

MINNESOTA

DANCER

August 2017



In Honor of Nicholas Westlake (1988-2017)
Dancing with Partner Neli Petkova



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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Advertising: Paul Stachour

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to tcrable3s@gmail.com.

Send advertising materials to Paul Stachour at MNDancer.Ads@gmail.com.

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

August
Saturday, August 19

DanceLife Ballroom
6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

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

October
Saturday, October 21

American Classic Ballroom
1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria

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

September
Saturday, September 16

Dance With Us America
10 Southdale Center, Edina

7-8 lesson - Waltz
Instructor: Gene or Elena Bersten
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!

USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Submitted by Carol Post

In attendance: Lee Whitney (President), Joyce Thompson (Vice President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer) Carol Post (Secretary), Leslie Whitney, Stephanie Clausen and Bonnie Burton.

Location: Washburn Public Library, 5244 Lyndale Avenue South, Mpls, MN 55419.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

1. Agenda: June 2017 board meeting minutes - Approved.
2. Guests: Anne LaTourelle and Jeff Chinn were invited to share ideas for chapter activities, dances, venues and dance community outreach.
3. May 2017 board meeting minutes: Approved.
4. Open board position: Will schedule meeting with potential candidate.
5. Treasurer Report: Approved.
6. Communications Report:
 - a. Minnesota Dancer: Will do ad swap with TCO.
 - b. Planning report on activities: National Ballroom Dance Week. Request out for more photos for American Dancer Magazine.
 - c. Website, Facebook and Constant Contact: No new updates.
7. Social Dance Report:
 - a. Monthly dances - June: Dancers, July-Aug: DanceLife, Sept: TBD, Oct: Waiting on confirmation, Nov: Cinema.
 - b. Project Dance: No Project Dance in July.
 - c. Co-sponsor event at Tapestry July 2. Lee will DJ.
8. Special Projects Report:
 - a. Special events: NBDW 15-24 Sept. Ideas for event discussed.
 - b. Dancing Classroom: Program updates provided.
 - c. College Support: Macalester, U of M Latin Club and U of M Rochester - meeting with club representatives to discuss club goals and how chapter can provide support. UM Rochester: Requested chapter support for annual scrimmage and use of dance floor Feb 2018.
9. Volunteer Coordinator Report: Nothing to report.
10. Membership Report:
 - a. June 30, 2016 - 313 members.
 - b. June 6, 2017 - 227 members.

Meeting concluded at 730 pm.

Next Meeting: 6 pm, Tuesday July 11, 2017.

Washburn Public Library. 5244 Lyndale Avenue South. Minneapolis, 55419.

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FALL SHOWCASE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH - 7:00 to 11:00PM

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DANCERS WANTED!

CHA-CHA FLASH MOB!

WANTED! Volunteers to learn and dance a cha-cha routine for a flash-mob demo to be performed at the Mall of America on September 24, 2017!

If there is enough interest, this demo along with others, will be performed at the MOA on 9/24/2017, in the afternoon, in celebration of National Ballroom week.

Some rules:

- 1. Knowledge of cha-cha is useful, but not necessary.**
- 2. We will train, but you must attend training/practices.**
- 3. Lessons will be on Wednesday nights at 9 PM and will start August 16.**
- 4. We will also make video available as a training tool.**
- 5. Costumes are not required, but are desired.**
- 6. We prefer you have a partner. If not, please indicate; perhaps someone will partner with you.**
- 7. Thank you to those who have already expressed interest! We will contact you very soon with details.**
- 8. If you want to be part of this fun event, please sign up via email to:**
bonnieburton@comcast.net or danvman@aol.com

DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

USA DANCE

USA Dance – Monthly - 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, August 19, at DanceLife Ballroom, 6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis. Lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - Salsa. Instructor: Shinya McHenry. 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music.

Project Dance - August 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 2 pm, at The n'Motion Dance Center, 7988 University Ave NE, Fridley. Lesson - Beginner Tango. Instructor: Jennelle Donnay.

WEEKLY DANCES

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

Cinema Ballroom – Wednesdays, Practice Party, 8 – 9 pm.

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

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

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

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

OTHER DANCES

Argentine Tango Milonga - Second Saturday of each month, August 12 , class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

Café Bailer Dance Club – Saturday Variety Party, August 12 and 26, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, August 4 and 18, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

Dancing with Jerry O'Hagan and His Orchestra - August 13 and 27, Cinema Ballroom, 6:15 - 10 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, August 6 and 20, dance 6 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, August 6 and 20, at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 10:30 pm.

Minnesota Madness - Oct 15, 2017, hosted by Nathan Daniels and Scott Anderson, Medina Entertainment Center, MN.

<p>Argentine</p>  <p>TANGO TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA mntango.org</p> <p><i>Dedicated to Fostering and Supporting Argentine Tango in Minnesota</i></p>	<p>The <i>bandoneon</i> (a button accordian) has become the signature instrument of Argentine tango although tango groups vary in size and instrumentation from solo musicians to full orchestras with singers.</p>  <p>MORE INFORMATION AT THE TSOM WEB SITE Teachers, Practice Workshops, Dances (called <i>Milongas</i>), the Tango Calendar, Special Events, and Much More</p>
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DANCE CONTACTS

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to tcrable3s@gmail.com

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM
1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria, MN 55386
952.934.0900
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

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB
1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville
952.292.0524
www.ballroom-club.com

BLUE MOON BALLROOM
2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester
507.288.0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.com

CINEMA BALLROOM
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul
651.699.5910
www.cinemaballroom.com

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE
STUDIOS
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins
952.303.3339
www.costaricaballroom.com

DAHL DANCE CENTER
4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester
507.252.1848
www.dahldance.com

DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT
651.605.5784
tricia@danceandentertainment.com
www.danceandentertainment.com

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY
3142 1st Ave S, Minneapolis
612.822.8436
www.mndance.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA
10 Southdale Center, Edina
612.564.5483
www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCELIFE BALLROOM
6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis
612.345.4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

DANCERS STUDIO
415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul
651.641.0777
www.dancersstudio.com

DE Studios
3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington
952.392.9631
www.de-studios.com

FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO
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612.342.0902
www.fourseasonsdance.com

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www.FredAstaireMN.com

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www.millcityballroom.com

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[Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio](https://www.facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio)

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Minneapolis
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St. Cloud
320.266.4137
www.studiojeff.com

CLUBS

CAFÉ BAILAR
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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
www.lakesideballroom.org

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN
Email: latindc@umn.edu
sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB
www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB
763.442.1618
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB
952.941.0906
www.tcrebels.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB
952.475.0586
billcarlson@usinternet.com

STARDUST DANCE CLUB
stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB
Woman's Club of Minneapolis,
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis
952.894.1412
www.suburbanwinterset.com

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA
612.224.2905
www.mntango.org

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER
3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis
612.722.2914
www.tapestryfolkdance.org

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BALLROOM DANCE CLUB
bdc@umn.edu
ls.gd@umnbdcc

USA DANCE, MINNESOTA
CHAPTER 2011
info@usadance-minnesota.org
www.usadance-minnesota.org

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Monica Mohn	612.874.0747
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Mary Rosenstiel	612.720.2584
Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

COMPETITION CALENDAR

September 9, 2017

Kansas City Dance Classics

Overland Park, KS

September 29 - October 1, 2017

Carolina Fall Classic - 2018 NQE

Organized by Wayne and Marie Crowder
University Hilton - Charlotte, NC

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

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

www.lynnesdancenews.com

October 27 - 29, 2017

Chicago DanceSport Challenge - 2018 NQE

Hosted by Chicagoland Chapter #2001
Hyatt O'Hare Hotel - Chicago, IL

December 2, 2017

California State DanceSport Championships - 2018 NQE

Oakland, CA

January 12 - 14, 2018

Snow Ball Dancesport Competition

Minneapolis, MN

January 12 - 14, 2018

Manhattan Amateur Classic - 2018 NQE

Jersey City, NJ

February 2 - 4, 2018

Southeastern Dancesport Championships - 2018 NQE

Birmingham, AL

February 16 - 18, 2018

Mid-Atlantic Championships NQE

Hosted by Mid-Eastern USA Dance chapter # 6001, Bethesda, MD

February 16 - 18, 2018

Senior IV National DanceSport Championships

Hosted by MidEastern USA Dance chapter # 6001, Bethesda, MD

Wonderful Ballroom Dance Cruise

12 day tour sailing from Rome, Italy to Barcelona, Spain

October 25th – November 6th 2017



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Hosted by Shinya McHenry & DanceLife Pros

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- *2 nights pre-cruise stay in Rome, 4-Star hotel
- *2 nights post-cruise stay in Barcelona, 4-Star hotel
- *Rome full day city tour, including the Vatican Museums and St Peter's Basilica
- *Barcelona half day city tour and Farewell Flamenco dinner show
- *Group dance classes on board the Queen Victoria on Days at Sea
- *DanceLife Ballroom Shirts
- *Nightly Dinner and Ballroom Dancing to live orchestra in the beautiful Queen's Room Ballroom aboard the ship



For more info contact shinyamchenry@gmail.com or 651-302-6891

The Queens Room, Queen Elizabeth



Beginner Tango

Sunday, August 6 — 2:00 pm
Sunday, August 13 — 2:00 pm
Sunday, August 20 — 2:00 pm
Sunday, August 27 — 2:00 pm

Classes with Jennelle Donnay at



7988 University Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
763.571.6180

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



USA Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$3. Non-members pay \$8.

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.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leland & Leslie Whitney are preparing to compete at several competitions over the next few months: September – Kansas City Dance Classic, Carolina Fall Classic (NQE); October – Chicago DanceSport Challenge (NQE) and February 2018 – Mid Atlantic Championships (NQE and Senior IV National Championships).

By Leland Whitney, President,
USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011

USA Dance Chapters around the nation serve many special needs communities with lessons and appropriate social dances at a variety of venues. These include soldiers with PTSD, folks of all ages dealing with dementia, others with a variety of physical disabilities and more.

If you have an interest in providing dance related services to these groups please let me know. Perhaps there will be others with similar interests and our chapter could put a volunteer team together to get started.

Thank you.

