

# Dancin' Times



Published monthly for members of the United States  
Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association—Minnesota Chapter

November 1997

## DANCERS NITE OUT

- Thu 12/4** Jack Schultz Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson - 7:00 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661
- Thu 12/4** Big Band Dance Night—Moonlight Serenaders, Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St., St. Paul, Lesson 6:30 pm, Dance 7-10 pm, \$5. 224-1191 (Directions: The Caves are across Wabasha St. Bridge near down-town St. Paul. The Wabasha St. Bridge is closed for repairs — go south across the Robert St. Bridge and back to Wabasha St.)
- Fri 12/5** Five Men Swinging Band, Rendezvous (formerly American Classic Ballroom, 1628 E Lake St., Mpls. Lesson 8 pm, Dance 8:30 - midnight, \$8 / \$6 students. 871-3687
- Sat 12/6** The Originals, "50s & '60s band, Medina Ballroom, Dance 8:30 pm. 478-6661
- Sun 12/7** Rebels Swing Dance Club, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, Dance - 7 pm. 941-0906
- Thu 12/11** Sammy Jensen Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson - 7:00 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661
- Thu 12/11** Big Band Dance Night—Johnny Owen Big Band, Wabasha Street Caves. See 12/4 for details.
- Fri 12/12** Jingle Bell Ball, On Your Toes School of Dance, 5023 Excelsior Blvd. 8 - 11:30 pm. \$10. 928-7803
- Sat 12/13** Jingle Bell Ball, Dancesport Ballroom, Knollwood Mall, St Louis Park. Lesson 8 pm, Dance 9-Midnight. \$10. 938-0048
- Sat 12/13** Billy D & The Crystals, Medina Ballroom, Dance 8:30 pm. 478-6661
- Wed 12/17** Big Band Dance Night—Beasley's Big Band, Wabasha Street Caves. See 12/4 for details.
- Thu 12/18** Jim Sturm Big Band, Medina Ballroom, Lesson - 7:00 pm, Dance 8 pm. 478-6661
- Sat 12/20** USABDA Dance, See info this page.
- Sun 12/21** Christmas Shopping Extrava-dance-a, Dancesport Ballroom, Knollwood Mall, St Louis Park. Lesson 1 pm, Dance 2-4 pm. \$5. 938-0048
- Sun 12/21** Dancers Studio Holiday Showcase, Shakopee Ballroom. 12-5 pm, 641-0777
- Thu 12/25** Merry Christmas
- Sun 12/28** Rebels Swing Dance Club Holiday Party, Everett McClay VFW, Bloomington, Dance - 7 pm. 941-0906
- Wed 12/31** Dancers Studio New Years Eve Ball, Twin City Ballroom, Lesson 8-9, Dance 9-1 pm, \$20. 641-0777
- Wed 12/31** University Dance Club New Years Eve Dance, North Star Ballroom, Dance 8-12:30 pm. See ad page 13.
- Wed 12/31** MN West Coast Swing Club New Years Eve Dance, B-dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville. Dance 9 pm. 731-9768
- Wed 12/31** Shakopee Ballroom New Years Eve Dinner (6-8 pm) and Dance (8:30 pm-12:30am), "Revival Band". 445-0412
- Wed 12/31** Medina Ballroom New Years Eve Party, 8 pm. Band — G.B. Leighton, rock. 478-6661.



USABDA-MN Presents:

## December Dance

Twin Cities Ballroom

West 7th & Walnut (enter on Walnut)  
St. Paul



\$2 for group class  
Taught by Timothy  
and Michelle Mason  
\$6 for members  
\$8 for non-members  
\$4 for students w/I.D

Saturday, December 20  
Group class 7:30 - 8:30 PM  
Dance 8:30 - 11:30 PM



Come in from the cold and  
celebrate the holidays with us.  
Please bring a toy as a donation for  
an underprivileged child.

**USABDA HOTLINE**  
**(612) 483-5467**

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

## What Is USABDA? Who Are We?

USABDA stands for the **United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association**, a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing not only as an art but as a healthy sport. Minnesota's chapter was started in 1991.

Membership in USABDA is open to ballroom dancers of all levels. There are membership categories for all dancers: Social, Competitive, Junior (17 and under), College students and Associates (professional/instructors).

USABDA sponsors a monthly dance and other special dance events. Membership includes both national and local dues. Membership entitles you to discounts on our monthly dances and a great network for meeting other dancers. You also have opportunity to purchase this newsletter.

You'll have fun dancing and meet many new friends! For more information Call the USABDA Hotline number.

**(612) 483-5467**

## Minnesota Dancin' Times

Published monthly for members of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association--Minnesota Chapter, providing news of ballroom dancing to chapter members and friends.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$15 per year

Make checks payable to **USABDA-MN** and send to:  
Joyce Thompson, P.O. Box 13873, St. Paul, 55113

### ADVERTISING

**Display Ads:** To advertise your professional service or event, submit camera-ready artwork.

Sizes: Full page 7 1/2" wide x 9 1/2" high  
Half page 7 1/2" wide x 4 1/2" high (horizontal)  
3 1/2" wide x 9 1/2" high (vertical)  
Quarter page 3 1/2" wide x 4 1/2" high  
Business cards

Rates: Full Page- \$40      Half Page- \$25  
Quarter Page- \$15  
Business card- \$15 for 3 consecutive months.

