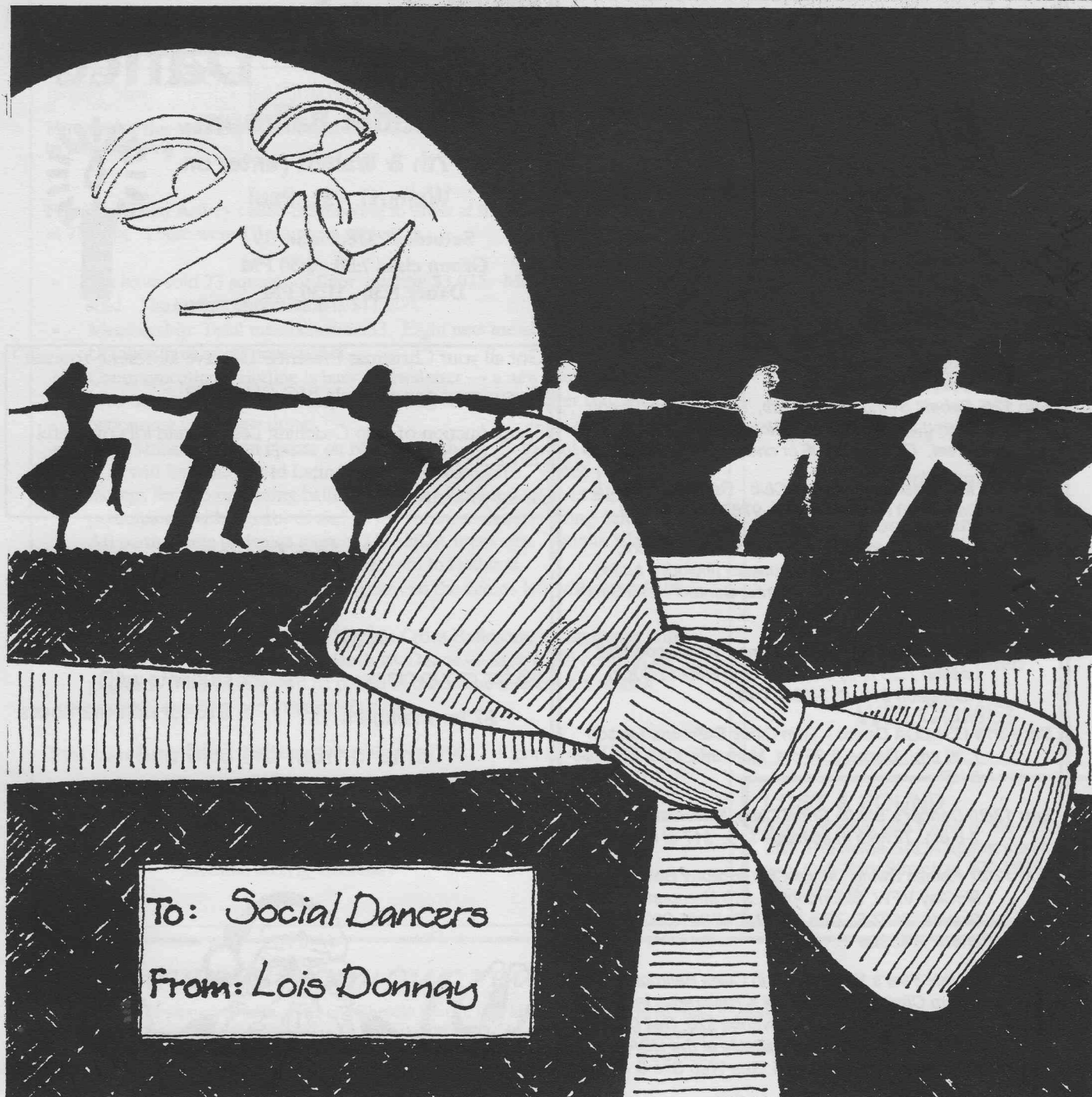


MINNESOTA

DANCIN' TIMES

A publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the
United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association **December 1998**



To: Social Dancers

From: Lois Donnay

also in this issue:

**The Art of Social Dancing
Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler, part 2**

DANCERS NITE OUT

Medina Ballroom (Thursdays, 8pm) 612-478-6661
 Shakopee Ballroom (Fridays, 8:30pm) 612-445-0412
 Wabasha Street Caves (Thurs 7:30pm) 651-224-1191
 The Manor (Fri, Sat, 8:30pm) 651-690-1771
 MN West Coast Swing Club 731-9768 or 730-4468
 Rebels Swing Dance Club 612-941-0906,

Web Site: <http://www.tcrebels.com>

Rendezvous Ballroom 612-728-3792

The Front (Tuesdays) 612-378-5115

Quest (Fri. - Swing)

Twin Cities Ballroom Web Site:

<http://members.aol.com/tcbdc/dance.htm>

Sat 12/5 DanceSport First Monthly Dance, Knollwood Mall.
 Lesson 7 pm., Gen. Dancing 8-11pm. Admission
 \$10 612-938-0048.

