

MINNESOTA

# DANCER

December 2014

Liz Rocco, 2014 US Open American Smooth Champion,  
and her partner Eric Hudson of Cinema Ballroom.

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Official publication of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011



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**JANUARY 10-11, 2015**  
PRESENTED BY DONNA EDELSTEIN

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## DECEMBER

### Saturday, December 20

7-8 pm lesson:  
Instructor: Jeff Nehrbass  
8-11 pm Variety dance music

\$7 USA Dance members  
\$5 Students under 25 with ID  
\$10 Non-members

Balance Pointe Studio  
5808 W. 36th St, St Louis Pk, MN

## JANUARY

### Saturday, January 17

7-8 pm lesson:  
Instructor: Gene Bersten  
8-11 pm Variety dance music

\$7 USA Dance members  
\$5 Students under 25 with ID  
\$10 Non-members

Dance With Us America Ballroom  
10 Southdale Center, Edina, MN

# DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

*Want to dance? Dancer's Night Out lists social dance events in Minnesota. Want to see your dance listed here? Email the details to [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).*

**Mon 12/1** Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Wed 12/3** Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

Dancers Studio WCS Party 8-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

**Thu 12/4** Dancers Studio Dance Party 7:30-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Fri 12/5** DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 8-9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

Mill City Ballroom Social Dancing, 8:45-10, 2382 Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN, [www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance, 7-11, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

**Sat 12/6** DanceLife Ballroom 1st Saturday Variety Dance, 7-9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

First Saturday Swing Dance, Social Dance Studio, 7:30-12:30, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

Cinema Ballroom Frozen Dance Showcase 7-11, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

**Sun 12/7** TC Rebels Swing Dance, Social Dance Studio, 7-10:30, 3742-23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

First Sunday Dance at Tapestry, 6-9:30, \$7-\$10, Quickstep with James Wood, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, [www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)

NO Sunday Project Dance lesson.

**Mon 12/8** Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Wed 12/10** Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

Dancers Studio WCS Party 8-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

**Thu 12/11** Dancers Studio Dance Party 7:30-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Fri 12/12** DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 8-9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

Mill City Ballroom Social Dancing, 8:45-10, 2382 Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN, [www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

**Sat 12/13** Linden Hills Dancing Club Dance, for dancing couples, Lesson, dinner, dance, 6:30-10:30 PM, Music by John Kudja, Lake Harriet United Meth. Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S, Mpls. 651-636-9747 or [www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org](http://www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org)

Café Bailar Dance Party, 7:30-11:30, Balance Pointe Studio, 5808 W 36th St, St. Louis Pk, [www.cafebailar.com](http://www.cafebailar.com)

**Sun 12/14** Dancers Studio Holiday Showcase, 5-8, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

Pizza Practice Party; Pizza, music, dancing; American Classic Ballroom, 7-9, \$10/\$8 for **USA Dance Members and ACB private students**. 550 Market St, Chanhassen, [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)

NO Sunday Project Dance lesson.

**Mon 12/15** Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Wed 12/17** Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

Dancers Studio WCS Party 8-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

**Thu 12/18** Dancers Studio Dance Party 7:30–9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm–2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Fri 12/19** DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 8–9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance, 7–11, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

Social Dance Studio Club Salsero, 8–11, 3721-23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

Mill City Ballroom Social Dancing, 8:45–10, 2382 Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN, [www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

**Sat 12/20** DanceLife Ballroom Holiday Showcase, 6–10, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

**Monthly USA Dance Minnesota, 7–11; \$5/\$7/\$10; Balance Pointe Studio, 5808 W 36 St, St Louis Pk, MN [www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)**

**Sun 12/21** TC Rebels Swing Dance, Social Dance Studio, 7–10:30, 3742-23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

Third Sunday Dance at Tapestry, 6–9:30, \$7/10, Monica Mohn, Quickstep, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, [www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)

NO Sunday Project Dance lesson.

**Mon 12/22** Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30–11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

### Wed 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE

### Thu 12/25 CHRISTMAS DAY

**Fri 12/26** DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 8–9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

Cinema Ballroom Salsa Fusion, 7–11, Cinema Ballroom, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

Mill City Ballroom Social Dancing, 8:45–10, 2382 Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN, [www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

**Sat 12/27** Café Bailar Dance Party, 7:30–11:30, Costa Rica Ballroom, 816 Main St, Hopkins, [cafebailar.com](http://cafebailar.com)

**Sun 12/28** Pizza Practice Party; Pizza, music, dancing; American Classic Ballroom, 7–9, \$10/\$8 for **USA Dance Members and ACB private students**. 550 Market St, Chanhassen, [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)

NO Sunday Project Dance lesson.