**Classified Ads:** Free 3-line ad in *Swaplines* available to members. Dance merchandise only.

**Payment:** Payment must accompany ad.  
Please make checks payable to **USABDA-MN**.

### DEADLINE

**All materials due the 10th of each month.**

All questions regarding the newsletter should be directed to:

Jim Baker  
USABDA President  
(612) 476-4843

Editor-in-chief: Janis Livingston  
Copy Editor: Greg Moore  
Newsletter Layout: Julie Chase



Send address changes to Jim Baker at address on back of this newsletter. Please notify National USABDA also.

## Notes From the Board

by Melanie Helvig  
USABDA Chapter Secretary



\*\* The October dance was a big success. Thanks to all who attended. Concern is continuing to be expressed that we need a larger dance floor. Cost and finding a location are factors to consider.

\*\* Report on the Youth and Collegiate program: Jason Borton will have a competition team of 8 couples, 21 members. Nine collegiate members are going to Ohio.

\*\*The Star of the North DanceSport Competition planning is proceeding well. The committee is currently seeking corporate sponsors to help cover costs.

\*\*Carol Post Stroick has volunteered to be the new membership chair. See the back page of Dancin' Times. Thanks to Celia Mullen for her previous volunteer time in that position.

\*\*Gary Stroick brought back information from National USABDA meeting. The new official business name for USABDA competitive program is DanceSport and is registered with the International Olympic Committee. (Yes, it is one word and two capital letters.)

\*\*Ballots for our annual election will be mailed out to members within the next few weeks. Please vote and respond to the questionnaire!

\*\*We are still looking for the USABDA banner.

\*\*Our new official USABDA-MN open level formation team is composed of 4 couples: Gary and Carol Stroick, Jack Cain and Ellen Neuman, Mark Tepley and Karen Kettler and Andy Nordberg and Janie Sorheim.

\*\*Next meeting: Tues. December 2, 7:15 p.m. sharp, at Jim Baker's home  
15000 Woodruff Rd., Wayzata 55391  
phone: 476-4843



## Competitor's Column

*Includes regional and USABDA events*

### 11th Annual Intercontinental Intercollegiate & Adult Amateur Dancesport Festival

Jan 4-12. Workshops, coaching, and competition available. INEXPENSIVE!!! Convention Center, Orlando FL, Contact Area Coordinator: Jason Borton (612) 529-6978, borton@cems.umn.edu

### Dancers Studio Ballroom Competition

Feb 7. Shakopee Ballroom. For more information, call Dancers Studio at 641-0007.

### St. Louis Star Ball Championships

Mar 12-15. Radisson Airport Hotel. For more information, call David and Suzanne Nyemchek at 314-227-7202.

### Star of the North Dancesport Competition

March 28. First Trust Center, St. Paul. See Page 17 for more information.

### The Twin Cities Open

July 10-12. Minneapolis Convention Center/Target Center, Minneapolis. See Page 15 for more information.

\*\*\*for a more complete list, see "Amateur Dancers", the national publication for the U.S. Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association.

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## COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

\*\* "The Grand Ball was the best I've ever been to. The only thing to make it better would have been a bigger dance floor."

\*\* "Would like to see more social news in the newsletter."

\*\* "I enjoy the Advice from the Pros column. I'd like to see an article on developing floorcraft on the competition floor."

\*\* "Please thank the planners of the Grand Ball. The food was superb. The evening was all too short."

Don't forget to send your pictures and articles to: **Janis Livingston**. To get your event listed in the Dancers Nite Out, contact **Dorothy Jones**. To submit advertisements, please call **Jim Baker**.

## NATIONAL USABDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LOCAL USABDA - MN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I affirm that I am an Amateur dancer for whom ballroom dancing is strictly an avocation and a recreational activity and/or competitive sport; and who neither seeks nor receives, either at present or in the past, personal material gain from my dancing.

*Please print clearly. Dues and donations are tax deductible. This form may be used by two persons residing at the same address.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category (one for each person)

- Social Dancer \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Competitor \_\_\_\_\_ x \$32 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Students (17 & under) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Students (College) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Associate (pro supporter) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Newsletter Subscription \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Check Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**USABDA- Minnesota Chapter membership requires national dues. The local subscription rate is \$15 per person for everyone. This is the newsletter subscription. Dues and subscription fees are due annually.** The dues depend on membership category (listed above). Please return application with a check made out for the total amount payable to USABDA-MN.

Send to: **Joyce Thompson, P.O. Box 13873, St. Paul, MN 55113 (612-489-4012)**



## DANCE LINES

by Greg Moore

### Me Tarzan, You Jane?

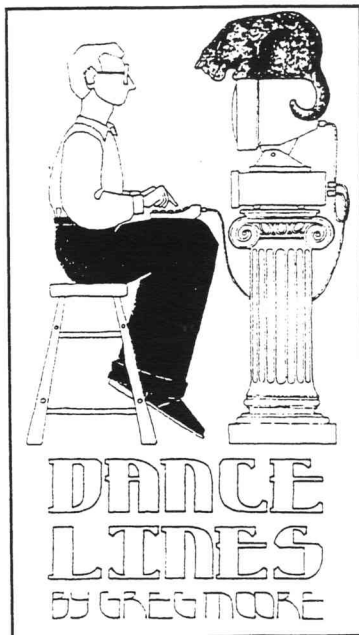
Say the word "dance" to my mother and you get the same response every time. Her eyes moisten and a wistful smile spreads across her face. "My Fred was such a smoothie," she coos, referring to my late father. "We met at a dance," she continues, "and he just swept me off my feet ... We won a waltz contest once ..." and so on. As a kid I heard this litany so many times, I knew it better than the Pledge of Allegiance.

