

MINNESOTA

DANCER

December 2016



Sleight Belle Dancers at the Mall of America

Photo by Scot Gore



JANUARY 13, 14 & 15, 2017

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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.

Executive Editor/Layout: Tom Crable
Assistant Editor: Leland Whitney
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 tcable3s@gmail.com.

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

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

December
Saturday, December 17

'nMotion Dance Center
7988 University Ave NE, Fridley

7-8 lesson - Bolero
Instructor: Jennelle Donnay
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

January
Saturday, January 21

Costa Rica Ballroom
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins MN

7-8 pm lesson - Foxtrot
Instructor: Eliecer Ramirez
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

February
Saturday, February 18

DanceLife Ballroom
6015 Lyndale Ave S., Mpls

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

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

No Project Dance

for

December

January Project Dance

is at DanceLife Ballroom

Dance: Samba with
Shinya McHenry

USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, October 4, 2016
Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Lee Whitney (President), Ed Soltis (Vice President), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Joyce Thompson, Carol Post, Tom Crable and Dan Fitzgerald.

Absent: Karen Maldonado (via telephone).

Guests: Gary Stroick and Bonnie Burton.

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

Call Session to order:

1. Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the October agenda.
2. Confidentiality – Meeting discussions are confidential. Chapter minutes are posted in the Minnesota Dancer.
3. Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the July and September minutes.
4. Treasurer's Report – Jane distributed a treasurer's report current as of September 30, 2016. A motion was made, seconded and approved except for Karen who didn't have a copy of the report.
 - a. Budget updates – The budget was discussed.
 - b. Carlton College requests – Carol has contacted the dance team captain and is coordinating a meeting.
5. Chapter Nominations and Election Committee – Candidates for the November election will be presented in the November Minnesota Dancer.
6. National Nominations and Elections Committee request for volunteer tellers – Lee is asking for volunteers to enter these ballots.
7. Social Dance, Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Reports.
 - a. Monthly Dances.
 - i. October – Dance With Us America, Rumba.
 - ii. November – Cinema Ballroom, Hustle.
 - iii. December – 'nMotion Dance Center, Bolero.

-
- b. Project Dance.
 - i. October – Dancers Studio, Rumba.
 - ii. November – ‘nMotion Dance Center, Salsa.
 - iii. December - no Project Dance lessons this month.
 - c. Special Events – The Grand Ball was a success. A sincere thank you was expressed to the organizers, sponsor and those who donated their time and energy.
 - d. Dancing Classrooms – There is a continued need for classroom assistants.
8. Communications Coordinator Report.
- a. Minnesota Dancer Committee – There is a continued need for an assistant editor, photographer and advertising agent.
 - b. Website, Facebook, Constant Contact – Nothing unusual reported.
 - c. The document informing dancers of Chapter #2011’s website, mission, and activities is being developed.
9. Membership Coordinator Report.
- a. October 31, 2015 – 328 members.
 - b. October 4th, 2016 – 315 members.
10. USA Dance National Policies – The discussion will continue at November’s board meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 1st, 2016.

6:00 p.m.

Washburn Public Library

5244 Lyndale Avenue S

Minneapolis 55419

<p>Argentine TANGO TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA mntango.org <i>Dedicated to Fostering and Supporting Argentine Tango in Minnesota</i></p>	<p><i>presto allegro andante adagio largo</i></p>  <p>All Counts Count in Argentine Tango! Tango To All Tempos Too!</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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DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

USA DANCE

USA Dance – Monthly, 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, December 17, at 'nMotion Dance Center, 7988 University Ave NE, Fridley. Lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - Bolero. Instructor: Jennelle Donnay.

Project Dance - No Project Dance lessons for December.

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 – Fridays, lesson 7:30 - 8:15 pm and dance 8:15 - 10:00 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 WEEKLY DANCES

American Classic – Pizza Practice Party, December 30, 6 – 8:30 pm.

Café Bailar Dance Club – Saturday Variety Party, December 10, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, December 2 and 9, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom - Sunday Night Dancing with The Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra, December 11, 6:15 to 10 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, December 4 and 18, dance 6 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, December 4 and 18, at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 10:30 pm.

OTHER DANCES

Cinema Ballroom - Winter Showcase, December 3, 7 - 11 pm.

