Chicago DanceSport Challenge NQE**

Chicago, IL

December 2018

**California State DanceSport Championships NQE**

Oakland, CA

**LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS**

Dance events for every day of the week.  
Updated daily.

[www.lynnesdancenews.com](http://www.lynnesdancenews.com)



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# USA Dance Academy

## Winter 2018 DanceSport Training Camp

By Carol Post, Chapter Special Events Coordinator

Photos by Christine Miller

On February 24-25, 2018, USA Dance Minnesota #2011 hosted its first USA Dance Camp 2018, at the Tapestry Folkdance Center in Minneapolis. This nationally sanctioned event was designed for every dancer whether new or experienced. There were two days of classes offering the opportunity to build on individual experience, increase skills, confidence and improve individual dancing.

Instruction was provided by Melissa Dexter, former US and



Giacomo with member Kathy Kaufman critiquing foot weight, alignment and position.



Saturday Dance Camp dancers.

Italian Latin Champion, World Latin Finalist and Vice President for Professional Dance of USA Dance, Inc., and Giacomo Stecaglia former 5-time Italian Professional Latin Champion, World Latin Finalist and Vice President for DanceSport, USA Dance, Inc.

Classes covered a range of topics from techniques for body position, alignment, movement, musicality, turns, stylizing and more. Additional classes offered insight to dance etiquette; preparing for shows, demos and competition; open Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions; how to deal with partnerships and how to change how you think about dance: a look into growth in your

own dance. The low stress environment and humor of the instructors made for an interactive, fun and engaging experience for everyone. The program balanced demonstration, practice, interactive dancing and sit down lecture Q&A sessions.

The event was open to the dance community and the attendees were a mix of social and competitive dancers, college ballroom dancers from U of M Minneapolis, St. Olaf and St. Thomas Ballroom Clubs, local professionals and new dancers.

Although eight inches of snow fell in the Twin Cities Saturday evening and cancelled the open dance, classes resumed without



Open group Q and A with Melissa.





Getting ready to swing.



Championship dancers Jeremy Anderson and Yuko Taniguchi with Dance Camp instructors Melissa Dexter and Giacomo Steccaglia.

*"From the constructive comments and positive feedback received we considered this a very worthwhile and successful event. Several new members have joined USA Dance and even more have attended Project Dance as a result of this dance camp. In keeping with the mission of USA Dance to promote the quality and quantity of ballroom dance, we plan to conduct this sanctioned event on a regular basis. We look forward to even more participation and even larger event next year".*

*Leland Whitney, USA Dance Chapter #2011 President.*

interruption on Sunday morning. In fact, several one-day registrations decided to return on Sunday, including two new dancers that drove more than an hour. There were on-site sign ups including a USA Dance member visiting from Hawaii.

As a first time event for the chapter, it delivered a big punch. Due to the positive feedback, and constructive comments received, this dance camp event has been approved to be held as an annual sanctioned event.

Comments from the dance camp:

*"It was so much fun and the instructors were so nice. I was surprised that such famous teachers were so down to earth and funny."*

*"I enjoyed the classes and would like even more practice dancing what I learned."*

*"Sign me up. I want to attend with such big names coming to Minnesota."*

*A big thank you to everyone who attended the dance camp. A special thank you to Dana, director of Tapestry Dance Center and her board who went above and beyond to make hosting*

*this event effortless; the board of USA Dance Chapter #2011; USA Dance, Inc.; DanceSport Council sanctioning committee; USA Dance Marketing Director; and USA Dance members Wayne Crowder and Rachael Nguyen for providing additional advertising of this event. Lastly, thank you to Melissa and Giacomo for your energy, passion and love of dance that transformed many who attended this event. Thank you for everything that you give to USA Dance and the ballroom community.*