My old man learned to dance by conscription. His four older sisters lived to dance, while his two older brothers would have died rather than dance. So, whenever Aunt Jenny, Mary, Sue, or Minah wanted to try out a new step at home, little Fred was the test dummy. Being both accommodating and agile, he learned quickly and was soon outstrutting his peers. Mom freely admits that she couldn't pivot as well as Minah. "But," she assures me, "I was always your father's favorite partner."

"Have you met anyone special at your dances?" she often asks me. I'm never quite sure how to answer her. Coming from someone of her generation, it's a fair question. During the first half of this century social dancing was perhaps the best way to meet and greet members of the opposing gender. Many baby-boomers would not exist today if Daddy hadn't taken Mommy for a few laps around the dance floor.

Today social dancers are a small but proud minority. It's not that dancing has gone out of style --- it's just diversified, split up into a hundred disparate types, from polka to contra, from merengue to mosh pit. We are seduced daily by megamalls, casinos, and car dealerships, luring us away from any meaningful encounter with our fellow humans, encouraging us to seek self-realization by spending our hard-earned bucks on things we don't need, don't want, and don't understand. And yet many of us are drawn to this magical act of social dancing, like flies to a barbecue.

When I say "social dancing," I mean capering around with a partner (or maybe a group of partners) to music that has no ritual or ceremonial value on an occasion that is not a religious or national holiday. Theatrical, liturgical, and ceremonial dance have all been around forever. But when did the masses start dancing together just for the heck of it? And why? What does social dancing do for us?



I've heard many answers to this question. For some it's an athletic thing. For others it's a chance to enjoy some healthy, appropriate touching. But we can get the same stuff on the racquetball court or at the barber shop. Social dancing is a singular interaction in which one person (typically, the man) initiates a certain movement in a certain direction, thereby prompting the other person (typically, the woman) to respond with a complementary movement in the same general direction, and this process is repeated until the music stops. It's a quaint little show that has survived the Agricultural, Industrial, Feminist, and Information Revolution. What accounts for such staying power? I'm no anthro-

pologist. I know nothing about Social Dynamics. And I can barely spell archetypal psychology. So naturally I'm going to offer a flat, unequivocal answer to my own dumb question: Social dancing is a *primal artistic adventure*.

*Primal* because it allows us to play gender-specific roles that have endured eons of evolution and enlightenment: Barney leads and Betty follows. Even today, most people who enjoy hunting and fishing are men, while most people who enjoy cooking and sewing are women.

*Artistic* because each member of a dance pair gives special interpretation to the movement. Yes, we spend countless hours and dollars learning to dance "correctly," but each of us is bound by a unique physical structure, sense of timing, and temperament to make that dance our very own personal statement.

Finally, it's an *adventure* because the dance floor is a jungle. When the music begins we must (a) perform our figures so that they're at least recognizable, (b) run a gauntlet of leglines and armstylings, and (c) keep smiling. You and your partner can have graduate degrees from M.I.T. and still look like the 2 Stooges out there if you're not quick-witted and resourceful. But the real thrill of any adventure is surviving it together, through a subtle combination of patience, boldness, and teamwork. Together you have achieved something that neither could have achieved alone. At such moments of victory, the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

It's no wonder people meet their mates at dances. A good dance and a good relationship have much in common. Each is exciting and satisfying on several levels, and leaves us with many, many warm memories. Just ask my mom.

# Two Holiday Dances



## at DanceSport

Special 'West Coast' performance  
by Eric Rensen and Jennifer Foster!

### JINGLE BELL BALL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

GROUP CLASS 8-9 PM

DANCE 9-12 PM

\$10



Christmas  
Shopping  
Extrava-dance-a



Sunday, December 21st

Group Class 1-2 pm, Dance 2-4 pm

\$5

**DanceSport** is located at Knollwood Mall, St. Louis Park  
938-0048

# THE JINGLE BELL BALL!!

## AT ON YOUR TOES FRIDAY, DEC. 12TH

*Potluck...bring your favorite  
"holiday" dish to share!*

*Special surprise performances  
by students & staff!*

8-9p.m. ~ Cocktail Party, Hors d' Oeuvres  
Waltz group class taught by SANTA JEFF!  
9-11:30p.m. ~Dancing, Dancing and more Dancing!

*Dance to great music all nite...  
ballroom, latin, country, top 40, disco & of course all the best holiday music!*

**Admission:**  
**\$10/person**  
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## TRICKS OF THE TRADE

by Deborah J. Nelson

### Custom Care for Costume Wear

Don't put a wrinkle in your performance with a costume that doesn't enhance the dance. You can't look fine if your sequins don't shine....so take a side step to ensure that you'll look your best! Care for your costumes!