**Mon 12/29** Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30–11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

**Wed 12/31** DanceLife Ballroom New Year's Eve Party, 8–12:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

Shakopee Ballroom New Year's Eve Party, Buffet Dinner 6–8, Dance 8:30–12:30, Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra, [www.shakopeeballroom.com](http://www.shakopeeballroom.com)

Ballroom Dance/Dinner Party, Cotillion/LaDanza Clubs, Grand Banquet Hall, 301 2nd St., Stillwater, MN 55082, 6–8, dinner, 8:30–12:30 dancing, Rod Cerar Band, Formal, contact [sharonwilson41@gmail.com](mailto:sharonwilson41@gmail.com) or [Jerflipp@gmail.com](mailto:Jerflipp@gmail.com)

### USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The Minnesota chapter, 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 including access to a network to meet other dancers.

The *Minnesota Dancer* is published monthly by the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011, providing information and news about ballroom dancing.

Editors/Layout: Bonnie Burton, Leland Whitney  
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Mailing: Committee member

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, and content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to: [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).

Contributors: Eileen Arcilla, Paul Botes, Bonnie Burton, Elizabeth Dickinson, Donna Edelstein, Marty Faeh, Lisa Mohr, Deborah J. Nelson, Gary Stroick, Yvonne Viehman, Leland Whitney.

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### LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

*A list of dance events for every day of the week—  
updated daily*

[http://www.organizersonduty.com/  
testimonials.html](http://www.organizersonduty.com/testimonials.html)

*Dance address book is also on this website*



*Leland and Leslie Whitney, competed this year in Manhattan, at the Snowball (Minneapolis), in Baltimore, Baton Rouge, at the Twin Cities Open (Minneapolis), in Louisville, Kansas City, and Charlotte.*

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

This has been a landmark year for USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011!

- Membership increased from 162 in Nov 2013 to 347 in Nov 2014. Nine new members joined at the November monthly dance! This brings total membership to historical highs for our chapter. We are now one of the largest chapters in the country.
- Our chapter sponsored 44 Sunday afternoon ballroom dance lessons at local dance studios, taught by local dance professionals.
- Our chapter sponsored the very successful, annual formal Tea Dance with over 100 dancers attending.
- Our chapter sponsored 11 monthly dances at several dance studios throughout the Twin Cities.

- Our chapter sponsored many ballroom dance demonstrations throughout the Twin Cities.

All-in-all, the chapter has sponsored over 56 ballroom dance events this year!

A priority for the next year is to engage our new members in ways that will allow us to have another landmark year in 2015, via:

- Regular attendance at our monthly dances and weekly lessons
- Participation in many volunteer activities our chapter makes available, such as serving on committees; helping with our dances; participating in ballroom dance demonstrations; encouraging increased membership among your friends; helping with fundraising. ▲

## USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

**In attendance:** Lee Whitney (President), Bonnie Burton (Vice President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Zhuojing Liu, Dan Fitzgerald, Daniel O'Connell, Gary Stroick

**Location:** DanceLife Ballroom Studio, 6015 Lyndale Avenue South, Mpls., MN 55419

- 1. Agenda** - unanimously approved to accept the agenda.
- 2. Minutes** - unanimously approved to accept the minutes of Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 meeting.
- 3. Treasurer's Report** - unanimously approved to accept the treasurer's report.
- 4. Computer Purchase** – unanimously approved to purchase a Lenovo Flex 215.
- 5. Donations**
  - a. We discussed donating funds to Beyond Ballroom Dance Company, MN Madness, and MN Blast.

b. A motion was made and unanimously approved to allow the chief editors of Minnesota Dancer to pursue advertising swaps, not to exceed \$200, with other organizations.

c. Leslie will contact Dan and Yvonne to see if they know of a fundraising opportunity in which the chapter could participate.

- 6. 2014 Board Elections** – Interviews have been completed and the ballots will be mailed on October 15th.
- 7. Project Dance** – Karen was not present. She will report at the Nov. meeting.
- 8. Monthly Dances** – Joel will speak to the U of MN Ballroom Club to encourage their attendance at the November monthly dance. The annual meeting of Chapter #2011 will take place prior to the dance.
- 9. USADance-Minnesota.org** – Candidates will be posted on the website.

**10. Grievances Response Status** – The five grievances filed by Nels Petersen were responded to on time.

**Next Meeting:** Tues, Nov. 11, 2014  
**DanceLife Ballroom**  
**6015 Lyndale Ave. South**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55419**

**USA DANCE MINNESOTA  
 HOTLINE  
 651-483-5467**

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

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





*Bonnie Burton is Vice-President of USA Dance Minnesota #2011 and editor of Minnesota Dancer Magazine. She and her husband Ed Soltis are excited about dancing on the largest ballroom dance floor at sea when they cruise (and dance!) on the Queen Mary 2 over the holidays.*

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

*By Bonnie Burton*

**I**n December 2010, I danced my first holiday ballroom dance demo at Southdale Mall. I had a new practice partner who liked to dance in these events, and I was excited to participate. I even invited my family and friends to come watch. I hardly knew any ballroom, but I danced what I knew with utter confidence!