# ***26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tea Dance*** ***Sunday April 29, 2018***

***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***



## ***Brunch and Dancing*** ***11AM-4PM***

***Early Bird Reservations through April 15, 2018***  
***Brunch (11:00AM-12:15 PM) and Dance (1-4PM)***

***Adult \$38***  
***Student \$33***

***Reservations April 16-April 25, 2018***

***Adult \$43***  
***Student \$38***

***Dance Only 1PM-4PM***  
***Adult \$26***  
***Student \$21***

***For Brunch Reservations, send a check by April 25<sup>th</sup> with phone number and email address to:***

***USA Dance Chapter #2011-Tea Dance c/o Carol Post***  
***3600 France Avenue South***  
***St Louis Park, Minnesota 55416***  
***For information: 952-926-7648 or teadance2018@gmail.com***

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# Student Ballroom Tea Dance Brunch Sponsorships are Now Open!

Consider sponsoring a student when you reserve your ticket:

*Early Bird through April 15, 2018*

*Student \$33*

*April 16-April 25, 2018*

*Student \$38*

*For more information and to reserve your tickets  
contact Carol Post at 952-926-7648  
or [teadance2018@gmail.com](mailto:teadance2018@gmail.com)*

## **For We All Dance ... D. Arthur Tsang**

It's with you in every moment,  
The pulse of your imperfect heart beat,  
Your words evoking your truth,  
As you dream to your dance of eternity.

It's uniquely your celebration,  
The music within - touching your emotions,  
Your gift of life to share,  
It's what I want to learn from you.

And so I ask you for this moment in time,  
To have this dance with me,  
To hear your song, to hear my song,  
Our footsteps intertwining in an intricate dance of life.







# Dancing in Dubai

by Suzi Blumberg

Stardust Dance treated those of us on the Dubai dance cruise to a wonderful experience! As usual, it was well run, organized and action-packed. I left Minneapolis at 4 pm for Boston and 13 hours later I was in Dubai! I arrived at 8:30 pm the next day and it was great to see the Stardust people in orange shirts there to meet me!

I boarded the Costa Mediterra-nea, which was the first Costa ship I ever cruised on with Stardust. This year's cruise was seven-days around the Persian Gulf and three days in Dubai at the Dubai Marine Beach Resort.

The first day was a sea day and there was a packed schedule. A 'Meet & Greet' at 9 am, a Bachata and a Waltz lesson and an Argentine Tango Practica, all at 10 am. In the afternoon there was a Cha Cha and Foxtrot lesson at 1 pm and a Rumba and Lead & Follow class at 2 pm. Then at 4 pm we had a Welcome Dance at our private ballroom for two hours. The

rest of the evenings were the same each day--dinner at 6:30 pm, a fabulous show in the ship's large theatre that featured Cirque du Soleil type acrobatics, a tenor, a Broadway-type song and dance show and a 50's rock and roll show. After that, there was more dancing from 10 pm to midnight

in our private ballroom. When I'm home, I'm usually leaving a dance at 10 pm, not going to one, but on a cruise, it's fun to dance until the wee hours!!

The second day we were at our first port, Muscat, in the country of Oman. In the morning we



enjoyed a souq—a huge open-air market. We bought Arabian wear for the Arabian cocktail party scheduled on day four, plus lots of souvenirs. Lessons in the afternoon included Bachata, Waltz, Cha Cha and Argentine Tango. There was a milonga and ballroom dancing. Dinner was breathtaking because it was “White Night” with everyone wearing white.

Day Three we were at sea. Morning classes included Rumba, Quickstep, Cha Cha, Waltz, Salsa, Samba and two levels of Argentine Tango! Afternoon classes were East Coast Swing, International Cha Cha, a Latin styling class, and Quickstep. Stardust treated us to a gala cocktail party and dance.

Day Four we stopped at Sir Bani Island all day and enjoyed the beautiful beach and dance classes under a pavilion. We had a wonderful outdoor buffet lunch and after, some rented kayaks and others rented a 7-seater 4x4 vehicle with open sides to experience what seemed like an African safari. As we drove through the wildlife reserve, we spotted oryx, peacocks, deer, hyenas, sand gazelles, giraffes, ostrich and cheetahs. This island was originally used as a retreat for Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and in 1977 he established a wildlife reserve, which is now a big tourist attraction.