If you take proper care of your ballroom gowns, it will increase their life span while increasing your chances at giving award winning performances and believe it or not, it's not as overwhelming as it may seem. I've seen the horrifying results of improper costume care and I have to say, my heart melted along with the sequins. Don't let it happen to you. Tap into the following tips and you'll be assured of keeping the glitz and glamour in your ballroom costumes.

#### Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning can be hard on your ballroom gown, so try to spot clean it instead. No one will think you're a slob because spot cleaning is a common practice along with airing out the perspiration. If dry cleaning is unavoidable, do some investigating before turning your gown over to a dry cleaner. Choose a professional dry cleaner that has a good reputation. Costumes are frequently ruined by inexperienced cleaners. A custom designed gown should come with a fabric/trim swatch to use for pretesting cleaning solutions. You should test a cleaner's ability by initially taking this fabric swatch in for testing. When you are assured they can handle the task, bring in the gown. Don't assume that the dry cleaner who does everyday wear will also be the best choice for your costumes.

Special care and knowledge is essential when dry cleaning, especially for sequined fabric. Talk to the cleaner about using short cycles of about 5 minutes and using only perchlorethylene, which is mandatory for sequins. They should use a MAXIMUM of 120 degrees F in the dry cleaning process and a MAXIMUM of 120°F when drying. Encourage them not to press or steam the garment. A good way to approach these concerns is to ask the dry cleaner if these things are standard for their business.

Feathers can not be dry cleaned so either remove them (they're usually sewn on by hand and can be sewn back on) or just spot clean your garment. For most ballroom competition gowns, spot cleaning is the safest and most recommended. Rhinestones and other jewels are usually glued on to the fabric and the glue could possibly disintegrate when dry cleaned. If you've purchased a previously owned gown, consult with the owner on dry cleaning or costume care. If you've purchased a new gown

or are gluing on your own stones, test your glue for dry cleaning tolerance before getting started on the gown. It will save you many headaches. Dry cleaners will test fabrics so don't be afraid to step up to the counter with your swatch.

Also, when it comes to sequins, extra care must be taken....do not allow perfume, deodorant, hair sprays or alcoholic beverages to come in contact with sequins.

#### Care and Storage

Between performances, careful storage of costumes will keep them in like-new condition. Costumes are wearable art, far more fragile than everyday wear. They need to be hung up after use, not dropped on the floor. In addition to being fragile, rhinestones, sequins and beads can easily snag fabrics. Careless handling increases the chances of damage. Costumes must not be stored when dirty or damp; stains set in and prolonged dampness causes mildew and ruins sequins. Dress shields will help protect your gowns from perspiration. If your gown should become dampened by perspiration or water, dry it out in the open air. Do not use heat and do not place garment in an air tight container or plastic bag.

Airing out costumes in a gentle breeze, and spot cleaning as needed will help ensure freshness through many wearings. Investigate your costumes for needed repairs such as rips or unraveling sequins, beads or loose feathers. Damage is sure to compound if not taken care of promptly and you'll save yourself time and money if you're a good detective. When it's time for storage, place your gowns in a dark room or closet, preferably not in an air tight garment bag. The storage location should be a moderately air conditioned or naturally cool room. Costumes should not be stored where it is hot and humid or in a damp mildewed basement.

Remember....the dance can't dazzle if a costume is frazzled, so take the steps to look your best! From feathers to sequins....satin to chiffon, you'll mangle the tango and the fox won't trot if your costume is wrinkled and you look distraught. Costume care takes a small investment of time and energy, but it's well worth it when you hit the floor dancing in a gown that shimmers and shines in the footlights, so make costume care your custom!

*DEBORAH J. NELSON, designer of nationally acclaimed Satin Stitches, has 25 years of experience creating costumes for weddings, formal wear, and social/competition ballroom. For more information call 1-800-48SATIN or via web page at [www.satinstitches.com](http://www.satinstitches.com)*

## ADVICE FROM THE PROS

by Scott Anderson

### How to Make "Practice More Perfect"

We all know the saying "Practice makes perfect." Well, I'm not sure about the "perfect" part, but we can get really good at what we practice, and that includes getting really good at some bad habits too! Here are some tips on how to and how not to practice....

First, find a mirror and check your posture and dance frame. Everything should be in alignment: Head over shoulders, shoulders over hips, hips over feet, elbows level with the floor. Many times you'll see one side is slightly dropped. This could be caused by bending to one side, so try to keep your back very straight, eyes focused up, and don't forget to smile and BREATHE!

Second, basics are so very important. Often, when we've learned the Bronze level steps we never want to go back there again. I love to warm up with very simple patterns. I'm then able to focus on correct posture, balance, movement, footwork, rise and fall, Cuban motion, sway....etc. My advice is to use some very basic steps that you can dance well in each dance. This will help you practice great technique and reacquaint you with some social steps for parties.

You CAN do all of the above ALONE. In fact, I've had some of my best rehearsals all by myself. I can really focus on my movement across the floor. Always check your frame and posture in the mirror. If you're dancing Open Level routines, you must be able to dance strongly around the room solo.

Seek the advice of a Pro for some good practice steps and techniques. Come early to your lesson or stay late and get on the dance floor and DANCE! It's also very important to stretch out to get your body warmed up to avoid injury. Good luck, and remember... practice should be fun FIRST --- when it gets to the point when it is not fun, it is time to walk away for a while --- tomorrow is another day.