Sat 12/5 Student Dance Club Fund Raising Dance, Twin
 Cities Ballroom, 7th and Walnut, St Paul, 8:30 -
 11:30 pm., \$10, \$5 Students 612-529-6978

Sun 12/6 Rebels Swing Dance Club, Toys for Tots Dance,
 Everett McClay V.F.W., Bloomington, 3127 E. 78th
 Street, Call 941-0906 or check WebSite.

Fri 12/11 MN West Coast Swing Club - Regular Dance, B-
 Dale 2100 N. Dale St. 731-9768 or 730-4468

Sat 12/12 Frosty's Snow Dance, Twin Cities Ballroom,
 8:30 - 12pm. \$10 / \$5 Students (includes buffet)
 Ballroom to Salsa. More info: Contact Heidi Smith
 at 651-870-9189.

Fri 12/18 DanceSport Christmas Dance, Knollwood Mall,
 Lesson 7:30 pm., Gen. Dancing 8:30-11:30pm.
 Admission \$10 612-938-0048.

Sat 12/19 USABDA Dance - Twin Cities Ballroom, Lesson
 7:30 pm., Dance 8:30 pm. More info. Call: 651-483-
 5467

Sun 12/20 Dancer's Studio Show Case, Macelester College,
 2-6 pm. Tickets in advance \$15, \$17 at the door

Sun 12/27 Rebels Swing Dance Club, Holiday Ball, Everett
 McClay VFW, Bloomington, \$10 Members, \$15
 Guests, 3127 E. 78th Street, Call 941-0906 or
 check WebSite

Thu 12/31 New Year's Eve Ball, Twin Cities Ballroom,
 Group Class, Dinner Buffet & Beverages included.
 Showcases. Tickets in advance \$20: Call (651)
 695-1582. Tickets also available at the USABDA
 Dance 12/19. At door \$25. See Web Site & Ad.

For listings in Dancers Nite Out, contact Mats
 Roing: 651-695-1582.

USABDA-MN Presents:



A Toys for Tots Dance

Twin Cities Ballroom

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

Saturday, December 19

Group class 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Dance 8:30 - 11:30 PM



Got all your Christmas Presents? Deserve a Present Yourself?

This is your one and only BIG CHANCE:

Silent Auction of Top Coaching Lessons and lots of useful
 dance accessories.

Bring your check book!

Swing Lesson

with

Nathan Daniels

\$3 for group class

\$5 for students w/ID

\$7 for members

\$10 for non-members

**Come in from the cold and
 celebrate the holidays with us.**

**Please bring a toy as a donation for
 an underprivileged child.**



USABDA HOTLINE

(651) 483-5467

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

USABDA: WHO ARE WE?

USABDA (yu-SAHB-dah) : United States Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association, a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, **USABDA-MN**, was formed in 1991.

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

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

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meet many new friends. For more information, call the **USABDA-MN HOTLINE: 612-483-5467**.

FROM THE BOARD

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the USABDA-MN Board of Directors
by Melanie Helvig

President Ellen Ardery called the meeting to order at the TCFU in Golden Valley at 7:32pm. There were 17 members present.

- We have sold 73 squares of floor, totaling \$3,015. More squares need to be sold. The budget expectation is \$11,500.
- Membership: Total members are 333. Eight new members joined in October, plus seven subscribers.
- Communications: Hotline is busy. Newsletter --- a new print service will be tried in an effort to save money on printing costs. Newsletter staff are continuing to try new things.
- Gary Stroick gave an update on National activity. In the fall of 2000 the U.S. will host the World Latin Dance Championships. Watch your TV listings for two upcoming ballroom events. National requires a list of participants with signatures and ID #'s for those dancers doing demo events. All participants in demos must be USABDA members. Yvonne Viehman will be checking and forwarding this info to National.
- Yvonne Viehman reports that by year-end the demos left will net us \$500-700 in revenue.
- Monthly dances: December 21, Twin Cities Ballroom, swing lesson with Nathan Daniels. January 16, Birthday Dance --- Jack & Jill comp to be planned. Membership will be polled to determine interest in a second monthly dance --- see survey in this issue.

Next board meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 1998, 7:30pm at TCFU

OFFICERS: Ellen Ardery, President
Gary Stroick, Vice President
Joyce Thompson, Treasurer
Melanie Helvig, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS & SUBSCRIBERS