In the afternoon on the ship there was a milonga. That evening, the



theme was Arabian Night and at our evening dance, there was a first and second grand prize for the Stardust winners.

Our fifth day was in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. We were there all day and we headed for the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the largest mosque in the country with intricate inlaid marble, massive chandeliers, gleaming domes and the world's largest carpet that took two years to make. To my shock, I was not allowed to go in! It turns out when I stood in the sun, the long black skirt I wore showed the silhouette of my legs and that was not allowed. So I sat in the bus and read while everyone toured.

This was the only time on the tour that the women were cov-

ered from head to foot. Otherwise, we wore normal vacation clothes everywhere we went.

After the mosque tour, I went to see my company's office in Abu Dhabi. I work for Donaldson Company in Bloomington, a global filtration manufacturer, and we have a large manufacturing facility there. I was picked up, taken to a lovely Lebanese restaurant for lunch, put on a hard hat and goggles and had the royal tour!!

Back on the ship there were more dance lessons and dinner, which was the themed Italian Night. Everyone wore the colors of the Italian flag – red, white and green. It was festive and there was a dance contest later that evening.

Day Six was back to Dubai where



we started. We toured the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa where the elevator took us to the observation deck on the 123rd floor in 58 seconds! The view was breathtaking! We toured the Jumeirah Mosque, where I was allowed in. That evening, we enjoyed a Farewell Party because it was our last night on board.

The next morning we disembarked and went to the Miracle Gardens. This popular attraction had millions of blooming flowers in various artistic designs and structures like Mickey Mouse and a huge airplane. More than 45 million flowers were spread across the huge site. It was abso-

lutely gorgeous. I've never seen anything like it!!

That afternoon we checked into our hotel, took walks, ate lunch on the beach and explored the area. Some people went on a camel safari into the desert that went to a Bedouin style camp. They enjoyed a delicious outdoor barbeque buffet dinner in the middle of the desert, saw a falcon show, belly dancing and took Quad Bike and dune buggy rides in the desert. That evening we went into a beautiful area of downtown Dubai and ate outdoors at a wonderful restaurant as we watched boats pass by.

Our last day in Dubai we spent

shopping at a souk with souvenirs and another with spices, gold, textiles, perfumes and oils. We stopped for lunch and experienced an authentic delicious Emirati lunch at the Aseelah Restaurant.

That evening was the Stardust farewell dinner and dance. One last wonderful meal in Dubai and our last dance to the wonderful music of DJ Michelle and Bob Friedman of MB Music Services, LLC. One of the best parts of a Stardust Cruise and Ballroom Dance Weekend is the wonderful music DJ Michelle provides. It's the absolute best and it's the only music at a Stardust event. MB Music Services are so good they have DJ'd the USA Dance National Ballroom Competitions the past few years.

I was exhausted when boarding the plane back to the US. It was a whirlwind trip and I loved every minute of it! Linda Gilberg is president of Stardust Dance Productions and she partnered with Leon Harris for this trip. Leon is a dance instructor from Washington, DC who has been teaching Argentine Tango in Dubai for many years and has made over 30 trips to the area. Linda had a wonderful staff of dance instructors to pamper and teach us. Several talented dance hosts were there to dance with the single ladies. Between Leon's knowledge of the area and Linda's great organizational skills, the trip was fabulous!!







# Stardust Dance

PRODUCTIONS

WEEKEND GETAWAYS, LUXURY DANCE CRUISES, DANCE DESTINATIONS

## Ballroom Events

### 113<sup>th</sup> Weekend Getaway *Black Tie Gala*

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## Greg is Back as Senior Vice President of USA Dance National Organization

Gary Stroick, President, and the Governing Council are pleased to announce the ratification of Greg Warner in the Senior Vice President position. Greg is a long-time member of USA Dance and has been active in both Social and Competitive aspects of USA Dance.