*Scott Anderson is a US American Smooth Finalist, and Rising Star Champion, former Fred Astaire Champion, and trains several Pro/Am Champions. He is also the Co-organizer of the Twin Cities Open, and currently teaches at The Dance Shoppe in Plymouth, Minnesota.*

## DANCE NOTES

\*\*\* Lost and Found: Tux jacket from Grand Ball (could be a ladies black jacket) and also one earring. Call Jim Baker if this could be yours.

\*\*\* Help with the Star of the North DanceSport Competition. Call Steve Vespested or Julie Chase to volunteer.

\*\*\*The name USA DanceSport is now the official corporate name under which USABDA will conduct business.

\*\*\*Carol Post Stroick will be the new membership chair for USABDA-MN. She can be reached for information at 926-7648.

\*\*\*Watch your mail for a survey enclosed in the election ballot. Each member is requested to not only vote but give us your opinion on some important issues!

\*\*\* If you are asked to be a dance buddy at the next dance how about giving it a try? David Schmit is organizing volunteers for this new opportunity

### Upcoming Dance Demonstrations

12/31 "A Capital New Year" at the Landmark Center, St. Paul, 6:30 - 7:15 pm; please arrive at 6:00 pm; many dancers of smooth & rhythm needed. (songs from Broadway musicals and movies will be featured - call me with your ideas if you have a special showtune you'd like to dance to or a special holiday tune).

01/15 Edinborough Park Plaza, 7700 York Ave., Edina, 7:00 - 8:00 pm; 4 rhythm and 2 smooth couples needed; please arrive by 6:30 pm. (call 893-9890 for directions)

02/10 Ebenezer Hall, 2545 Portland Avenue (25th & Portland), Minneapolis: 7:00 - 7:45 pm; 2 smooth and 3 rhythm couples needed; please arrive at 6:30 pm.

*Please call Yvonne Viehman at 553-1202 and identify which demo, which dances and with whom you'd like to dance. You must be a USA BDA member to perform at these demonstrations*

**Keep On Dancin'!**



*Send Submissions to:*

Janis Livingston  
2354 Matilda St.  
Roseville, MN 55113  
481-1017

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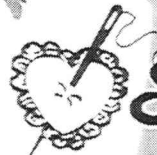
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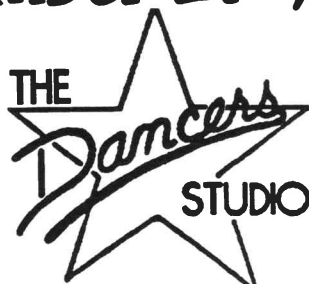
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Scenes from the October USABDA Dance



# Dancers Studio Holiday Showcase

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1997



Shakopee Ballroom  
2400 4th Ave E., Shakopee, MN

Student Showcases  
Hors d'oeuvres  
General Dancing

\$15 Adv  
\$17 Door

12:00 - 5:00 PM

For More Information call  
The Dancers Studio  
at 641-0777



# The Dancers Studio

invites you to a  
New Years Eve Ball



Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1997

## Twin City Ballroom

8:00 - 9:00pm Group Class  
9:00 - 1:00am Dance & Shows

Tickets: \$20

Hors d'oeuvres, Refreshments  
Bubbly at Midnight!



# The Dancers Studio

is proud  
to present

## The 1st Annual Midnight Star Dance Classic

February 7, 1998  
(Note New Date)

Competitions in all levels of  
American and International styles  
open to all dancers!

MC - Timothy Mason

Adjudicators - Michele Mason

Dan Messenger

Becky Messenger

Competition to be held at the  
beautiful Shakopee Ballroom  
2400 4th Ave E., Shakopee, MN



For More Information call  
The Dancers Studio  
at 641-0777



## MACALESTER STUDENTS INSPIRED BY USABDA DEMO

by Elaine Barrett

On Monday, November 10, USABDA members put on a demo for Elaine Barrett's dance classes at Macalester College. There were three couples participating in the demo: Carol and Gary Stroick, Ellen Neuman and Mark Vollmer, and Janis Livingston and Greg Moore. Yvonne Viehmann arranged and emcee'd the demo, giving information not only on the dancers and what they were dancing, but also a little on the dances themselves.

Approximately 60 students attended the demo. The schools represented were Macalester College, Hamline University, St. Catherine's University, University of Minnesota and St. Thomas University. They watched Carol and Gary perform the American smooth dances, while Ellen and Mark demonstrated the International modern dances. Janis and Greg performed a new tango routine that was a performance piece rather than a competition routine, in which they played characters in a story --- Buenos Aires bar ... gaucho... working girl ... (you get the picture).

The students liked the demos so much that they even stayed late to have the USABDA dancers talk about their dancing careers. Some even talked to the performers on an one-to-one basis to find out more about their dancing.

Once again, the USABDA dancers put on a beautiful demonstration of ballroom dancing. This has become a regular place for the USABDA dancers to give demonstrations, and it gets better each year!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

The following dancers joined USABDA-MN in either September or October: Joy Farrell, Larry Tiry, Art Rolnick, Andre Carlson, Elizabeth Smith, Paul Gilles, Linda Loeffler, Dwight Johnson, Carol Johanson, Lisa Erickson, Diana Sheridan, Michael Sheridan, and Ray Hatting. A heartfelt welcome to you all.