Costa Rica Ballroom - Winter Showcase, December 3, 7:30 pm.

Upcoming Dance Demos - Sundays, December 4 and 18– Maplewood Mall – 1 pm and 2 pm (near Santa's photo area by Sears). We are looking for dancers who are silver level and above to feature rhythm and smooth dances in costume! Come and join us for these fun holiday performances! Please contact Yvonne at danvman@aol.com or 763.245.7936 if you'd like to be a part of the festivities!

Argentine Tango Milonga, second Saturday of each month, December 10, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

Dancers Studio - The 30th Anniversary Winter Wonderland Holiday Dance Showcase, December 16, 7 - 10:30 pm.

DANCE CONTACTS

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

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM
550 Market Street, Chanhassen
952.934.0900
www.acballroom.com

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

AWAKENED DANCE
(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 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
1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis
612.342.0902
www.fourseasonsdance.com

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO
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651.451.6300
www.FredAstaireMN.com

MILL CITY BALLROOM
www.millcityballroom.com

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO
Bloomington, MN
612.799.4147
Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio

RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO
Minneapolis
612.872.1562
www.theplacetodance.com

STUDIOJEFF
701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201,
St. Cloud
320.266.4137
www.studiojeff.com

CLUBS

Caf  BAILAR
www.cafebailar.com

LADANZA DANCE CLUB
Stillwater, MN
651.439.3152
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
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Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

COMPETITION CALENDAR

December 3, 2016

California State DanceSport Championships - 2017 NQE

Hosted by NorCal Chapter #4004, San Jose Civic - San Jose, CA

January 13 - 15, 2017

Snow Ball DanceSport Competition

Hosted by Donna Edelstein, Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Mall of America

January 14 - 16, 2017

Manhattan Amateur Classic (The MAC) - 2017 NQE

Hosted by Greater New York Chapter #3004, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, NJ

February 3 - 5, 2017

2017 Southeastern DanceSport Championships - 2017 NQE

Hosted by Wayne & Marie Crowder, Sheraton Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Feb 17 - 19, 2017

Mid-Atlantic Championships - 2017 NQE and

Senior IV National DanceSport Championships (Feb 17 - 18, 2017)

Hosted by Mid-Eastern Chapter #6001, North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Bethesda, MD

March 31 - April 2, 2017

USA Dance 2017 National DanceSport Championships

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD

June 10 - 11, 2017

NJ DanceSport Classic - Summer Sizzler - 2018 NQE

Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies

Rogers DanceSport Center - Hackensack NJ

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

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

www.lynnesdancenews.com



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leland and Leslie Whitney are preparing for National Qualifying Events for the 2017 National Championships.

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

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 offers a sincere expression of appreciation to the Chapter Board Members who have chosen not to be nominated to the Board for the next two years:

Tom Crable, Member-At-Large – editor of the Minnesota Dancer online magazine.

Dan Fitzgerald, Member-At-Large – Membership Director, responsible for membership growth and renewals.

Karen Maldonado, Member-At-Large – primarily responsible for Project Dance, the Chapter's Sunday afternoon beginner lesson program.

Ed Soltis, current Chapter Vice President – responsible for the Chapter website, Facebook and Constant Contact email.

All have worked many hours with great enthusiasm. The Chapter looks forward to keeping relationships strong with these four great volunteers.

Also congratulations to the newly elected USA Dance MN Chapter #2011 board members of Carol Post, Joyce Thompson, Leslie Whitney and myself (Leland Whitney).





 **DANCING
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TEAM MATCH

December 11, 2016
3-5 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton ~ 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington, MN
Hwy 494 & 100

You are Invited!

Cheer on fifth graders from ten Twin Cities schools as they compete in the all-school competition for Dancing Classrooms! They'll showcase Tango, Waltz, Swing and more...as well as Respect, Elegance, and Teamwork.



Event and parking are free and
volunteers are needed!

To **Volunteer**, contact leamt@heartofdancemn.org

To **R.S.V.P. attendance**, go to www.HeartofDanceMN.org/upcoming

To **bring Dancing Classrooms** to a school you love, contact emberri@heartofdancemn.org

website: www.HeartOfDanceMN.org
e-mail: Info@HeartOfDanceMN.org

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Apps for Dancers

by Bob Anholt

I have created over thirty solos. Before my addiction to ballroom I was a software developer and physicist.