Argentine



mntango.org

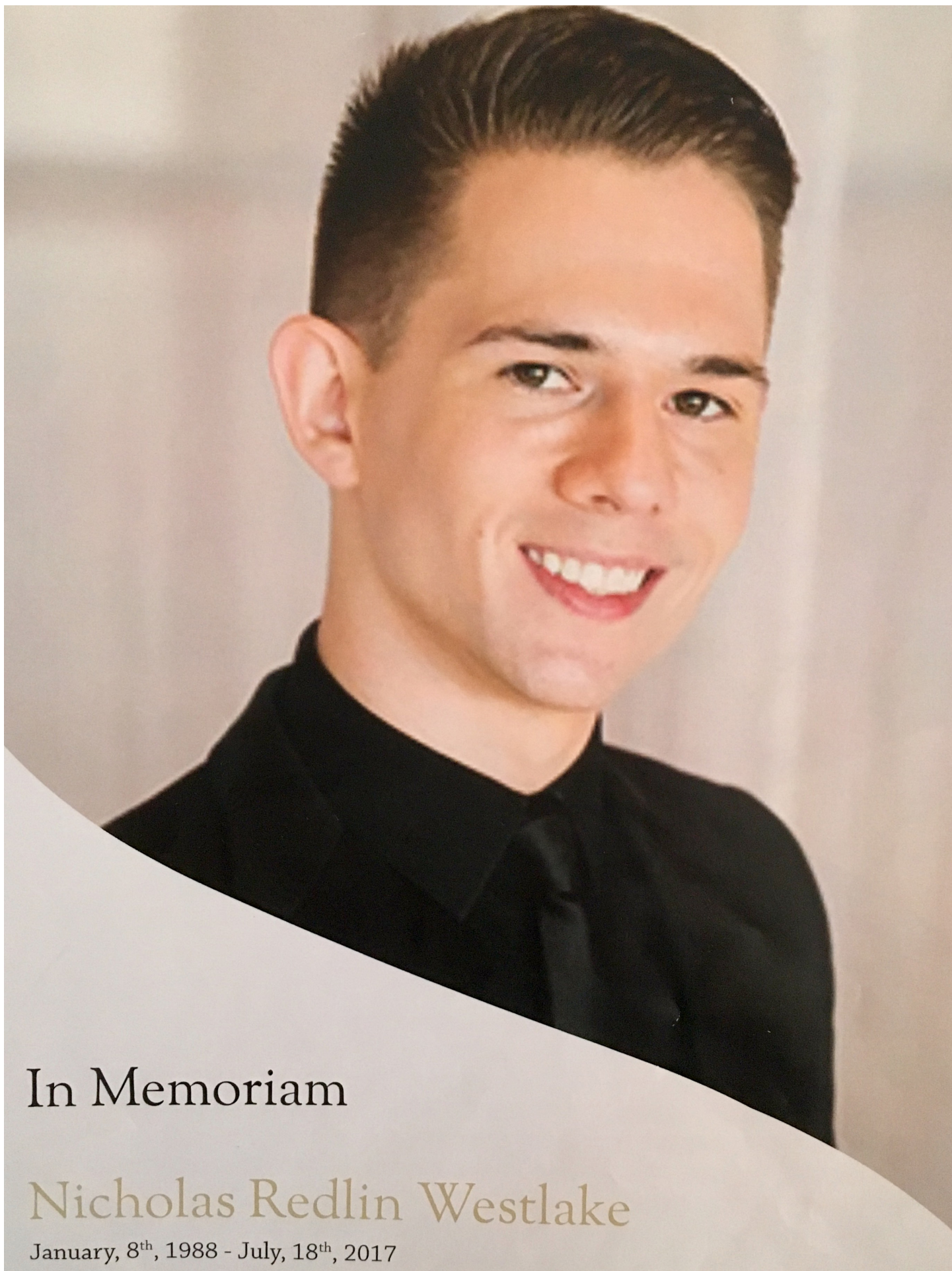
*Dedicated to
Fostering and
Supporting
Argentine Tango
in Minnesota*

presto allegro andante adagio largo



All Counts Count in Argentine Tango!
Tango To All Tempos Too!

MORE INFORMATION AT THE TS&M WEB SITE
Teachers, Practice Workshops, Dances (called *Milongas*),
the Tango Calendar, Special Events, and Much More



In Memoriam

Nicholas Redlin Westlake

January, 8th, 1988 - July, 18th, 2017

USA Dance Minnesota Remembers Nicholas Westlake

January 8, 1988 – July 18, 2017

By Bonnie Burton,
USA Dance Minnesota Board Member and District 2 Director

The ballroom community was shocked by the recent death of Minnesota dancer and USA Dance competitor Nicholas Westlake, who was killed in a crash with a Green-Line train in St. Paul. Nic was a passionate competitor and instructor and he loved introducing people to ballroom dancing. He and his partner Neli Petkova were breathtaking on the ballroom floor together.

Nic started his competitive dance career in 2010. At his initial USA Dance National competition, he won 1st Place from a field of 23 couples in the Bronze International Standard category at age 22. He went on to continuously earn high rankings in National Championships with his partners. This year, at the 2017 USA Dance Nationals, he danced at Championship level in the International Standard Ballroom category, placing 7th of 17 couples against intense competition comprised of the best dancers in the nation. When watching Nic and Neli dance, one sensed sooner than later they would be on the championship podium in 1st Place.

Nic was generous with his talent and his time, spending countless hours working with local dance programs and volunteering with organizations that promote ballroom dance in the Twin Cities. These organizations included USA Dance Minnesota, whose mission is to promote the quality and quantity of ballroom dance in the Twin Cities; and U Partner Dance, a non-profit that supports the University of Minnesota's ballroom club.

My early encounters with Nic were in 2012 during my first term on the USA Dance Minnesota board of directors. We were both volunteers. I was asked to sell advertising for the then Dancing Times newsletter and Nic was the design/layout editor. My last encounters were at weekly dance lessons my husband and I took with him at Dancers Studio, in St. Paul. In fact, we were driving to an early morning lesson with him when we were notified that he'd been in an accident, was critically injured, and would be unable to teach us that day.

Whether he was designing a newsletter, or trying to teach

age 55+ students to dance like 20-year-olds, Nic brought enthusiasm, energy, and confidence to everything he did. He was irrepressibly likeable, even during a brief period of differences in 2014 about management of the local USA Dance chapter, which ultimately reached resolution.

A memorial service was held for him at Dancers Studio, where he was an instructor. The service was attended by hundreds of friends, family, and members of the local Twin Cities dance community. His confidence, energy, and smile will be missed by many.