Janis and Greg

### Scenes from the Macalester Demonstration

Carol and Gary



**The University Ballroom Dance Club  
cordially invites you to attend its**

# **NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE**

**featuring the big band sound of**

**Chris Kalogerson and his Orchestra**

**Wednesday, December 31, 1997**

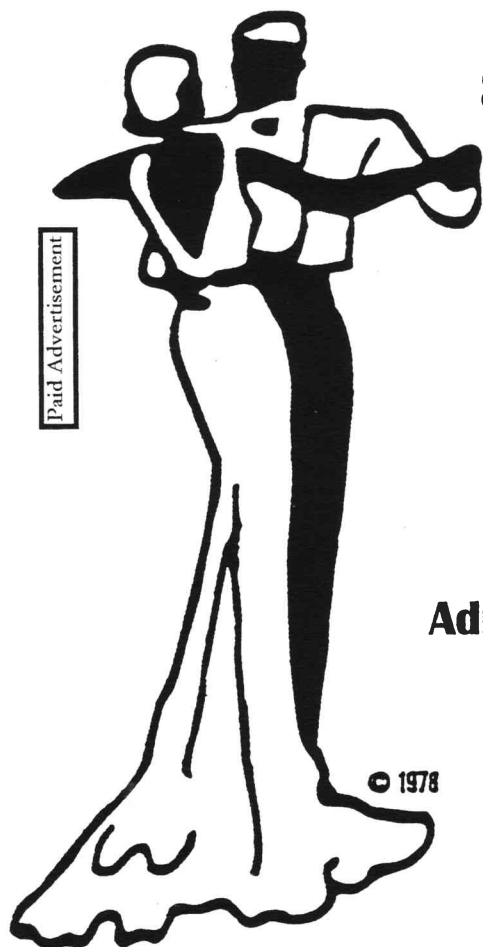
**8:00 pm - 12:30 am**

**North Star Ballroom  
St. Paul Student Center**

**Food and beverages will be provided.**

**Admission:   \$10 - BDC Members (with ID)  
                  \$12 - Students (with ID)  
                  \$18 - General Public**

**For more information call the  
HOTLINE: 649-4505.**



The University of Minnesota is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Disability accommodations will be provided upon request at the number above. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. The University Ballroom Dance Club is an equal opportunity club of the Department of Recreational Sports.

## *Tango with the Issues*

JOY IN DANCE

by Janis Livingston

Dancing makes us happy. We go to our monthly social dances to enjoy something we all have in common. With a myriad of interests, experiences and personalities, we spend a few hours in graceful pursuit of exercise and practice of our leading or following skills upon the dance floor. The love of movement and creative expression to music brings us together.

We don't always verbalize our satisfaction in this endeavor -- we keep it to ourselves. Afterall, isn't it obvious we love what we are doing? Why talk about it?

A visitor in our midst gleaned the best of what we feel. She felt our joy and was gracious to sent her thoughts about her experience here. When you read the following you'll be touched..



A Note From Poughkeepsie (NY)

submitted by Doris Pease of DANCING USA

April 20, 1997

Dear Doris,

Thank you so much for your kindness in writing to me regarding dance opportunities in the Twin Cities area. I traveled there in late March and was able to attend several West Coast Swing lessons/dances and also an absolutely wonderful ballroom session (USABDA sponsored) at St. Thomas College. You have a very friendly and talented dance community who made me feel very welcome. I certainly appreciate your assistance and hope you will keep me in mind should anyone need a contact for dance or hospitality in the East.

I started dancing a year and a half ago following a great tragedy in my life from which I never expected to recover. Dance has literally given me back my mental and physical health and, aside from my loving family, been the greatest single joy in my life. I am always deeply touched by the people I meet and through dance who help perpetuate this joy!

Thank you again,  
Sara McKee

*Thank you to Sara for reminding us what social dance hospitality can mean.*

Paid Advertisement

## **WEST COAST SWING**

at

## **DANCESPORT**

### **HOLIDAY 'TUNE-UP' CLASSES**

Taught by Eric Remsen

For those who already have experience in West Coast Swing, these sessions will help you to develop the skills that are necessary to create your own personal dancing style. You do not need a partner in order to participate.

**Ten one-hour class sessions will be offered during December on the following dates (take as few or as many as you like):**

Sundays, Dec. 7th and 14th at 2:00 p.m. and at 3:00 p.m.

Mondays, Dec. 8th and 15th at 7:00 p.m. and at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, Dec. 3rd and 10th at 8:00 p.m.

Cost is \$10.00 per person per session

Call Eric Remsen at 724-3156 for further information.



## FAVORITE SON ALSO A DANCER

Sent in by Dorothy Jones:

Hubert H. Humphrey one of Minnesota's most famous people, having served as mayor of Minneapolis, United States senator, vice-president and candidate for president, was also known as one who loved to dance. He was often seen at civic and political events moving across the dance floor and would be disappointed when his schedule required him to leave.

In his book, *The Education of Public Man*, published in 1976, there is a chapter entitled "Don't Ever Admit That You Don't Know How To Dance." He relates how he had just arrived in Minnesota from his home in South Dakota to attend the U of M. He took up residence in a rooming house run by a wonderful woman known as Ma Zim. She soon recognized the familiar loneliness of the newly arrived student and saw that he needed some advice. Hubert writes: "Male roomers used to sit on her porch and ogle the girls on their way to Marshall High School or to the university. In due course, Ma Zim decided the time for looking had ended and I had to find myself a date. Her first step in my education was insisting that I learn to dance, and she had her daughter, Grace, teach me."