Kirk Sigmon was ratified as Director of Administration. Kirk comes to the Governing Council with experience in information technology, legal constructs and contract management.

As the governing body of USA Dance we look forward to welcoming them to the interesting and exciting volunteer work of USA Dance.

Gary Stroick, President  
USA Dance, Inc.

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# Dancing Cheek to Cheek

By Bob Anholt

The dancer I've always most admired is Fred Astaire for his musicality and originality. Ballroom dancers have a large collection of syllabus dance moves that provide groundwork for creating unique choreography with appropriate musicality. We can be very creative with what we know, enhancing it or departing from it to do side-by-side dancing or acrobatics, but syllabus is still the basis.

Most of Fred's choreography was created by him without the benefit of syllabus and he would spend days working on three minute dances (John Mueller Astaire Dancing, NY: Wings Books, 1985). He sometimes reviewed

earlier dances making sure he was not reusing movements. It is even rumored he spent eight hours trying to find just the right dance steps for two bars of music. He did take suggestions: George Gershwin sometimes attended Fred's working sessions and made suggestions. His main companion during the creation process was not Ginger (or other actresses), but Hermes Pan who substituted for Ginger and was responsible for remembering what Fred created (this pre-dated iPhone videos). Hermes would later teach Ginger her part. Filming would sometimes take place weeks after creating the dance.

Being a musician himself, Fred

had a lot of say about the musical arrangement resulting in an arrangement that has a lot of "texture." Most of us have at one time danced a big band or Frank Sinatra version of cheek to cheek: a competition-ready, bland tune with a good steady beat throughout. In *Top Hat* the first two minutes of the five-minute cheek to cheek sequence has Fred singing, which is also pretty bland, but the dancing is to only the band instrumental. When he is tapping in the "I like to climb a Mountain..." phrase, the band provides a staccato beat. Near the end, "dance with me," the band provides a lot of energy which is matched by Fred's dancing. Near the conclusion we have a very big "heaven" in which Fred takes Ginger from a dip to a jump in those two notes then after a two more jumps and dips, the music quiets as Fred gradually brings Ginger up from a dip.

This dance is very effective at developing the story in this film. What's going on in this sequence is that thanks to some plot-line misunderstandings, Ginger has misgivings about a relationship with Fred and Fred is ooz-





ing charm. Ballroom solos tend to follow the rule “don’t repeat dance moves” but there are many repeated movements in this dance that drive the relationship from misgiving to deeply sensual. For example in three places the two dance around one another in a semi-open position, Fred backing up, cheeks together. A recurring theme in the dance is the dip: At the beginning Fred does two ragdoll sweeps from promenade runs, towards the middle he dips from a reverse polka type of movement, and by the end, the jump and dips are deeper until the final one which is deeply sensual.

But “don’t repeat” is still operable as there are about four places where “Heaven I’m in heaven” is repeated in the instrumen-

tal. What most attracted me to this dance was how well this fits the movement “ronde vine two ronde” but in the other three places different three-step movements take place.