This article describes some software I have found useful in creating and practicing solos for presentations at studio showcases. I use a Windows desktop for editing tunes and an iPhone for practicing, syncing what I create through iTunes on Windows. This will not be applicable to all readers, but similar apps exist on other platforms.

Tune Editors

I use Goldwave to edit tunes on Windows. This is an inexpensive app among many. Audacity is an often used free program available on Mac and Windows. Four things these editors do are the following:

1. Slow down or speed up the music without changing the pitch. This is called "Time warp" on a Goldwave menu. The essential technique to look for is Fourier transform, which without be-

ing too technical allows the notes to be played longer or shorter instead of just playing the song faster or slower (which changes pitch).

2. Edit the music. Trim bits out if the song is too long or merge two songs together (more about this below). These programs display the music's waveform on which one sets beginning and ending markers then cut and paste as one does in word documents.

3. Normalize the volume. Generally you want to maximize the volume, but you may also want to level the volume if your piece has quiet and loud parts elsewhere. You may not be able to hear and dance to a song that starts quiet if the DJ is not paying attention.

4. Record music. Not that I'm recommending not purchasing the music you use from iTunes or Amazon, but there is a lot of

music on youtube that you can record and edit.

Music editors should be able to read digital music in many formats and if you use iPhones, should save as MP3 (44100 Hertz, 320bps, stereo).

Editing Tunes

In creating a solo running two to three minutes, I usually choreograph a beginning and ending to my dancing so the DJ runs it to the end instead of fading the music as done in rounds. As such if you have a longer piece, the place to trim is out of the middle of the song, leaving the beginning and end alone (unless the song has a long intro that can be cut to a couple of pickup notes). The best things to take out are repeated verses or instrumental sections, trying to leave the essential structure of the tune intact. Remove whole phrases and realize

that some phrases end with notes that say “more is coming” and some phrases say “I’m finished for now; take a breath.” It’s better to clip out everything from the breath to breath.

Merging two or more songs and making them sound together is difficult. Ideally you want to merge at the end of a breath and use songs in the same key and using the same type of instrumentation and voice. I once had a very short tango vocals tune that needed to be stretched by adding an instrumental section. Unfortunately the vocals band had a lot of brass and I couldn’t find an Argentine tango instrumental that was not dominated by accordion. One technique when you have very disparate pieces of music is to introduce a screech between the songs, as if you lifted a needle off a record player. Sound effect samples like these can be searched using google, you can copy free ones from browsers and paste them into the editor. Or just use the editor to record a sample played in the browser.

Beat Counters

Experienced dancers can listen to a song and conclude it is too fast or too slow, but if you are a science or math person knowing the exact beats per minute (BPM) is satisfying. Some apps automatically count BPM, but I haven’t found a reliable one. I use “tappers” - on windows a java script program at <http://www.all8.com/tools/bpm.htm> and on Iphone an app called

BPM (by Cheebow). With these programs you listen to the song and count 12341234 or 123123 in your head. Once assured you are in sync with the rhythm, tap the screen or click a key at the same rate. A running average of the rate of tapping is shown and you stop when the BPM is stable. Once you have the BPM, you can compare it with dance standards such as <http://www.ndca.org/competitor-information/professionals/dances-and-tempi/> or <http://www.hollywoodballroomdc.com/recommended-tempos-for-dance-music/>.