Chi Huu Nguyen

Bethany Nelson

Patty Hruby

Jim Harmon

Sharon Hodson

Benny Huma

Kimberly Kochler

Carole Gordon

Richard Sherman

Sylvie Lariviere

Rosemary Whitten

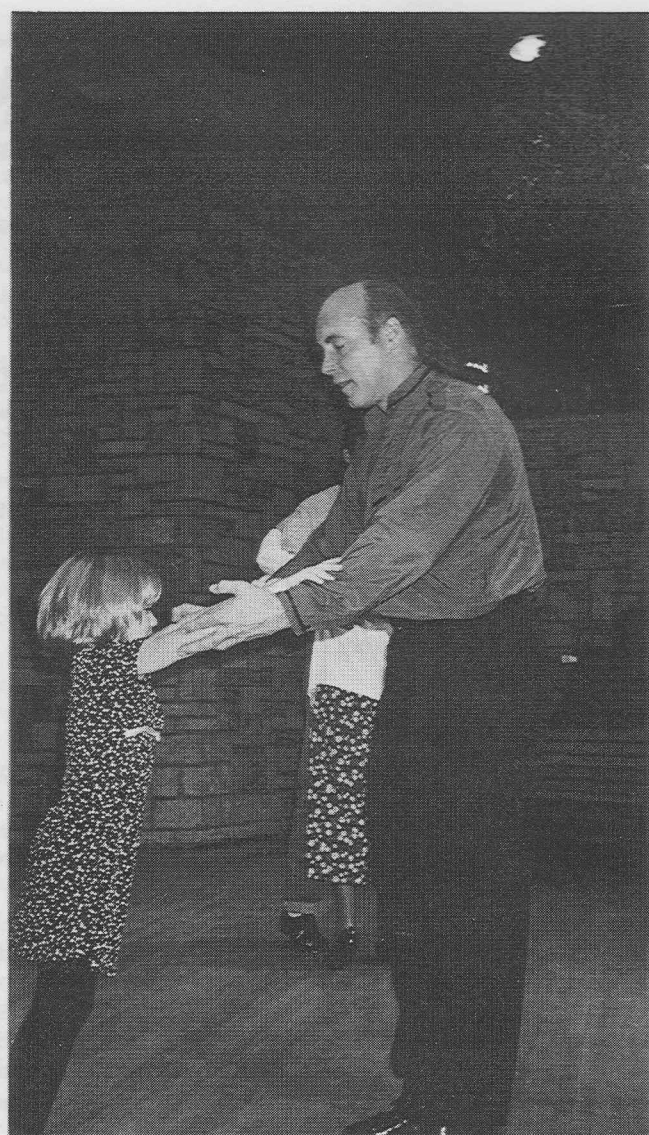
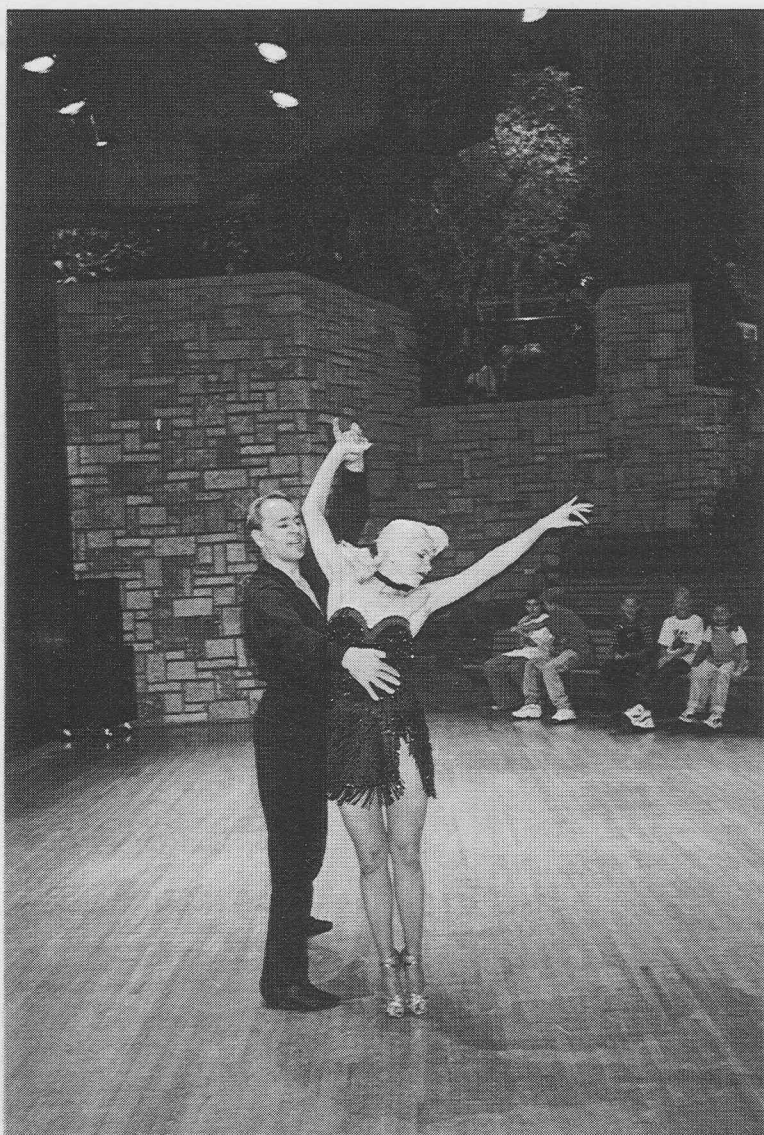
WELCOME!

LOST & FOUND

A set of keys was found at the Grand Ball. The name SADA appears on the key ring. Call Gary Stroick at 926-7648(h) or 995-5355(w)

Comments from our readers ...