"Before you dance [in competition], I want you to repeat to yourself: 'I've got this. I've done it a million times.' Stay in the moment. Smile. Breathe!"
~ Nic Westlake

"There is great dignity in taking risks." ~ Nic Westlake

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR
MEMBERSHIP WITH**

USA DANCE MINNESOTA Chapter #2011

<http://usadance.org/membership/>



**USA DANCE, INC.
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CONTEST
August 1st to September 24th**

The USA Dance, Inc., Governing Council welcomes you to participate in a membership contest. We value your membership and support of USA Dance, Inc. Starting August 1st till the end of National Ballroom Dance Week; midnight of September 24th

JOIN IN THE CONTEST:

- All the chapters will receive a \$5.00 incentive for every member they sign up from August 1 – September 24th.
- The chapters with the highest PERCENTAGE increase of members will receive a prize:
- 1st Place - \$400
- 2nd Place - \$200
- 3rd Place - \$100
- Chapter District with the most percentage increase will also receive \$100.
- The membership type can be: Expired, Renewals and New members.
- Members can be any kind: Social, DanceSport, DanceSport Kids, College, and so on.

The contest ends midnight, end of day, the 24th of September. The winners will be announced on October 9, 2017.



BALLROOM DANCE EVENTS

111th Ballroom Dance Weekend FRIDAY SEPT. 15TH - SUNDAY SEPT. 17TH 2017

Honor's Haven Resort & Spa
1195 Arrowhead Road • Ellenville, NY 12428



Rates starting at \$419pp

Includes: Lodging • 7 Meals • Cocktail Party/Open Bar
Wine/Champagne Party • Over 50 Hours of Workshops
Entertainment Nightly • Dancing in 4 Venues
Top Nite Club Entertainment Each Evening

Saturday Night 50's Sock Hop 'Rock This Town' Live Band

2017 Future Ballroom Dance Weekends
November 17th -19th

Stardust Dance Cruise XIV

January 13 - January 23, 2018

Costa Deliziosa

10 Nights

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Itinerary

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Share Your Talents

Share your talents and experience with the
team of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 by:

- Writing articles for the Minnesota Dancer.
- Interviewing members of the dance community on topics of interest.
- Graphic Designer.
- Illustrator.
- Publication Distribution.

For more information, contact Bonnie Burton at
bonnieburton@comcast.net or Tom Crable
at tcrable3s@gmail.com.

“TCO Rocks!” in Minneapolis

By Amy Anderson

Photos by David Chin

Hundreds of ballroom dancers took part in this year's Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships in Minneapolis July 5-9. Once again, this event was held at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Minneapolis. The ballroom was decorated in purple which is fitting for any event in Minnesota!

This year brought first time attendees from Canada, Massachusetts, Arizona and California. The standard of dancing seemed quite high including former Canadian professional Ten-Dance Champion Anton Lebedev with his student Joanne Smith, as well as local champs Eric Hudson with his student Elizabeth Rocco. Another former professional American Rhythm World Champion, Decho Kraev, also danced with two very talented students! We also saw the current professional American Rhythm Blackpool Champion, Andre Paramonov, competing with his lovely student Nancy Politzer.

Not only did the Twin Cities Open draw professional champions dancing with their students, but it also brought world class judges that were quite impressed with what they saw. Nadia Eftedal, Colin James, Anna Mikhed, Ron Montez, Linda Dean and Sam So-

dano are masters in the dance industry. Not to mention the other members of the Judging Panel which included U.S. American Rhythm finalists Albina Harble and Amanda Reyzin; and World American Smooth finalist Mazen Hamza. We also had World American Style Champions Inna Ivanenko (Rhythm) and Eddie Simon (Smooth) on the panel. To round off this distinguished panel was our own Nathan Daniels, among others!

Local participation from some of the studios took away some of the top honors. The Latin Dance Club led by teacher Jovi Zhao received the Top Formation award with their very impressive “Phantom of the Opera” number. Cinema Ballroom once again won the Top Studio award. This studio continues to produce several seasoned dancers that place very

well at competitions.

New to the Twin Cities Open this year were “Gentlemen Only” Championships which drew many dancers. Also, the American Style Ladies “C” Open Championships were renamed in honor of Bea Beddor who was one of the pioneers of Pro/Am dancing with her teacher Scott Anderson. Money from those events was donated to Opportunity Partners – a local charity Bea loved.

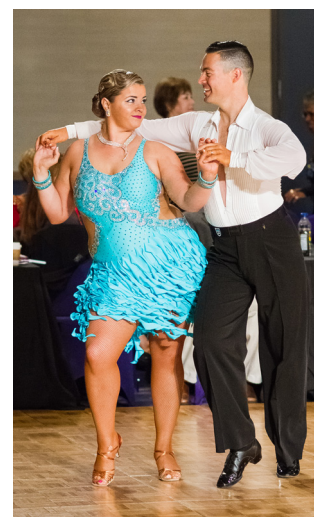
Saturday evening showcased all the Professional Open events which are always exciting to watch. The evening ended with the “TCO Rocks! Show” with numbers from the professional champions as well as performances from other pros. All of the couples danced creative routines set to Rock n’ Roll classic music. It was so entertaining to