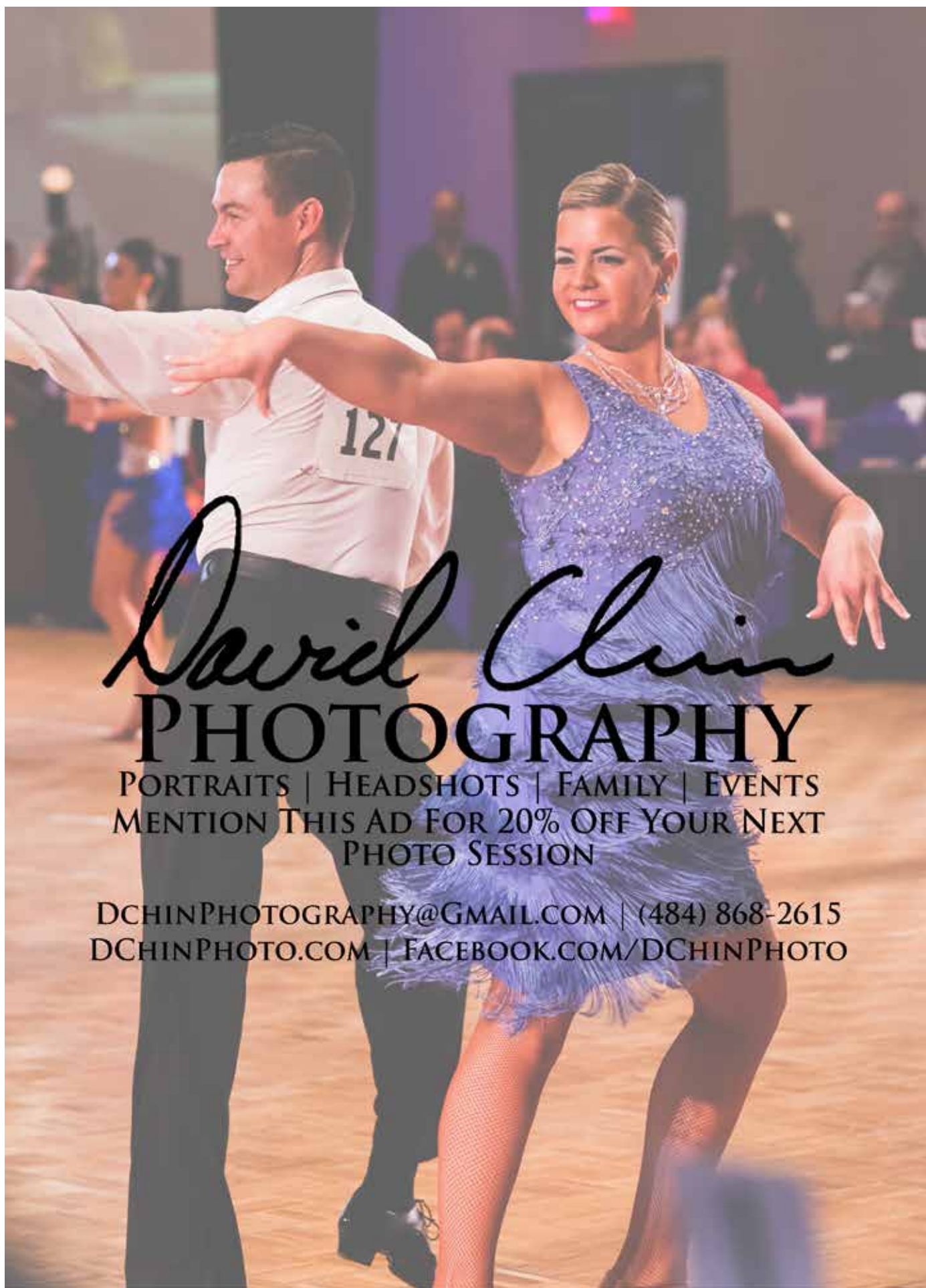
Players

At most studio showcases these days you can hand the DJ your Iphone with the song you want cued up in the native player so they need only press play. Make sure your volume is maximized, it’s in airplane mode, and in settings: display, autolock is on never (especially if you require a passcode to open the device). As a DJ at Tapestry, I have found that some Iphone covers don’t allow the mini connector to plug into

the Iphone. Make sure it works or be prepared to remove the cover. Some competitions still require a CD with your name on it. I use Itunes on my Windows desktop to create CDs.

When I have wanted to just practice say section 2 of my choreography, I use an Iphone app called Anytune which allows me to set a window around the desired section of music, and set the player to continuously loop from the beginning to end of that section. It also allows me to slow down the music when I’m still learning the moves or when I’m searching for the ideal speed. This is not the easiest program to use (I’ve often cursed it), but once you get it to work you can let it run without continually going back to the phone to restart it. Leave a bit at the beginning and end so you can prepare for when your section starts. Before Anytune, I also created multiple versions of my song, part 1, part 2, etc. using Goldwave so I could select which section to loop play on the iphone player.





David Chin
PHOTOGRAPHY

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USA Dance Showcase At Mall Of America!