- "I like the new cover idea. Nels and Theresa are one of a kind. Can't wait to see next month!"
- "Could you add page numbers to all the pages?" [ED: Ad pages will not be numbered.]
- "The black letters against the gray background didn't work so well." [ED: We agree.]
- "As usual, the articles you guys do are fabulous."
- "Dancers Nite Out column is far more important than having perfectly written news articles." [ED: We will give equal attention to all aspects of the newsletter.]



**DEMO AT
EDINBOROUGH PARK PLAZA
October 28, 1998**

Above, left: Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler
in tip-top form

Above, right: Dave Schmit works the crowd

Right: Jeff Skaalrud and Melanie Helvig show off
their rhythm moves (Dave Schmit and
Jeannie Hewit in the background)



DEMOS, DEMOS, DEMOS ...

Yvonne Viehman

October provided two opportunities for USABDA-MN members to dance. The first was "EXPERIENCE HEALTH," a series of seminars and activities sponsored by HealhEast, on Saturday October 24 in Woodbury. The crowd was small but their interest was great as they enjoyed performances by: Janie Sorheim & Andy Nordberg, Carol Post Stroick & Gary Stroick, Jeannie Hewitt & David Schmit, Michelle Vandesteeg & Ramon Pastrano, and Ellen & Don Ardery. Two other dance groups were scheduled, but never showed up, so the crowd appreciated our group just for being there!

Our second show was at Edinborough Park Plaza in Edina on Thursday, October 29. USABDA-MN once again charmed the hearts of many young and old, who all enjoyed the show. One fellow liked our music so much, he suggested we sell CD's and tapes of the music played at the demo --- there's a marketing opportunity to help pay off that dance floor! Many thanks to the following dedicated folks who came out on such a rainy night: Theresa Kimler & Nels Petersen, Eva Peczalska & Tom Sheehan, Melanie Helvig & Jeff Skaalrud, Mary Jean Lundeen & Jim Aubrecht, Dagmar & Uwe Kortshagen, Jeannie Hewitt & David Schmit, and Dan Viehman & myself. Edinborough provided us with a \$100 donation as well!



Call Yvonne Viehman at 612-553-1202 and state demo date, names of partners, and which dances you'd like to perform. Thanks much for volunteering your time and energy!

UPCOMING DEMOS

- 12/07 Macalester College**, Cochran Lounge, corner of Snelling & Grand Aves., St. Paul. 8:00 - 8:30 pm. 3 smooth, 4 rhythm couples needed.
- 12/13 Edinborough Park Plaza**, 7700 York Ave., Edina 2:00 - 3:00pm. Call 893-9890 for directions. 2 smooth, 4 rhythm couples needed.
- 12/22 Practice session** for DANCIN' AROUND THE WORLD show on New Year's Eve; 7:00 - 9:00pm Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 13505 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka. Call 935-3110 for directions.
- 12/29 Practice session** for DANCIN' AROUND THE WORLD Show on New Year's Eve; 7:00 - 9:00pm Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 13505 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka. Call 935 3110 for directions.
- 12/31 DANCIN' AROUND THE WORLD Show** on New Year's Eve, in conjunction with "A Capital New Year!" 6:30 - 7:15pm, Landmark Center, 75 West 5th St., St. Paul
- 01/29 St. Paul Winter Carnival Dance** "There's No Time For Cold Feet;" Landmark Center, 75 West 5th St. St. Paul; 10:00 - 10:20pm (a crowd of 1,000 is expected to attend, and there will be a dance from 9:00pm - midnight, featuring a 7-piece band)

A WORD FROM OUR FLOOR ...

In case you were unable to attend the Grand Ball in September, our new floor said a few words (via Yvonne Viehman), which went like this:

Just five short months ago, I was created. I was then just a vision --- a concept in the minds of USABDA-MN and Scott & Amy Anderson. They calculated, by cost, my value and dimensions. It was a first for them, but I knew they'd take the plunge because I'm worth it! I can be arranged to the size of 50' x 100', or 60' x 80', and tonight you're seeing only half of me!

Yes, I'm made up of 544 squares, just 3'x3' each. It takes roughly two hours to set me up, but even less time to take me down and maintain. And yes, a hefty sum was paid for my purchase: \$40,000 plus! But remember: I will provide long-lasting enjoyment as I cushion your knees, add spring to your step, and help you glide across me! This cloud of debt is only temporary, and soon I will be providing you profit as you rent me out to your dancing friends.

In June I was assembled. My debut appearance came in July, when 7000 people came to the Target Center for Worlddance '98! My bright and beautiful squares, shining and shimmering, felt honored as top professionals scampered across my long walls in the Quickstep and did contra checks in my corners. I must admit I felt a little abused in Tango --- those piercing heels stomping all over me --- and it didn't improve with the Paso Doble! But my favorite dance, I think, was the Viennese Waltz; the whirling motion tickled me everywhere!

Just a few reminders: May I always feel only your **suede-bottomed** dance shoes --- never food nor drink nor GUM! I'll try not to be too sticky or too slick. And may we bring out the best in **your** dancing together.