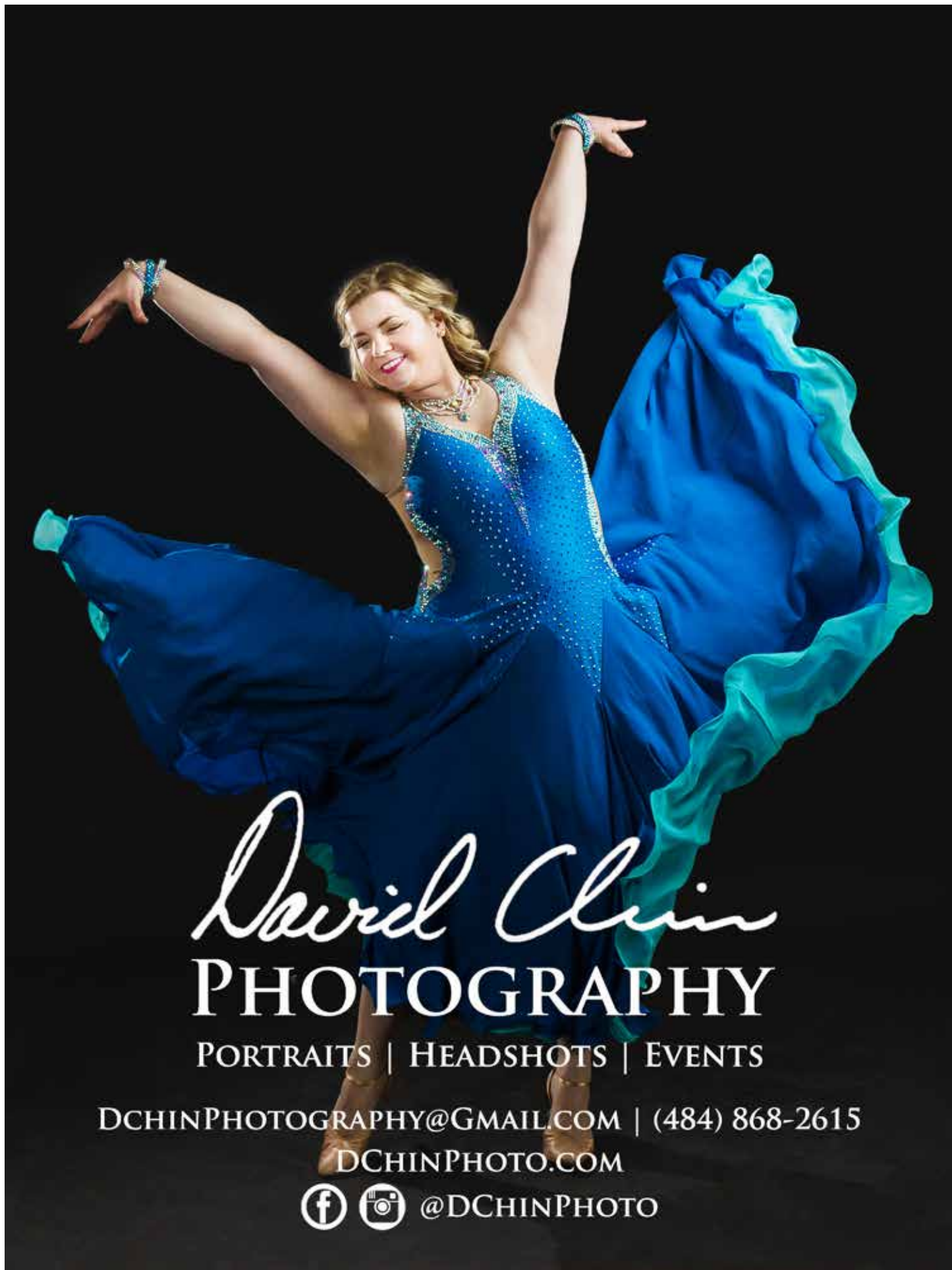
Dancing like Fred and Ginger has been on my bucket list for several years. Kristina Lee and I tried to dance their Cheek to Cheek solo

in 2012, but gave up because my skill levels were not yet there. Having since choreographed many solos myself, I am now a little bit smarter about creating work-arounds for dance movements I cannot do convincingly, so in the end Nelly Dorovskikh and I were only about 90% accurate dancing it in the March 2018, showcases at the Lafayette Classic, Dancers Studio and DanceLife Studio. For example, Fred does some on-your-toes double pirouettes at one point. We don’t. There are other things changed because I disapproved of the choreography. In about the 5th bar of the dancing, Ginger has her back to the audience (camera) as they are doing a sort of sliding doors figure. We changed this and some movements around it to let my Ginger face the audience.