"When I had overcome a splendid awkwardness and learned a few basic steps, she said, 'Now you just go down to the Marigold Ballroom and get yourself a girl. If she doesn't follow you when you dance, you scold her, and don't ever admit that you don't know how to dance.'"

"The Marigold was for those who liked to dance, but it was also an inexpensive way for young people--lonely, new in town, often from the farm--to meet others. Shy boys and girls trying to be men and women would stand around the dance floor or sit in the booths, hoping to find an exciting companion. Forty-five years later, that ballroom was still there, and I suppose the same floor play was going on."

"With confidence gained at the Marigold, I moved--under Ma Zim's direction--to the college sunlight dances at the Student Union and to my first 'girl friend.' I remember telling someone in the ingenuousness of my age and the language of my time, 'I am awfully sweet on Gloria Bock.' Later I added another dancing partner, Mildred Gillespie, from Mountain Iron, Minnesota. They were my best friends and the sunlight dances and the Common People's Ball were my social life that semester."

*(The Marigold closed in 1975. Hubert Humphrey was invited to attend its last night but was unable to attend.)*

### USABDA-MN BANNER WHERE ARE YOU?

Are you in some musty basement feeling lonely? Are you at the Mall of America in the lost and found? Are you at Medina ballroom listening to music? Would you like to be displayed again? Well, call us now --- we miss you!

## 1998 STAR OF THE NORTH DANCESPORT COMPETITION

by Gordon Lee

USABDA-MN (home of two 1997 Feather Award-winning couples) has been authorized by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to organize the dancesport competition of the coming Star of the North Winter Sports Festival. This all-amateur competition will be held on Saturday, March 28, 1998 at the beautiful First Trust Center in downtown St. Paul. This will be the 11th Star of the North, and USABDA-MN plans to make the dancesport competition an outstanding event on the 1998 calendar. In addition to Smooth, Rhythm, International, and Latin, there will be events in Hustle, WC Swing, and Argentine Tango. Competition categories will include Junior, Collegiate, Newcomer, Adult A/B, and Senior.

On Friday, March 27 USABDA-MN will host a Welcome Dance, where out-of-town couples will have a chance to unwind and meet some of our local stars. An honors dance, open to the public, will be held on Saturday evening, and we'll all get to see some of the winning couples in action.

To register, contact Julie Chase at 612-228-1557 or access the USABDA-MN web site at <http://www.arc.umn.edu/usabda>. For collegiate information contact Jason Borton at 612-529-6978 or [borton@cems.umn.edu](mailto:borton@cems.umn.edu).

Dancers everywhere have watched hopefully as dancesport has inched its way toward the Olympics. USABDA-MN wants to be right in there, giving dancesport the push it needs. The Star Of the North organizing committee is working hard to make this a fabulous event, and will provide more information in coming issues of the newsletter.

# Swaplines

**Hot Lime Green & Black 2 Piece Rhythm!** Sz 4-8. AB stoning throughout. Shimmery lycra spandex, skirt moves great. Asking \$325. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Elegant Red Cocktail-style Rhythm!** Sz 6-8. Flared skirt w/AB stoning on criss-cross spaghetti straps and bodice. Matching dance trunks. \$175 obo. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Beautiful Midnight Blue Rhythm!** Sz 4-8. 1 piece. Panné stretch velvet. Moves great and very comfortable too! AB stoning along neckline, built in dance trunks. \$250 obo. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Slinky 2-Toned Silver/Black Rhythm.** Sz 6-8. 1 piece, lined, sleeveless, open back, mid-calf length with sexy slit up to thigh for movement. Matching silver arm and wrist bands. \$125 obo. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Gorgeous Fuschia Pink American Style Ballgown!** Sz 6-8. AB stoning and sequins on top, chiffon floats, boning style hem. Moves & looks great on floor! Asking \$500. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Wonderful Starter Ballgown.** Sz 6-8. Royal blue bodice and skirt with black sparkle chiffon asymmetrical accents. Great for Bronze or Silver level! \$185 obo. Janie 232-5896 (w) or 537-6743 (pm).

**Beautiful lavender gown,** heavily stoned bodice, chiffon skirt with feathers, can be worn for American or Modern, asking \$1200. Bernie 933-1874.

**Exquisite petite standard gown** size 2-6. Lime and Crocus. Newest empire waisted style. Must see this custom made Marsha Wiest-Hines costume in person. Asking \$1,700. Call Donna at 932-9449.

**Championship royal blue two-piece** - size 2-6. Asymmetrical cut top and bottom with one side attached. Royal rhinestones throughout, semi-sheer material. \$550. Call Theresa at 612/704-4405.

## DANCIN' TIMES CONTEST

We would like to find and highlight some of our readers stories about their dance adventures. To enhance the incentive to write and send in, we've developed a contest of sorts. So send in your articles about dance. They can be long or short, funny or sad and even fiction or non-fiction. We will have categories to fit each case and award prizes to the winning articles. Most articles will be published unless we are bombarded with an overwhelming amount of material. (That would be nice!) So compose your favorite story or falsify one --- the more entertaining or elaborate the better. Just something to tweak a little interest is fine too. Don't worry about style, penmanship, spelling, and sentence structure --- we want the story first and our editors will edit as needed. Winners will be chosen by the newsletter staff and awarded prizes in late 1998.