WEDDING BELLS!

Congratulations to USABDA-MN members Donna Edelstein & Paul Botes (right), Carolyn Jackson & Jason Borton (below-right), and Karen Kettler & Mark Tepley (below-left), who recently danced their way to the altar.

"A good relationship has a pattern like a dance and is built on some of the same rules. The partners do not need to hold on tightly, because they move confidently in the same pattern, intricate but gay and swift and free. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the movement, to check the endlessly changing beauty of it's unfolding ... they are partners moving to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together, being nourished by it."

— author unknown



The SOCIAL SCENE: **Takin' It To The Floor!**

My name is Lois Donnay, and I'd like to be your new social dance columnist.

My passion is dancing socially. I love to spend my evenings dancing. One of the things that first surprised me about USABDA-MN is the lack of information about social dance venues. Where do all these great dancers go to dance? Now I understand that training and competition takes up many members' time. But there must be some of you who, like me, just want to dance and have a good time.

So, that's what this column is dedicated to. In this column you're not going to hear about competitions, or technique, or style. What you will read about are dance-friendly bands, floor size and condition, music variety and crowd rating. I'll also try to fill you in on special events that provide good dance opportunities, and give you reviews on some places I've visited.

I will admit to some personal biases. My ideal night consists of a great band that can play a variety of music (and maybe even knows a tango from a rumba), a large wooden dance floor, and crowd of handsome, talented, unattached dancers with a favorable male/female ratio (i.e. twice as many leaders as followers), so I can dance every dance.

However, I'm not a dance snob. I have had a great time dancing to a wierd selection of CD's on a tiny piece of concrete where I had to dig up my own partner. I realize that some of your preferences will differ from mine (especially that male-female ratio thing) so I'll try to be fair. I would also appreciate your input on places that I might have missed, or an event that you enjoyed so I can pass the word. Email me at donnay@ix.netcom.com, or call me at 612-930-9221.

The resurgence in the popularity of partnered dancing means that Twin Cities dancers now have a multitude of places to go. There are great bands, beautiful dance floors, and new partners out there waiting to be enjoyed, just about every night of the week. I'd like to entice you to come out and discover social dancing in the Twin Cities.

I can hardly wait to see you out here ...

Next time:

MY PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Advice From The Pros: THE ART OF SOCIAL DANCING

Celia Mullen

The purpose of social dancing is right there in the name: to dance as a social activity. Lessons and competition have the goal of doing the "right" thing. Social dancing has the goal of being social --- having fun and doing "your" thing.

That being said, there are some rules. It's a lot like any other social activity. In conversation you want to contribute to the discussion, but you should also let other people have their say. At a dance party you can get the dances you want and dance the way you want --- as long as you allow your partner of the moment and other dancers to enjoy themselves, too.

First of all, make your own party. If you want to dance, ask! If you are uncomfortable asking, stay near the floor and show your readiness to dance. It is not up to the other dancers to rescue you from your chair and make you have a good time.

The flip side of that is recognizing that everyone else is trying to get their dances. If someone asks you to dance and you don't want to, do try it anyway --- unless they're really a problem, or you're exhausted, or in the middle of a good conversation or appetizer. It's only two minutes of your life. If you absolutely do not want to dance, explain why you're sitting out, and don't accept a dance with anyone else until the song is over. When you get your dance have a good time, but watch for others on the floor. Before you kick or swing your arm, make sure there is room for it. And if you are free and see someone waiting for a dance, remember how that feels (we all know).

Guys, take care of your lady. This doesn't mean do everything for her. It means make sure she is comfortable. Before you start to move make sure that the lady is on balance and that your position together is good. Try not to affect her balance while you're moving. Lead what you both can follow. Try a new or fancy step --- but if it doesn't work, leave it out. If the lady feels unsure of her part, she'll be nervous and reluctant to repeat the experience. The goal here is to enjoy the social activity, not to do a solo act or impress anyone.

Ladies, be appreciative of the work your man is doing for you, and help him out when you can. The man leads, but he doesn't do your part. Make sure you are always on your own balance, and move *yourself* where his lead directs you. You will only be ready to follow him if you keep all your weight over your own feet. If he is pulling on your arm, let your arm go limp. Sacrifice some connection for the sake of your rotator cuff. And, if a crash behind him is imminent, let him know by a squeeze of your left hand or a verbal warning.

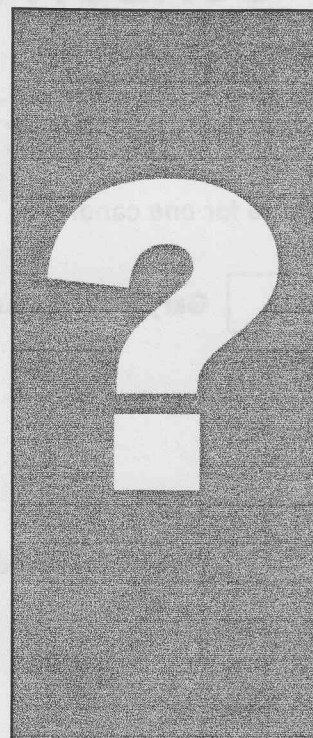
Social dancing is a time to enjoy. It is not a time to judge. A "mistake" may even take you into an interesting new pattern. I bet a lot of standard patterns were invented that way! Even if you partner is not as skillful as you want them to be, that person is your partner for that dance. Enjoy what they bring to the floor, appreciate their effort, and remember that you, too, were once starting out. A dance is gone as soon as it's made, but you can make the most of it together for those fleeting moments.