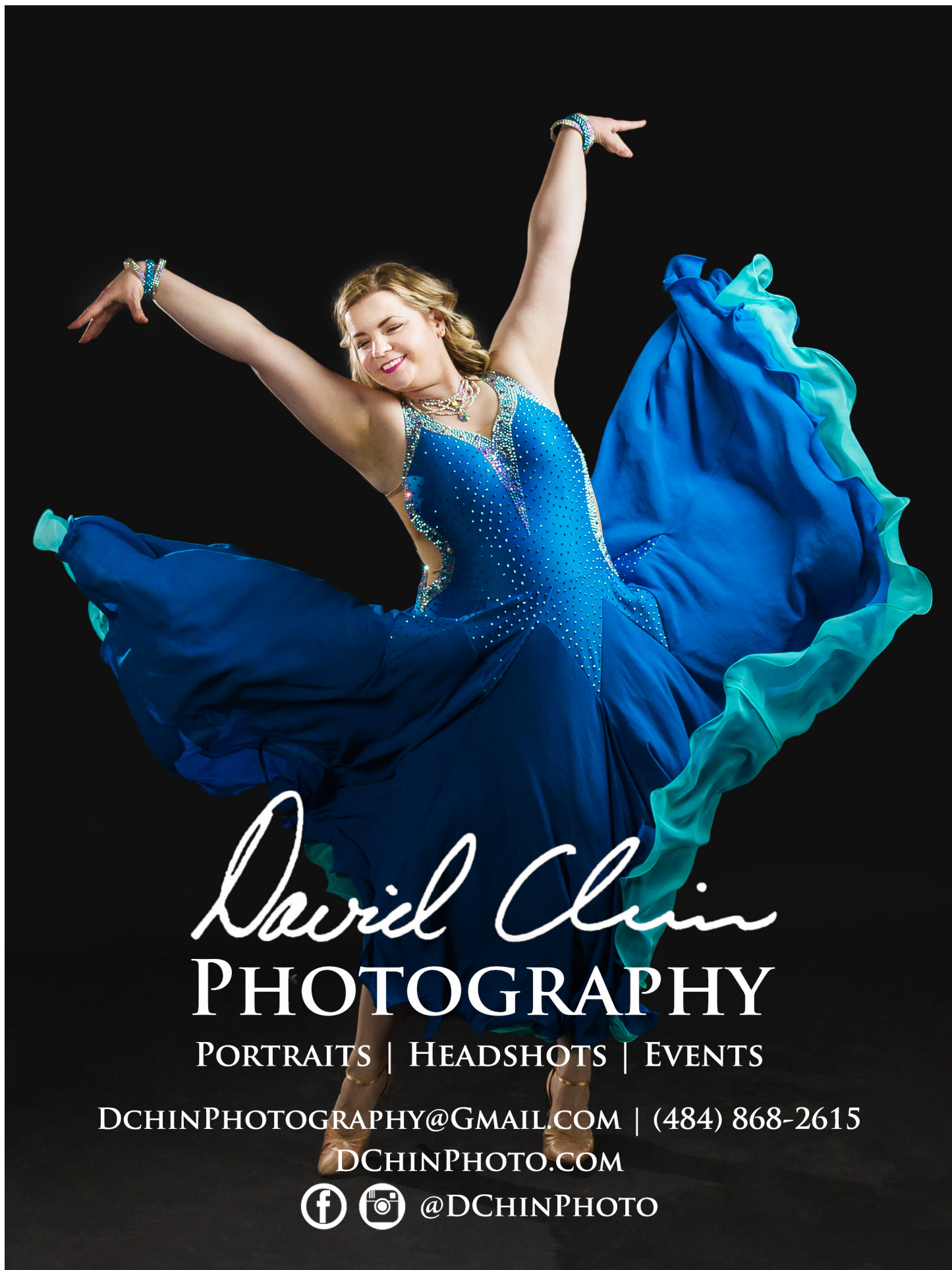


see how they took their dancing to the next level with inspiring music from Janis Joplin, Aerosmith, Bruce Springsteen and The Doors! A special treat was a special appearance from LC Jackson & Legacy. He is a well-known Michael Jackson impersonator with a very talented group of backup dancers. Be sure to check out their show at the Steppingstone Theatre in St. Paul this September!

The Twin Cities Open concluded with the very popular American Style Congress on Sunday. Lectures from Eddie Stutts, Ron Montez, Sam Sodano, Mazen Hamza, Linda Dean and Eddie Simon were all extremely interesting and informative for those who attended. This was one of the largest crowds in the country ever attending a Congress which was very impressive to the faculty! Opportunities to learn from these great teachers come only once a year through the Twin Cities, so those who were there were very appreciative.

We hope you put the Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships on your calendar July 11-15, 2018! This event is the only "Championship" event in Minneapolis, and the only event that "gives back" to every participant with credit for future participation. TCO is also a proud member of the Dancers Cup Tour and the National Dance Council of America. See more information at www.twincitiesopen.com





David Chin
PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITS | HEADSHOTS | EVENTS

DCHINPHOTOGRAPHY@GMAIL.COM | (484) 868-2615

DCHINPHOTO.COM



@DCHINPHOTO

DANCE DEMO NEWS

Hi Dancers,

Hope you are enjoying these summer days and getting in lots of dancing!

Just wanted to let you know that USA Dance will again be dancing at the Mall of America Rotunda this fall! We have secured our spot for **Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**. Please plan to join us for a fun hour of showcasing the Twin Cities finest dancing!

If your group or formation team would like to perform in conjunction with these festivities, please send me a video of your most recent performance to preview.

We will also have many opportunities for dancers (silver level and above) to perform ballroom dancing such as waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese waltz, cha cha, rumba, swing, as well as, polka, west coast swing and hustle!

Below are additional opportunities to dance at the following venues:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm

(during National Ballroom Dance Week)

Oracle/International Center Atrium

900 2nd Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26: 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm

Rosedale Mall – East Court

Rosedale, MN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm

Southdale Mall

Edina, MN

Please contact Yvonne Viehman at 763.245.7936 or email me at danvman@aol.com for further details.



Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer. She works at Donaldson Company global headquarters in sales.. She is active in her church including dancing with a Hebrew worship dance team, gardening and walking her two bichons.

GRAND OPENING

Dance With Us America is Growing!