**Elegant Petite Standard Gown,** Sz 2-6 Gold and White with fashionable dropped waist and unpleated skirt. Bodice shimmers with gold beads and AB stones. Removable cape allows dress to be worn with gloves for American smooth or shows. Asking \$1000. Call Donna 932-9449.

**Child's Interchangeable Ballgown & Latin** Sz 4-8. Gorgeous neon orange panne velvet body suit includes chiffon ballgown skirt with orange feathers and long rhythm skirt. Beautiful. \$500. Call Jennifer at 938-0048.

**Vibrant apple-green pearl chiffon dress** has striking contrast of sapphire blue mesh sleeves and sapphire chiffon underskirt. Accented with AB and sapphire stones. Comfortable design fits all sizes 2-6. Worn one competition. Asking 1,200. Carol 926-7648.

**White charmouse smooth gown** has tangerine accents on arm, bodice, and contrasting underskirt. Large crystal stones and 20 gross of AB stones. Would flatter younger dancer or petite figure dancer. Mint condition. Asking 1,100. Size 2-4. Carol 926-7648.

**Traditional Standard gown.** White with canary yellow sunglow contrasts, floats and accents. Striking look on the floor. Great condition. Size 4-8. Great beginning gown. Asking 550.00. Carol 926-7648.

**Championship Standard gown.** Halter style, snow-white, sparkles with more than 50 gross of AB stones. Double row of prime boa. Size 2-6 Asking 1250.00. Carol 926-7648.

**Popular lavender two-piece** - size 2-6. Halter-style top with armbands and earrings and plenty of rhinestones. Bottom has asymmetrical cut and stretch material to fit everyone. Very clean. \$600. Call Theresa at 612/704-4405.

*Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column.*



The monthly dance for January has been moved to the fourth weekend of the month. It will be held on the January 24th at the Dance Shoppe. There will be a Jack and Jill Exhibition showcasing all dance levels. Call Ellen Neuman if you wish to enter.



Following the January issue, Dorothy Jones will be resigning from the Dancers Nite Out column of the newsletter. If there is anyone interested in taking over this column, please contact Janis Livingston at 481-1017.



# Dancin' Times

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Carol Post-Stroik 926-7648

### NEWSLETTER

Advertising - Jim Baker  
Dancers Night Out - Dorothy Jones  
Articles, Pictures, Comments - Janis Livingston

## USABDA HOTLINE 612-483-5467

E-mail address: [smith206@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:smith206@maroon.tc.umn.edu)  
<http://www.arc.umn.edu/usabda/>

## LEARN WITH THE PROS

David Aanestad, Minneapolis	504-1403	Donna Latture Frykman, St. Paul	777-5447
Scott & Amy Anderson, Plymouth	509-0995	*Loren Greenberg, St. Paul	774-5516
Arthur Murray School of Dance, Edina	920-1900	David & Barbara Hanson, Duluth/St. Paul	218-722-0742
Arthur Murray School of Dance, Minneapolis	333-3131	Charlie Hardcastle, Minneapolis	938-0048
*Pearl Bailey, Burnsville	890-5104	Arlene Kroll, Minneapolis	561-5407
Fred Beilke, Stillwater	426-9258	Jay Larson, Plymouth	509-0995
Harry Benson, Minneapolis	420-5665	*Timothy & Michelle Mason, St. Paul (By appt.)	292-8463
Paul Botes, Minneapolis	870-7710	Jane McEvers, Minneapolis	688-7988
*Constantine Dance Center, Minnetonka	476-4044	Deanne Michael, Minneapolis	933-1893
Country Western Fever-Sam Stinson, Minneapolis	755-3879	*Jim & Kay Mondo, St. Paul	770-1651
*The Dancers Studio, St. Paul	641-0777	*Alice Monson, Minneapolis	461-2966
*DanceSport Ballroom, Minneapolis	938-0048	*Craig Morris, Minneapolis	561-0206
Nathan Daniels, Minneapolis	375-0642	Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass, St. Louis Park	928-7803
Donna Edelstein, Minneapolis	932-9449	*Northwest Health Clubs, Minneapolis	546-6554
Fred Astaire Dance Studio, Inver Grove Heights	451-6300	*On Your Toes School of Dance, St. Louis Park	928-7803
Fred Astaire Dance Studio, Roseville	639-1544	Eric Remsen (WC Swing), Minneapolis	724-3156
Robert & Jennifer Foster, Minneapolis	938-0048	Denise Rondano, Minneapolis	822-8966
*Carol Fritchie, St. Paul	429-4785	Heidi Smith, St. Paul	870-9189
*Four Seasons Dancing, Minneapolis	342-0902	Rebeca Trost, Minneapolis	342-0902
		U of M Ballroom Dance Lessons	649-4505

\*Call for group class information

## Inside this issue...



Macalester Students Inspired  
by USABDA Demo  
by Elaine Barrett



Dance Lines  
"Me Tarzan, You Jane"  
by Greg Moore



NEXT  
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December 10