The dancers who comprise the USABDA-MN board of directors have been busy with many issues this past year. Frequently discussion has focused on the subject of offering a second monthly dance. The board has not been able to reach a decision and really needs your input. The board members want to respond to **YOUR** dance needs and address **YOUR** suggestions. Should we sponsor another dance each month? This may seem a simple question on the surface, and many would say, "What is the problem? Of course, we need as many dances as we can get!"

Well, nothing is ever as simple as yes or no. Let us consider a few of the logistical questions. First where, when, and how? And, second: will the membership and local ballroom dancers support it --- if we hold a dance, will they come? Before you answer the following poll, I offer the following points for you to bear in mind:

1. There are costs involved. The dances need to be at least a break-even enterprise.
2. We do not want to hold dances on the same day as other ballroom dance providers, especially if they are doing this on a consistent basis.
3. Volunteers will be needed.

**TANGO WITH
THE ISSUES:
IF WE HOLD
A DANCE,
WILL
THEY
COME**



IF WE HOLD A DANCE, WILL THEY COME?

All members and subscribers may answer this poll. You do not have to be a member to respond.

1. I would support a second USABDA-MN dance each month. YES ☐ NO ☐

2. My choice for day of the event would be:

1

2

3

3. I would volunteer to do the following:

Organize

Contract for sites

Set up

Clean up

Take tickets

Refreshments

Other

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

4. I would attend both USABDA-MN dances.

YES ☐

NO ☐

5. I would have to pick one or the other USABDA-MN dance.

YES ☐

NO ☐

6. I select which dances I attend according to : _____

7. COMMENTS: _____

Thanks for your input. Mail to: USABDA-MN

12530 58th Avenue North

Plymouth MN 55442

STAR of the NORTH



**Amateur Dancesport is
ALIVE and WELL in
MINNESOTA!**

Steve Vespested

Years of lackluster participation in the Ballroom Dance event at the Minnesota State Games and the last-minute cancellation of the 1997 event (only five couples entered) compelled me to find a way to turn things around, to develop a regional competition that would showcase the talent of the Twin Cities and surrounding communities.

In the summer of 1997 I contacted the office of the Minnesota State Games and proposed that USABDA-MN be brought in to produce and direct the ballroom event in 1998. Their response was very enthusiastic. That September, with approval from the USABDA-MN board of directors, I organized a committee of eager, ambitious individuals to start work on our first "STAR OF THE NORTH" dancesport competition.

Our deadline was March 1998. There was little time and much to be done. Many volunteers were needed so that no one would feel overwhelmed. Fortunately, I had a very organized co-chair, Julie Chase, who handled many tasks that might have gotten away from us. With help from Dave Schmidt, we secured the Great Hall at the historic First Trust Center in St. Paul (now the U.S. Bank Trust Center). It would be a magnificent ballroom venue, as regal as any in the nation. Now all we had to do was prepare music, schedule events, print registration forms, order medals, find vendors, hire judges, print programs, organize volunteers, provide refreshments, and send out advertisements. AND: we needed a dance floor.

On Friday, March 13 we held a pre-comp Welcome Dance at the Twin Cities Ballroom. This would allow contestants to check in ahead of time, especially the out-of-towners, and to relax & socialize. Saturday, March 14 was the day our committee had all been waiting for, and it came all too soon. Most of us were also competing that day, but we were more nervous about running the comp than we were about dancing.

It was exciting to see dashing competitors from Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Ohio going up against our own local heroes. But the big crowd began to take its toll on our

lovely schedule. We had more dancers (130) and more events (200+) than we were expecting. At times that vast dance floor looked a little crowded. We had started promptly at 9:30am, but, an hour later, we were already running 45 minutes late. Even with the stalwart Nels Petersen as on-deck captain, expertly wrangling those pesky dancers, we had to forego the lunch break and keep pushing things along. And we still didn't finish the last event until 7:30pm.

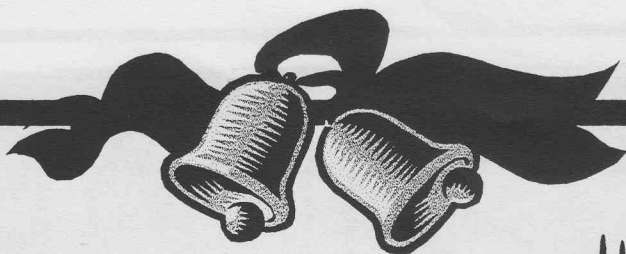
We knew we absolutely had to give everybody a dinner break, during which they could freshen up for more festivities that evening: the championship honor dances, a Jack & Jill event, and a team match. At 1:00am on Sunday morning the committee was clearing away the last remnant of the 1997 Star of the North. It had been six months of hard work, but it was a labor of love. Our rewards were seeing everyone having a great time, seeing new dancers competing for the first time, and seeing new dance partnerships form.