Our video can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2L-sVA\\_Teg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2L-sVA_Teg&feature=youtu.be) or by searching YouTube for “Cheek to cheek Bob Anholt.”







*David Chin*  
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# DanceLife Ballroom Moves to New Location!

## By Rebecca Steinkruger

DanceLife Ballroom, owned by Shinya McHenry, has relocated to 4444 W 76th Street, Suite 200, Edina, MN 55435. Owner Shinya McHenry has a long tradition of dance instruction in the Twin Cities. Here are some fun facts about Shinya:

- In 1970, at the age of 13, Shinya began attending teen dance night



every Sunday at Uncle Sam's (now the First Avenue Club) in downtown Minneapolis.

- Shinya grew up with Prince. He was filmed in Prince's movie *Purple Rain* dancing on the front stage of that movie.
- He competed with his professional partner Marcy, in International Latin. He still competes with amateur partners.

being a father.

Starting in 1981, Shinya began training with Arthur Murray in the York Town Mall, where he worked for six years. He also worked a year in Milwaukee before opening his first studio in St. Paul with wife Marcy, in 1987. The first studio was 900 square feet and they shared the space with an aerobics instructor!

In 1988, the studio moved to Snelling Avenue in St. Paul, in the fire

- Shinya has 4 children and loves



- Weekly dance parties every Friday 8-9:30 pm with a one-hour lesson at 7:00 pm for \$15.
- Scheduled elegant dance/parties, wine and an intimate atmosphere.
- Singles night and LBGT dances.
- Quarterly dance showcases.
- Daytime and specialty classes in tap, lindy, Zumba and yoga.
- Spring Ballroom Dance Camps in Mexico (and has done so for the last 20 years) and a luxury dance cruise in Europe every fall.

station #14. It was a 1200 square foot space where the fire truck once parked. It was expanded to a two-story, 5000 square foot studio next to the fire station in 1992. In 1990, they also opened a dance studio in Rochester MN.

ings, and so forth. It is a mecca for dancers and other artists, and they employ top-notch instructors.

DanceLife Ballroom currently offers:

Shinya has owned and operated dance studios in Woodbury and Midway Center, St. Paul. His most recent studio was located at Lyndale Avenue S., in Minneapolis, just prior to moving to its current new location at 4444 W. 76th Street, Edina.

The DanceLife Motto is “Dancing is life, health and happiness”, and its mission is to enrich people’s lives with dance. Dancelife Ballroom makes learning to dance fun, easy and affordable. Over the years, DanceLife has become a social gathering place for many events such as fundraisers, birthday parties, corporate gather-





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# On the Road with USA Dance Chapter #2011

By Carol Post

February 17th was the date for the annual Ballroom Scrimmage in Rochester, Minnesota. This annual event is hosted by the U of M Rochester Ballroom Dance Club and organized by faculty member Rachael Nguyen with the assistance of alumni from last years club.

College ballroom dance clubs from Minnesota and Iowa packed the DoubleTree Ballroom for a fun-filled one day event. Modeled as a competition style

event, ballroom students get the chance to dance multiple dance styles with their peers. Instead of marks or placements each dance round was followed by constructive comments and critique from Nathan Daniels, national coach and judge. This gave the dancers an opportunity to implement on the spot corrections for their next round and improve their dancing. A win-win for everyone!

Chapter #2011 continues to support this event through a dona-

tion of the dance floor and chapter members to help with floor set up and running the on-deck area. This year chapter members Gary Stroick and Carol Post lent a hand.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer for USA Dance Chapter #2011 events contact Joyce Thompson at [contactjoycethompson@gmail.com](mailto:contactjoycethompson@gmail.com).



University of Minnesota Rochester Ballroom Dance Club



# Tips for Men's Ballroom Costumes

By Deborah J. Nelson/  
Satin Stitches Ltd.

*Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, President, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd.*

In ballroom dance, some might think that what the man wears is inconsequential to what the lady is wearing. How do you feel about this statement?

I disagree! Generally, the man's attire shouldn't outshine the lady's apparel, but it should coordinate and sometimes 'match'. A ballroom couple is a complete entity. The dancers should coordinate their movements, dance styling, and their apparel. As with everything for their performance, they should be looked upon as 'one', not as two totally separate individuals.

Sometimes, ladies have the option to purchase 'off the rack' dresses that can be modified or worn 'as is' for either a social ballroom dancing event, or even a performance. Men have this option also, but they need to be careful that the garments they choose, will 'dance' with them, not against them!

How can you customize an 'off the rack' shirt? Your shirt needs to stay tucked in – if it starts out that way, for your dance performance. The 'secret' is to cut off the excess tails on the shirt and add a dance brief. Another option is to simply add a piece of elastic that is attached to the back of the shirt, under the crotch, and attach it to the front of the shirt. This simple addition will anchor a shirt in place, so it won't ride up, and work its way out of your dance pants.

Another modification, either to a shirt or to a jacket, would be to add gussets into the armpit area. When you put your arms into 'dance position' with a standard tuxedo jacket or any jacket, for that matter, the entire jacket will rise up, and create an unflattering look. Woven, non-stretch shirts will do the same thing. When you watch seasoned professional or amateur male dancers, you will see that their shirts and jack-

ets stay down in place, and don't rise up. This is because the patterns to create these costumes are totally different from the patterns that are used for standard 'off the rack' men's apparel. The most important feature of these ballroom patterns, is extra fabric in the armpit area.

A talented alteration person can add in extra fabric into the armpit area of a man's garment. This piece of fabric is called a gusset and is sometimes shaped like a football. Another, more involved procedure, would be to recut and replace the sleeves, which can be done if you have, or can find matching fabric (sometimes by cannibalizing another shirt or jacket).

If you are commissioning a custom ballroom shirt or jacket with a professional ballroom costume designer, they are aware of how sleeves need to be cut, for a sleek fit. But if you are working with a

nonprofessional, make sure that they know these 'tricks' so your costume will stay down in place, even when you raise your arms!

When working with a nonprofessional for creating your ballroom outfit, first confirm their ability to create masculine looking outfits. Most hobby sewers have lots of experience with making women's costumes, but they may not have as much experience with men's. Besides a masculine physique, men need attitude and swagger to wear ANYTHING, and still look masculine.

But the right clothes will help or hinder. The color, the cut, the fit, the workmanship, the fabric and the details will make or break, a masculine men's dance costume.

Men's clothing requires a higher level of construction technique to pull off a quality costume. Tailor-

ing is a whole different ballgame from dressmaking! Correct fit is VERY important for a masculine looking men's costume. Many home sewers may not have the ability to get the best fit for men.

What makes 'the cut' more masculine? Traditional, "desirable" masculine features include the appearance of stature or height, broad shoulders and narrow hips. Why do men always look so handsome in military uniforms and tuxedos? Because the tailoring accentuates their height, broad shoulders, and narrow hips. The long, lean look is promoted with a single color from top to bottom, shoulder pads and design details drawing the eyes upward to the upper chest and face. And if the uniform or tuxedo fits right, it will look great. Watch out for anything that fits too tight or too loose.

With costumes, fabrics are very important. Street fashions with traditional street fabrics obviously keep men looking masculine. But with performance costumes, sometimes you want to use fabrics to coordinate with the woman's costume, which sometimes means working with traditional dance costume fabrics. Any fabric CAN work, if the cut, workmanship and fit is right. But some fabrics will work better. Better looks for guys include thicker spandex such as ottoman, football-weight, and other heavy-weight fabrics, besides traditional woven (non-stretch) menswear fabrics.

Of course all rules can be broken. I learned this a long time ago! These are just guidelines for creating more masculine, danceable looks for men.



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