A few months earlier, I'd experienced the sudden, unexpected death and loss of my fiancée. Friend and mentor Anne LaTourelle wisely encouraged me to turn to the dance community for support. I was very new to ballroom dance, but I took her at her word and tried to immerse myself. Dance distracted me from my troubles and grief. It became my drug of choice.

Weekly private dance lessons with the kind and professional Scott Anderson helped. We decided to compete that December at the Las Vegas Holiday Dance Classic. It was impossible to be sad in the boisterously fun company of Scott's other Pro/Am ladies. (A moment of homage here to Cynthia, Tracy, and Patty, who helped me in those early days with my ballroom hair and make-up, and who wouldn't let me dance without properly darkening my blond eyebrows!)

I also decided to look for an appropriate dance practice partner. Scott helped me screen potential candidates and soon I met tall, dark Ed, who liked social dancing and ballroom dance demos.

He and I started with the Southdale Holiday Mall Demo and have proceeded to dance our way through the past four years. Our mutual commitment to ballroom dance, and the local dance community, remains strong. This December, we'll continue to fuel our passion by cruising and dancing over the holidays on the Queen Mary 2, specifically chosen because it has the largest ballroom dance floor at sea!

What a difference four years makes. Time passes, spirits heal, holidays continue with reassuring regularity, and hope dances on.

This month, *Minnesota Dancer* reports on the recent board election; the importance of being agreeable; and the Three Worlds of Ballroom Dance - the differences between social, competition, and exhibition dancing. In the competitive realm, we meet new competitors Lisa Mohr and her partner Tony Guinta; and learn about the fabulous Liz Rocco, a multi-champion dancer with her partner Eric Hudson. And speaking of ballroom exhibitions, be sure to read about the largest annual local amateur ballroom performance, held at the Mall of America. Deborah Nelson helps us create some holiday looks for our social dance events; and Marty Faeh shares his latest adventure.

May your holidays be filled with joy, gratitude, sweet reminiscences, and of course, great dancing!



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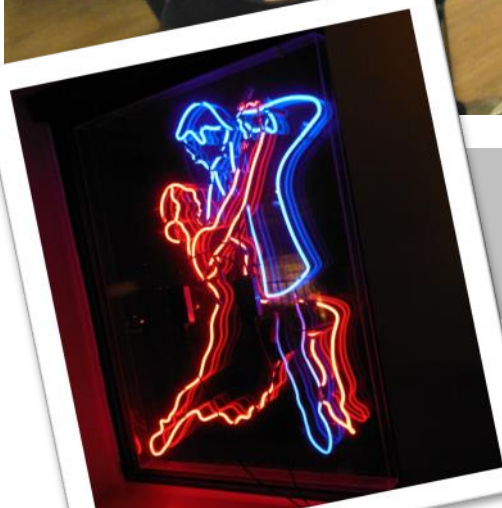
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Jane Phipps, 9018 Zanzibar Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311    [janep1951@gmail.com](mailto:janep1951@gmail.com)



*November Monthly Dance & Annual Meeting:  
USA Dance Minnesota, Cinema Ballroom*





# USA Dance Chapter #2011 Election Results

*By Gary Stroick, Election Committee Chair*

In accordance with USA Dance Policy, it is the responsibility of each Chapter's Election Committee to conduct a timely, orderly, fair, and unbiased election, as well as to field a set of qualified candidates to represent the membership over the two year term of office. I believe that this year's election committee accomplished these goals by:

- Fielding a slate of fourteen candidates to fill nine open positions.
- Meeting all requisite deadlines as specified in USA Dance Policy.
- Administering the election process in accordance with USA Dance Policy.
- Constructing ballots that would impede duplication.
- Constructing ballots that minimized positional voting bias.
- Constructing ballots that uniquely identified each member.

By conducting a mail ballot, we provided one mechanism for the membership to vote for their chosen representatives and avoided needing to address the possibility of duplicate votes through multiple voting channels (in person, electronic, mail, etc.).

Mail ballots were chosen as the voting channel since these could be uniquely identified. Although electronic ballots and in person voting at the annual meeting were considered, they were rejected since electronic ballots are easily forged and the entire election committee was not able to attend the annual meeting due to prior business commitments.

All three members of the Election Committee (Bonnie Burton, Karen Kettler Tepley, and Gary Stroick) met on the evening of November 19th, 2014, to count the ballots.