We took only one month off before digging into our next project: the 1999 Star of the North. Next year's show will be bigger and better. Same fabulous venue, and our beautiful new USABDA-MN floor to dance on. This time around we are scheduling pro/am and am/am solo events on Friday evening. Our theme, once again, is participation. We want to offer everyone a fun, low-stress, and low-cost opportunity to enjoy a truly exciting dance competition. And the program includes just about everything from Viennese waltz to country two-step. Even if you've never competed before, give it a try! If you don't wish to compete, but would like to help, please contact me or any of our dedicated committee members: Julie Chase, Elaine Barrett, Nels Petersen, Greg Moore, Janis Livingston, Dan Viehman, Gary Stroick, and Mike Youngdahl. There is currently a position open on the committee for someone who can coordinate corporate donations and sponsorships, so that we can keep this competition as affordable as possible.

STAR of the NORTH **Dancesport Competition**

The 1999 Star of the North is shaping up to be a great event this year. Wendi Davies, three-time United States representative to the world, and our own fabulous nine-dancer Julie Jacobson have agreed to judge the solo exhibitions on Friday evening, March 19. Julie's partner, nationally renowned Jay Larson, has agreed to judge on Saturday March 20. Cindy Nehrbass, Artistic Director at the On Your Toes School of Dance, has graciously offered to serve once again as our inviolator.

**Friday March 19 and
Saturday March 20, 1999
U.S. Bank Trust Center
St. Paul, Minnesota**



Ring in the New Year with us!

You are invited to a
New Year's Eve Ball

at

Twin Cities Ballroom

Corner of West 7th St and Walnut, St. Paul
(entrance on Walnut, above John's Antiques)

\$20 in advance / \$25 at the door

8:30 Group Lesson

9:15 General Dancing

- *Showcases and games to be announced -*

- *Semi-formal attire preferred -*

- *Full buffet provided -*

- *Midnight toast -*



Tickets sold at the December USABDA dance
For more information call Mats at 695-1582

NELS PETERSEN and THERESA KIMLER

"See that?" asks Nels, pointing at the image on the TV screen, "Your shoulders are back too far." "You think I don't *know* that?" Theresa replies wearily, dabbing the perspiration from her brow. USABDA Nationals are two weeks away. A dozen or so ballroom contenders, wheezy and dripping, have just finished yet another practice round and are crowded around a VCR, watching themselves on videotape. A half-eaten banana lies limp and forgotten on the window sill. An ancient air conditioner struggles to keep up with the rising heat and humidity. Morale teeters weakly on the thin line between exhaustion and panic. Nels and Terri hope to bag their seventh U.S. Open Rhythm title. Their chances are very good. But they must face another battle: Championship International Standard. And they know they cannot win.

American Smoothies like myself sometimes forget that we are a small minority in the land of ballroom, limited mainly to this country's mid-section. Outside our cozy little corner of the globe, it is Standard that rules. European schoolchildren know far more Standard syllabus than I. "When I'm over there," says Nels, "and I tell someone I've been dancing Standard for seven years, they just laugh."

At USABDA Nationals, a dozen couples is a typical preliminary round at any level of American Smooth. A typical preliminary Standard round must be divided into four groups of a dozen couples *each*. At the 98 Nationals, four groups of seventeen couples started the Championship Standard event. Imagine the field at a national competition in Europe.

By the time Terri partnered up with Nels in 1994, he had already won the 1992 U.S. Pro-Am Standard Championship (he did it again in 1997). Once they had taken several Rhythm titles, she decided it was time to expand the scope of their partnership, and asked him about dancing Standard. Instead of yes or no, he gave her a homework assignment: "I had to write out all my reasons for wanting to compete in Standard. It really made me think about my motives and goals." She and Nels were already training very, very hard. Getting up to competition speed in Standard would mean a huge additional commitment of time, money, and sweat: "To compete in championship Standard in less than five years is rare," Nels explains. "After ten years very few couples reach the top twelve." He felt she should be absolutely positive that this was what she wanted. Terri cranked out a three-page essay. And so, in January of 1998, they ventured out into International waters.

They began working with top coaches, such as Wendi Davies ("She's an architect --- she can explain technique with incredible clarity."), Timothy & Michelle Mason (winners at the '97 Ohio Star Ball), and Scott Draper & Lynn Mariner (currently in the top twelve worldwide). Since these celebrities come to town only a few times each year, Nels schedules large blocks of lesson time over a weekend: "I'm a sponge ... I can go all day long. But when I see Terri's eyes glazing over after a couple of hours, I know it's time to quit."