By Suzi Blumberg
Photos by Suzi Blumberg

Edina's hottest ballroom dance studio is expanding! Dance With Us America owners Gene and Elena Bersten opened their Southdale Mall Ballroom Dance Studio seven years ago and have almost doubled their current studio size and expanded to over 7,000 square feet. The studio is located where it has always been in the mall; they've added neighboring space. Saturday, July 1, was the grand opening of their new space and included a wonderful dance show performed by students and instructors, as well as Gene and Elena.

They are starting a new heavy social dance program by adding five new adult classes during the week, in addition to the three they already do. There be a Practice Party every Thursday evening, and every first Friday of the month they will schedule a social dance. They plan to teach many technique classes — not just learning patterns, but learning dynamics and techniques.



Dance With Us America Owners Elena and Gene Bersten

Gene says, "Not moves, but how to move!" They also have many children's classes.

Gene and Elena's first ballroom studio was called Magic Ballroom, opened in 2004, and offering classes only for children. The parents started asking if they would teach them. So now Gene teaches fifty lessons a week and his mix is 60% adults and 40% children. The studio moved to Hopkins, where it was located for

five years. Southdale Mall had an opening in 2010 and Gene and Elena jumped at the opportunity. They love the good energy at the Mall and believe the location adds excitement.

Since moving into Southdale Mall, Gene and Elena have become parents of two beautiful little girls—so they have had to learn to balance life with being parents, as well as owners of a thriving ballroom studio. They

have a very supportive family with parents and a sister in town who help with child care. Elena teaches during the day, and Gene teaches days, evenings and weekends. They have a staff of seven permanent instructors, plus a few independent instructors and coaches who come monthly to teach their students.

Dance With Us America studio focuses on an individual approach with each student and they concentrate more on movement, not moves. Gene's definition of a good dancer is a controlled dancer, with controlled movements, with dynamics and technique. Both Gene and Elena try to create the best dancers possible by putting everything into their lessons. That's what their coaches did for them, so they teach this to their students. They are patient because their coaches were patient with them. They truly want you to leave the studio a better dancer than when you came in.

Their youngest student is four years old, the oldest is late 70's. One of his senior students, Joan Endres, just won Open to the World Senior Championship. Gene and Elena have created and coached many champions - four US champions and many US finalists.

Gene was born in Belarus and Elena was born in Russia. Gene's parents were looking for an opportunity for their family. His mom was an engineer and his



dad had just finished his duty in the Army. They didn't want Gene to serve in the Army, so they decided to leave the country. With \$300 and no English language skills, they came to America and lived in Brooklyn. Gene's mother worked two jobs cleaning houses while she went to school in New York. After 4-5 years, they moved to Minnesota and Gene started ballroom dance instructions with Lydia Petrigova, an independent ballroom instructor, who is no longer in the Twin Cities. Elena was a ballroom dance champion in Russia and her mother is also a ballroom dance champion. She and her mother owned a studio in Russia and her mother currently owns two annual dance competitions.

Gene and Elena met in 2008 while touring in Burn the Floor, a ballroom dance show that tours the world. They both had different partners. Elena moved to the US after falling in love with Gene. They were seriously considering opening a studio in Atlanta, but decided on the Twin Cities because Gene's family was already living here.

Gene's very first student is in the process of becoming a very famous ballroom dancer! It's his younger brother, Alan Bersten, whom we've all enjoyed watching on Dancing with the Stars. Alan hopes to have a permanent place on the show soon. Alan has been coaching at Dance with Us America this summer; before he began with DWTS, he was an instructor there. They also have a sister, Melani, who is a pharmacist in the Twin Cities. All three Berstens were US Champions as children.

More information about the Dance With Us America studio, along with class schedules and events is at <http://dancewithusa-america.com/>.



2017 Latin Dance SUMMER CAMP

Instructor: Jovi Zhao

Assistant Instructor: Laura Zhang

Schedule:

-Sept. 2nd ChaCha (8 hrs)

-Sept. 3rd Rumba (8 hrs)

-Sept. 4th Jive (8 hrs)

all for SILVER level or above

Location: 3010 Minnehaha Ave.
Mpl. (Free Parking)

Other detailed information
please check below:

<https://goo.gl/c4JfUD>

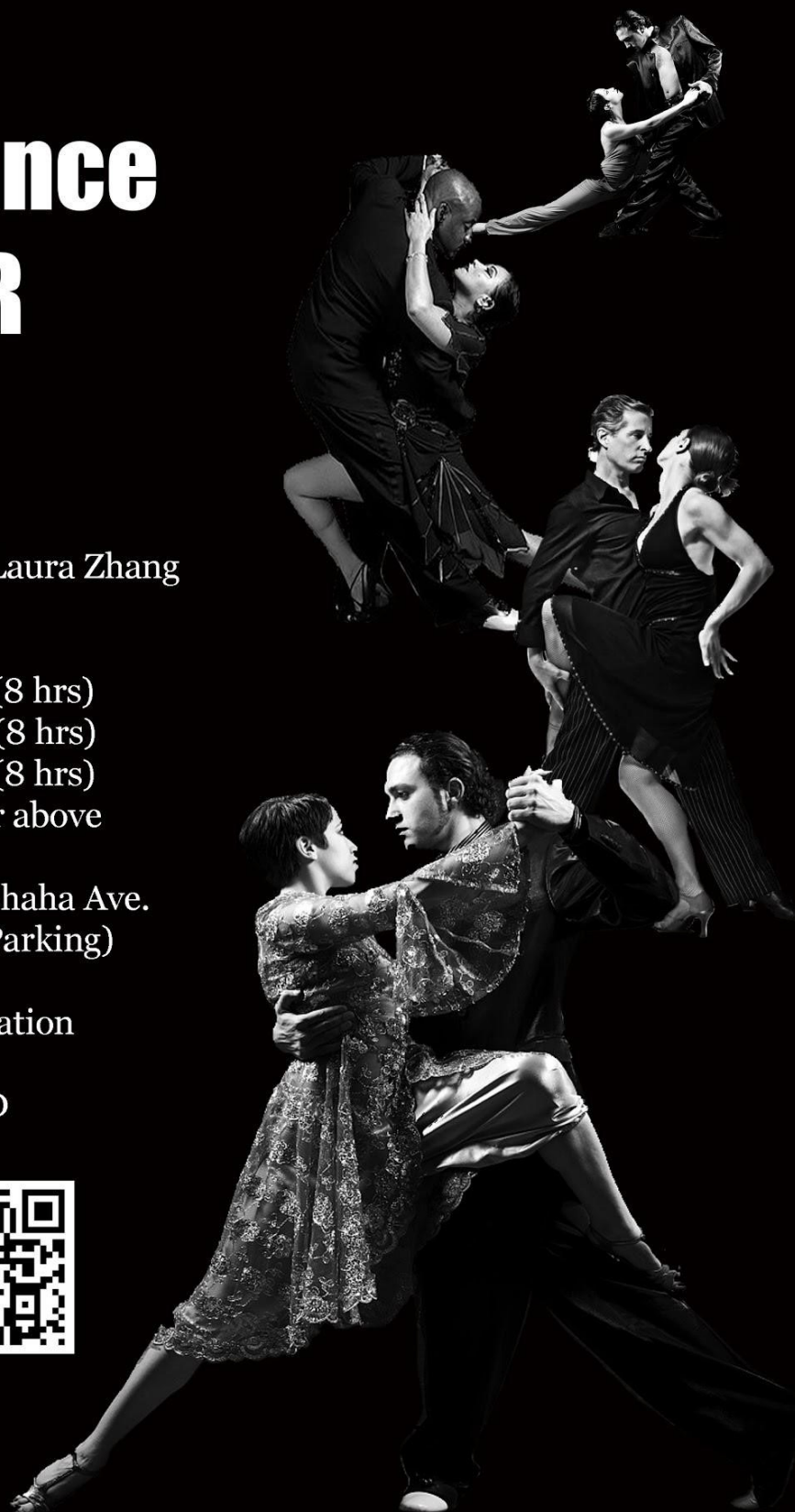


Latin Dance Club of UMN



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

What's the BIG News in Women's Plus-Size Clothing?

By Deborah J. Nelson/
Satin Stitches Ltd.

Plus-sizes are making BIG news this year, and finally for the right reason. According to many news sources, the fashion world is increasingly counting on plus-size customers, a group that it has long ignored. Research that has found the average American woman now wears a size 16 or 18, equal to a plus size 20w.

According to a report from McKinsey & Co., the number of mentions of "plus size" in the fashion press tripled in 2016 compared with the previous year. The trend shows no signs of slowing. "Fashion brands are rapidly responding to a cultural shift toward body positivity and a growing appreciation of curvy figures, by designing specifically for a larger range of sizes rather than just expanding their size range as an afterthought," the report said.

And with fashion industry reports: "On runways, in stores, even in the pages of this month's

Vogue magazine, the plus-size woman is finally getting some fashion respect — not because the industry has decided it's OK to be big, but because it can no longer afford to ignore her."

I have been a part of that 'plus-size market' since my high school days. I was designing and creating for myself, as there wasn't much in the way of options for a fashion-minded, plus-size teenager. In college, I worked with designing for stick-thin models during my Fashion Design curriculum.

Once I made the leap to entrepreneurship with creating Satin Stitches, I've always worked with creating solo and group garments that are flattering for ALL sizes and shapes, and have strived to create the most flattering options for individuals who either request dance costumes or wedding or evening apparel.

Flattering apparel is near and dear to my heart. In street apparel and also specialty costuming, there are designers who understand what is flattering for plus-sizes and those who don't understand this. There are many options for flattering versus not-so-flattering designs, colors and fabrics. And being aware of your own best features and those features you would like to gloss over and camouflage is a must.

Here are some tips!

Generally speaking, design features or 'focal points' that draw the eye to the face or upper bodice area are flattering. Design features that highlight a waistline are perfect for those with a fabulous waistline. All those wide belts that we see on Melania Trump is a wonderful example of this. Design features that draw attention to your fabulous legs work for that purpose — highlighting your legs rather than your waistline.

And with any size range of women, there are four basic types of body shapes:

1. The top-heavy.
2. The bottom heavy.
3. The perfect hour-glass figure.
4. The straight up and down shape.

There are different design features that will flatter one or more of these body silhouette shapes. If you know your type, and have been dressing yourself for decades, you should know what silhouette you have been blessed with.

Don't accent the body area that you feel least confident about. Accent the area of your body that

you like the most. Me? I have no waistline, so no design feature will ever stop at my non-existent waist area. My daughter is top heavy, so she struggles to accommodate her bustline, while calling attention to her long, shapely legs. My mother is short, with a mostly straight up and down shape, so she strives for fashions that give her height.

Everything that we automatically do to show off our shapes to their best, with street apparel, we should also be doing with our personal dance apparel. If you shy away from sleeveless tops, you should also do the same with your dance costume. If you have a fabulous waistline – show it off with design features at your waist. If you have stunningly long legs – feature them in your dance costume. If you would rather not

feature your lumpy and bumpy midriff – don't pour yourself into a dance costume that is tight and telling, in this area.

When considering dance costume designs, be sure and take a look, and consider the view from the side and the back, in addition to what the front of the costume looks like. Especially with dance costumes, you will be seen from every vantage point, unlike a dinner dress where you are mostly seen from the waist up, on the front.