By Yvonne Viehman

On October 26, 2016, USA Dance hosted its annual showcase at the Mall of America! Many dancers filled the Rotunda floor and we'd like to thank them all for participating in another stellar show this year! The Twin Cities Dancesport Formation Team opened the show with a wonderful foxtrot. These dancers included Cheri & Art Rolnick, Bernie & Scott Osborn, Karen & Lance Boole, Em-

Albers, Bonnie Warhol, Shanna Klein, Lisa Motz, Jodi Ayd, Nicole Doeden, Sarah Mader, Monica Vlach, Sarah Beach, Michelle Skrypec, Emily Lauderdale and Stevie Roles. Choreography by Michelle Lavelly. We also enjoyed group ensembles from Rhapsody & Rhythm Formation Team who performed a bolero. These dancers included Emily Boole & Brennan Gensch, Stephanie

Bill Charette, Jeff Goldstein, Paul Hodapp, Michael Lack, Shawn McGuire, Mike Mohs, Dominic Mullen, Eric Neubauer, Ric Riebe, Barry Rosenzweig, Jack Smrekor, Mike Weis and Chris Williams. Jeff Higgins choreographs for these dancing dads. We were pleased to have another returning ensemble – The Minnesota Dance Collaborative – to grace our floor. These dancers



Sleigh Belle Dancers

ber Reichgott Junge & Dennis Yelkin, Cheu & Choua Lee and Vicki Nauschultz & Glen Orcutt. Choreography by Scott Anderson and Deanne Michael. The ladies from the Summit Dance Shoppe performed a fun jazz number and their fine troop included Marie Reilly, Laureen Darling, Barbie

Riley & Nick Benish and Nelly Dorovskikh & Frank Kohlasch. Thanks to Janie Nordberg for her choreographing this number. The Summit Dance Shoppe Dads always rock the house with their jazz moves. These dancers included: Robert Bloomquist, Ted Campbell, David Carlson, Riley & Nick Benish and Nelly Dorovskikh & Frank Kohlasch. Thanks to Janie Nordberg for her choreographing this number. The Summit Dance Shoppe Dads always rock the house with their jazz moves. These dancers included: Robert Bloomquist, Ted Campbell, David Carlson,

cal theatre number. Their dancers included: Aubreanna Bobb, Jess Erickson, Emily Helm, Lindsey Meuwissen, Amanda Schuster, Sheila Skelley and Sarah Steman. Thanks to Holly Bryant for coordinating these ladies to join us!



Rhythm & Swing Formation Team

We are so grateful to our smooth and rhythm dancers who always delight us with their dancing! These multi-talented folks included: Cheri & Art Rolnick, Lynne Schulz & Lowell Franz, Suzi Blumberg & Peter Radford, Yu Ping Zheng & Bob Anholt, Linda & Tom Crable, Bonnie Burton & Ed Soltis, Jeralyn Mohr & Ha Tuong, Stephanie Riley & Tyler Bridges and Janie & Andy Nordberg.

Another returning group of performers were the stars of "Music Around the World – Polka Spotlight" who danced old time waltz and polka and included: Susan & Arthur Hellmann, Mary & Ted Ringberg, Doris & Ron Lazarski,

Delia & Louie Aguilar, Vicki & Les Milverstedt and Sharon & Ron Meyer.

We always enjoy seeing the smiling faces and high kicks of the Sleigh Belle Dancers – they bring that flare of holiday cheer everywhere they go! They included: Barbie Albers, Sarah Rudell Beach, Pat Dechaine, Diane Frey, Lori Goldstein, Amy Hutson, Melissa McCabe, Sara Madler, Nickyla Marso, Gretchen Novak, Marie Reilly, Sheri Richter, Stephanie Riley, Stevie Roles, Nicky Thorvilson and Bonnie Warhol.

The show stopping Rhythm & Swing Dancers returned as well for a roaring two-dance medley that got everyone clapping along!

These dancers included:

Brandy Schmidt, Brittany Jacks, Christa Weiner, Emilie Wardri, Emma Beasley, Erica French, Kayla Joachim, Stacey Kawa, Stephanie King, Chase Mergenthal, Jonathan Oman, Loren Vanderhoff, Nate Casteel, Owen Tucker, Scott Sonbuchner, Seth Johnson, David Kreft, Loren Vanderhoff and Nate Casteel. Many thanks to Cindy Gardner for choreographing these numbers!