It was rough for Terri at first, learning a totally new body language. Then she discovered something remarkable: "Things that I was learning in Standard began connecting with things that

I was already doing in Rhythm --- like foot placement and weight distribution --- but now I was understanding them much more clearly. Pretty soon my Rhythm began to improve because of my work in Standard!" Nels points out "Terri is an engineer, so you can explain stuff to her in terms of geometry and mechanics, and she *gets it!*"

In May, they took first place in Championship Standard at the Minnesota Open. Ditto at Heart of America and Twin Cities Open. At the Big Show in August, they made it to the top twelve, a stunning victory after only eight months of training.

Keep your eye on this pair.



Photo by Championship Photo

MAIL CALL

Hi Janis,

We've been USABDA members for a year and wanted to let you know how much we appreciate the newsletter. Although we don't compete, we like hearing about those who do and the results of their competitions.

We really liked the article on Nels and Theresa --- as social dancers, we didn't realize the extent of their success. It would be great to see an article each month on a different amateur couple, and maybe some articles on some pros and social dancers as well...

Another thing we'd like to see explained is exactly how the competitions work... We've gone to a couple of competitions and are understanding a little better how they work, but it's still pretty confusing...

--- A Couple of Fans

Storey with a happy ending.



"Whether buying or selling, your wishes and desires are important to me.

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I can do the same for you!"

Sanae Storey 690-8564

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*Fine Ballroom Shoes
For Men and Women*

For an appointment call

**Tracy Heinze
612-792-2322**

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Swaplines

**** Feminine Standard Gown.** Size 2-6. Lavender, light blue and pink. Newest one piece style. Loaded with pink AB stones all over. Beautiful matching necklace and earrings. As seen on Nostalgia TV USDSC Standard episode. Asking \$1250. Donna at 612-651-1617.

**** Exquisite Ballgowns** by Designs for Randall for sale. Worn and modeled by Michelle Mason. Various colors, styles, and prices. Phone Timothy or Michelle Mason for details: 813-920-8181.

**** Winning Standard gown** worn by Michele Mason on 1998 televised Ohio Star Ball. Designs by Randall, a top designer of the pros. White gown with elaborate lavender beadwork and appliques, floats, size 4-6. Excellent condition, \$2400 call 771-4718

**** Call Stacie for the following ads at 467-2090**

Simple yet elegant American gown. Coral-red w/minimum stoning, high neckline, full arm pieces. Size 2-6. \$575.

Blue rhythm, knee length w/slit up to thigh for movement, unique upper back on dress. Earrings included. Must see. Size 2-6. \$375.

**** Call Andre' for the following ads at 381-1954**

2 attractive Theatre Arts dresses. One short, one longer, (both above the knee) Flowing, some stoning. Size 8. \$100 each.

Elegant, beautiful, black and gold gown. Lots of stoning on the front, some on the back. Feathers on hem. Unique design. Size 8. \$350.

**** A striking magenta colored, off the shoulder, American style gown** with elegant stoning by Marcia Wiest-Hines, size 4-8, soft chiffon double skirt with stretch velvet bodice that has chiffon floats. Earrings and "Titanic"-look necklace to match. Worn in three competitions. Like new. Asking \$1000. Janis 651-481-1017.

**** Call Carol Post-Stroick for the following ads at 926-7648.**

Standard gown size 4-6, loaded with 80 gross AB stones over a Coral and White gown, new style. \$800.

Apple Green American gown, sleeves and bodice lattice work, loaded with large Ab stones. Attention getter on the floor. \$600. Size 2-6.

Standard gown, traditional style, feathers, floats in sunglow & yellow, size 2-6, \$400.

**** Standard gown - Size 4-6.** Classic design, unusual colors! Seafoam green over sunglow orange. Feathered hem, lace bodice, and symmetrical floats. \$900. Contact Hub Nelson at 225-8554.

**** Call Janie for the following ads at 232-5896(w) or 537-6743 (pm)**

Beautiful Midnight Blue Rhythm! Sz 4-8. 1 piece. Panne stretch velvet. Moves great and very comfortable too! AB stoning along neckline, built in dance trunks. \$200/ BO.

Elegant Red Rhythm! Sz 6-8. Flared skirt with AB stoning on kris-kross spaghetti straps and bodice. Matching dance trunks. Asking \$150 or BO.

**** For the Following ads contact Tracy at 792-2322**

Glowing Yellow Standard Gown, Elegant neckline and distinctive stoning. Absolutely a steal at \$1000.

Glamorous, Yet Simple American Gown. Hard to Part with. Halter style in the truest of reds with minimum stoning. \$600, you can make it "yours"!

**** For the Following ads contact Theresa at 651-704-4405**

Lavender two-piece rhythm - size 2-6. Halter-style top with armbands and earrings. Plenty of rhinestones. Bottom is asymmetrical cut. Latest stretch material. \$550.

Canary Yellow standard gown - size 4-8. Full skirt, rhinestones throughout, sheer floats over arms. Eye-catcher on the competition floor. \$1650.

Original Dore standard gown - size 6-8. Evening gown cut, rhinestones throughout bodice, sheer arms, floats, full feather shirt. Asking \$1500.

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

MINNESOTA

DANCIN' TIMES

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

DECEMBER 10

Don't be late.