For more tips and information on flattering focal points in costuming, refer to my March 2012 article for Dancing Times. (live link to <http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/127830/docs/dancing-times-mar-2012.pdf?t=1499712646031>)



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Dancing in Washington, DC 2017

Paul Stachour works in software quality assurance for life critical systems. He is a social dancer with bronze-level competition experience. He has taught dance part-time for five years.

By Paul Stachour
Photos by Paul Stachour

It had been about 3 years since I last visited in the Washington, DC area. I had previously identified and recommended some dance-studios for social partnership dancing. Then, I had been staying at a hotel in downtown DC, able to travel any evening, and my travel constraint was that the studio must be easily reachable by public transit. This time I was staying with relatives in Prince William county Virginia, about 25 miles south of DC. I had access to a car, but only on the nights when they did not already have plans.

From a web-search starting at usadancedc.org, I found 2 studios that might work for me. The first, Hollywood Ballroom in Silver Springs, was 45 miles away. There were more possible nights, and it advertised itself as “the biggest ballroom in the area” with around 6400 square feet. The second, Dance Studio Lioudmila in Alexandria, was closer at just 21 miles away, but there was only 1 night there that worked for me.



Hollywood Ballroom

Friday night, May 5, found me at 2126 Industrial Pkwy in Silver Springs for Hollywood’s west-coast-swing event. Beginner’s lesson was at 7:30 pm, intermediate at 8:15 pm, and WCS dancing from 9 pm until 1 am. The cost was \$16. I arrived around 8:30 pm, and joined the intermediate lesson in progress, which had roughly 120 students. It was a 3-pattern sequence which I picked up rather quickly, already being familiar with 2 of the 3 patterns. There were about 200 dancers (see Figure 1) for the actual dance, most of whom were in

the 25-40 years old age range. The DJ played a very occasional non-WCS tune, but such tunes were few and far between. In my opinion, I am able to mesh quite well with almost all dance partners, but that was not the situation that evening. Maybe it was me, but it seemed that many of the people I danced with were dancing at their own pace, or just to the music, or anticipating the beat, not at the pace set by their leader. I danced until about 11:30 pm, as a new DJ had come on about 11:00 pm, and his music seemed, to me, more difficult to dance to.



Lioudmila Ballroom

Saturday night, May 13, found me at Lioudmila, located at 18 Roth St in Alexandria, where there was a rumba lesson at 7:30 pm, and dancing from 8:30 to 10:30 pm. The cost was also \$16. I arrived early and climbed the stairs to the second floor, where the studio (see Figure 2) occupied all of the second floor, except for the staircase. That center area was also used for the refreshments table, which meant that the progressive dances circled that enclosed staircase. While a quite different setup than usual, it did not, in my opinion, prevent the enjoyment of the progressive dances. The lesson was a very basic international-style rumba, taught in a demonstration only method (no explanation as to what to do, or even any indication as to what dance was being taught) to about 30 students. There were about 60 dancers for the actual dance, with about 5 who were in the below 40 age group. There were 10 or so partners that I meshed with, others seemed to prefer to dance at their own pace.

Sunday night, May 14, found me back at Hollywood for their variety dance. There was a waltz lesson at 7 pm, and social dancing from 8 until 11:30 pm. The cost was again \$16. The lesson was a silver level 6 measure pattern with about 50 students. I felt that the instructor did a good job of both explaining what to do, and demonstrating both leader and follower actions. I realized quickly that I had been taught this pattern before, and picked it up rather easily. Unlike the other two evenings, I meshed with most of the partners rather well. I liked the variety of dancers there better than those on Saturday. Later on, I had two quite enjoyable dances with the teacher: one a cha-cha which she led, and one a country

2-step which I led. The place had mostly emptied out by 11 pm, and I left then.

All three dances events included a very varied refreshment table. All included meats, cheese, fruits, vegetables, and deserts, which made the \$16 admission price quite reasonable. The suburban venues had plenty of parking, and were easily findable via a GPS app. Maybe it is because I have danced with those of you here in Minnesota more, and thus I have a better discernment of how to mesh, but I just did not feel the good connection and partners moving together that I regularly feel as I dance the many venues here in the Twin Cities.

In conclusion, the effort that I made to experience the dance scene out east allowed me to break free of the routine to which I am accustomed in Minnesota. The dance floors, quality of instruction, expertise of the leaders and followers, snacks and prices all played a part in my enjoyment of dancing in the DC area. I recommend that you, too, try to locate and experience a new dance venue the next time your travel.

Argentine



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Argentine tango is an improvisational dance that can find expression in many ways from languid (relaxed, smooth, passionate) to exuberant (fast, staccato, vigorous) depending upon the music.

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Please PRINT Clearly

This form may be used by two people at the same address.



Name		Date of Birth (required for ALL Athlete members & for Social Youth members)	
1.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
2.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
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Is this a renewal application? ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, Member # _____, # _____

Name of USA Dance Chapter I wish to be affiliated with: _____

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Recreational: Social Youth Dancer	\$10	\$	A social dancer under the age of 18. Often a family member or friend of adult member.
Recreational: Social Dance Teacher	\$80	\$	An individual who is engaged in the teaching of social dance.
DanceSport: Adult Athlete*	\$70	\$	A competitive dancer who is age 18 or above.
DanceSport: Student Athlete*	\$25	\$	A competitive dancer age of 18 or above but below age 20 and is enrolled in school full time.
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DanceSport: Professional Athlete*	\$75	\$	A competitive dancer who declares him or herself as a professional or dances as a professional in competition.
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DanceSport: United Sports & Partner	\$25	\$	Dance Partner of Special Olympics Athlete for participating in Special Olympics only.
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Other Misc. Fees	\$	\$	This space for upgrades, and other miscellaneous fees.
Total Membership Fees	\$	\$	
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