Many thanks to our emcees, Dan Viehman and Jackie Dalton, our music technician, Joyce Thompson, and on-deck assistant, Bonnie Burton. Thank you everyone for sharing your talents! Keep on dancing!



MN Dance Collaborative



Project Dance

by Suzi Blumberg

Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer.

Back in 2012 when Sue Zeller was president of MN USA Dance, Project Dance was started for the purpose of introducing new people to ballroom dance as well as to improve non-beginner's dancing skills. It's every Sunday afternoon, except Holidays, and is a one-hour dance lesson followed by a half-hour of practice. It was geared to attract new dancers, was low cost and in a different location each month.

Joyce Thompson has been spearheading Project Dance for the past year and a half. She has enjoyed seeing many new people come to check it out. Many are brand new to ballroom dance and this is their first experience. It warms Joyce's heart when they leave with a smile on their face! She's encouraged by the number of seasoned dancers who come who like to assist the new dancers. There's even a Meet Up group that has brought people in and

supports the event. She's not sure what spurs everyone to attend, but she's happy they come!

Sometimes Joyce sees people regularly for a couple of months and then drop out. Sometimes they come regularly for a year or two and then drop out. Some come to the monthly MN USA Dances and she encourages that because it's a great place to go and get practice and to meet other dancers. Most everyone who attends is single and most who come as a couple rotate partners with everyone else. Joyce says it's better to rotate because you might get to dance with a more experienced person which can help you learn.

Joyce has stuck to the basic dances because she wants people to learn things that they can use when they go to a dance. So Viennese Waltz probably won't ever be one of the dances taught. Some of the experienced dancers show up

for the second, third and fourth week because they feel they don't need to go to the first lesson. They hope to get something out of those they attend, as well as help the newer dancers.

Instructors are experienced professionals and usually from the studio where the program is being held. Occasionally, if a particular dance is featured and there's an instructor who is a star at teaching that dance, Joyce will request that instructor. Recently, she requested Troy Lerum at Dancers Studio when they were teaching West Coast Swing.

Locations in St. Paul where Project Dance is held are Dancers Studio and Cinema Ballroom. In Minneapolis it's held at DanceLife and Dance With Us America and Costa Ballroom in Hopkins. In November, it was held at 'nMotion Dance Center in Fridley and Salsa was the

dance. Joyce is excited about this new location.

When Project Dance originally started it was free. That changed this year and now there's a charge of \$3 for USA Dance members and \$8 for non-members – still a very good deal! Sometimes there's more ladies than men, other times there's more guys. It changes from time to time and it's different each month. Project Dance isn't scheduled on Holiday weekends. Originally Project Dance was free. Currently there is a charge of \$3 for USA Dance members and \$8 for non-members which is still a very good deal! USA Dance encourages people to become members. Membership is \$35 annually, so after 5 lessons, you have saved money.

The dance studios benefit from Project Dance also. When classes are held at a studio, that's good free advertising for the studio. Studio owners have told Joyce that students have come back to purchase lessons. Beginners might come to the studio because it's convenient, they like the feel of the studio, they like the instructor, and decide to take lessons. People like to learn close to where they live.

The age range for Project Dance is young adults to seniors from 30 to 80! A wide range of people come. Which is nice about the dance world, especially the Twin Cities Dance Community. Age doesn't matter! For Proj-

ect Dance, they come to learn to dance, learn a new dance or improve their dance skills.

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The *bandoneon* (a button accordion) has become the signature instrument of **Argentine tango** although tango groups vary in size and instrumentation from solo musicians to full orchestras with singers.



MORE INFORMATION AT THE TSOM WEB SITE
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DanceLife Ballroom Showcase

November 2016

Photos by Scot Gore







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

Holly-Dazzle Your Clothing and Costumes for the Holidays!

By Deborah J. Nelson/
Satin Stitches Ltd.

Tis the season for attending holiday parties and presenting holiday dance performances. And unless you plan on purchasing entirely new outfits for these upcoming, festive events, you can bedazzle and be-deck your current clothing and costumes with holiday cheer and save some cash!

You can also purchase a special accessory or additional wardrobe piece rather than an entire garment. Purchase a basic red, green, black, gold, silver or white sweater or top, and then accent it with similarly colored rhinestones or beaded/sequined appliques. If you love the 'ugly sweater' look, then the more garish your trim, the better! But if you love a more subtle style, keep your trimming tasteful.

Stylish sweaters, ponchos or draped garments worn over simple dresses or pant ensembles will show off your holiday spirit

whether they incorporate holiday motifs or are a simple holiday color. You can get DIY crafty or you can purchase holiday pins and simply attach them to your garments.

Holiday themed do-dads such as Christmas trees, ornaments, stockings, or wreaths and stars create a festive look. All these can be added with a WOW factor or subtle 'touch' of glitz.

Scarves are currently very popular again. You can add glitz and glamour to your every-day apparel or holiday togs by adding a scarf. Just a pop of holiday color can translate your wardrobe into 'festive holiday' apparel.

Adding holiday jewelry is also a perfect way to telegraph your holiday spirit – whether inexpensive costume jewelry with a Santa, Christmas tree or even an elf motif, or with more sedate, simple red or green gems. Ear-

rings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, broaches and even hair adornments are all out there for you to discover!

Remember that if you are at a dinner party, the most festive part of your apparel should be above your waist, as this is what is seen by others. If you are out dancing or at a cocktail party, your entire ensemble will be noticed. Maybe add sassy pair of red shoes to telegraph your holiday spirit! Don't dismiss adding a holiday belt or trim set at your waist, if you have a lovely defined waistline. (If you don't, then feature a special decoration on your upper bodice and hems of your sleeves.) And fun rhinestoned, decorative motifs can also be added to the hemline of a dress.

If you are presenting a special holiday dance performance, holiday colors will show off your holiday style. Adding lights or garlands may even be appropriate (yes to

your clothing)! Rhinestones can be subtle or garish – your choice! If you want a snow man, Santa's helper or a stack of gifts on your chest, go for it! Or if you simply want to emphasize a feature, such as a collar or floral design, get out your Bedazzler!

If Holiday shopping doesn't inspire you, check out Pinterest for lots of ideas, besides the various commercial online websites such as eBay and Etsy. But really, just a walk through the holiday décor at your favorite department or specialty store should present many ideas on how to accentuate your holiday spirit! Think 'outside' the box for your holiday cheer!

Other articles to refer to:

Rhinestoning 101: Embellishing Tips from Satin Stitches!

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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.

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

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1. Photographer.
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USA Dance Membership Application

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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)	
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Street Address		Apt. #	City
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1.			
2.			
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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: _____

Name of College or Youth Club you are affiliated with (if applicable): _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Recreational: Social Ballroom Dancer	\$45	\$	Dances for enjoyment and works to improve but does not compete . May include retired DS Athlete.
Recreational: Social Adult Dancer	\$35	\$	Enjoys and appreciates the physical, mental, and social benefits of social dancing.
Recreational: Social Youth Dancer	\$10	\$	A social dancer under the age of 19. Often a family member or friend of adult member.
Recreational: Social Dance Teacher	\$60	\$	An individual who is engaged in the teaching of social dance.
DanceSport: Adult Athlete*	\$70	\$	A competitive dancer who is age 19 or above.
DanceSport: Student Athlete*	\$25	\$	A competitive dancer age of 19 or above but below age 35 and is enrolled in school full time.
DanceSport: Minor Athlete*	\$20	\$	A competitive dancer who is below the age of 19.
DanceSport: Professional Athlete*	\$75	\$	A competitive dancer who declares him or herself as a professional or dances as a professional in competition.
DanceSport Official*	\$80	\$	An individual who serves in an official capacity in the field of DanceSport and/or ballroom dance, i.e. judge, emcee, music director, invigilator, independent comp organizer, chairperson of judges, WDSF adjudicator etc
DanceSport: Special Olympics Athlete	\$10	\$	Qualifies for participating in Special Olympics competitions only.
DanceSport: Unified Sports ® Partner	\$25	\$	Dance Partner of Special Olympics Athlete -for participating in Special Olympics only.
DanceSport Supporter*	\$40	\$	This category of membership is designed for those who are not active competing athletes but who want to show support for the DanceSport initiatives of USA Dance. This would include former athletes, parents or other family members of athletes, and general supporters who would like their voice counted on DanceSport matters.
Other Misc. Fees	\$	\$	This space for upgrades, and other miscellaneous fees.
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