All members of the Election Committee examined the same number of ballots 147 (approximately 43% of the membership), counted the same number of votes for each candidate, and concur with the results as follows:

Candidate	Elected to Board
Andrew Nordberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cathy Dessert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dan Fitzgerald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniel O'Connell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Soltis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joyce Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Karen Maldonado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leland Whitney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leslie Whitney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Kasinkas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosemary O'Connell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Taylor Wall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Theresa Kimler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tom Crable	<input type="checkbox"/>

In their application to be a candidate, each member committed to fulfilling the two-year term of office that starts January 1, 2015. The Election Committee congratulates the newly elected Chapter Board members and your representatives for the 2015-2016 term.

Finally, I would like to thank each applicant who considered running for office, all the candidates who did run, and the members of the election committee for their willingness to volunteer their time to support the operations of our Chapter. ▲



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# ***There will be no Project Dance Class in December***

**Project Dance classes will resume in January, 2015,  
at Dancer's Studio. See you then!**

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Project Dance Minnesota offers free dance instruction to members of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011. Non-members pay \$5. Become a member of USA Dance at [membership.usadance.org](http://membership.usadance.org).

A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.



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

Contact us:

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



# FALL BALL 2014

By Marty Faeh

Fall is such a pretty time of year. It's a time of change; a reflection of another fun summer coming to a close. Kate and I have moved up to the silver level in our dancing, and in the midst of planning our 2015 competition season, an opportunity arose to dance bronze one more time.

I met professional instructor Heather 'Peterson' Wudstrack at the 2012 Wisconsin State DanceSport Championships. She told me how much she enjoyed watching Kate and I dance earlier in the day. We became Facebook friends, and we saw each other at Snow Ball, TCO, and other competitions. I told her I would love to come down to the *Get Out & Dance Studio* in Wausau, Wisconsin sometime and dance with them. When Heather mentioned they had the 2014 Fall Ball coming up, I just couldn't refuse! A beautiful fall drive, a chance to meet and dance with a new group of dancers, and have fun dancing with a different professional instructor.

As I was debating staying one night or two, Heather called me and said she had a student with a hotel voucher for one night at the Hampton Inn. She asked if I would be interested - talk about timing! I booked the weekend with an upgrade and had one of the nicest rooms I've ever stayed in. Special thanks to Al Horner, who offered up the voucher. It's indicative of the character and friendliness of this group of dancers in the heart of Wisconsin.

I took Friday off so I could enjoy an afternoon drive, which was just under 3 hours, and see the fall colors. I checked in and got settled, then met with Heather at her studio. The plan was to practice my rhythm and smooth for an hour; then dance the next day at the Fall Ball. Their ballroom is a beautiful rectangle lit up with smiling people. Everyone was friendly. Pro Tom Neterval started cracking jokes the minute I walked in, "Marty, your rent-a-dancer is over there!" Dancer's humor. I laughed and laughed. It set a fun tone for the entire weekend.

A student asked if she could follow me back to the hotel as she was staying there, too, and wasn't familiar with the area. It turns out that earlier that day, I met her roommate when I was checking in, and she teased me about whether the rhythm dress I was carrying would fit me! The three of us went to the Great Dane for dinner located just up the street. The brew was an awesome 9% (yikes!) and we had fun conversation sharing dance stories. There was more teasing about my dress, which they both wanted to try on, and lots of jokes.

Around 9 PM, the waiter told me there was a DJ coming at 10 so I headed to the bar and ordered another drink. There was this group of silly ladies that started taking selfies around, and with me. They noticed my Mill City Ballroom (MCB) dance jacket and told me, "You're not going anywhere!" The DJ didn't show up, but we started dancing to the music that was playing, and another table of ladies arrived. I kept thinking I should go home because I had to dance at 8 AM. Well, every time I got ready to leave, I was pulled back out to the dance floor. There were two guys (me and one other) and about twelve ladies wanting to dance all night. I ended up closing the joint; went to a little after party; and 8 AM sneaked up on me real fast!

I crawled out of bed at 6 AM and went for breakfast and coffee. Good thing I'm a morning person, but oh, was I tired. I got

my gear together and headed for the Elks Club ballroom. It was beautiful and spacious; many dancers were chatting away; Ilya and Mandy Velednitsky were mingling with the crowd. Yes, it was going to be a fun day. I've been recovering from a hip injury, and had put on a little more weight than I realized, so my dance outfit was snug. I said SNUG! Heather and I went out with the simple goal of having fun; nothing else mattered. We danced and laughed, and danced and laughed. I think we laughed our entire Tango in the first heat, and we messed up right and left. Heather said, "Breathe Marty!" I told her, "I can't, my pants are too tight," and we laughed some more. What a fun day. I was so thankful that I was able to participate and dance with Heather.

In the evening, Ilya and Mandy, and Heather and Jay, put on a wonderful show. We were served a delicious meal, the bartender Nicole was a riot, and it was social dance time. I was able to dance with many, but not all of the very fabulous dancers, as I just ran out of time. What a wonderful experience. It is always fun and challenging to dance with another professional instructor for the first time, and very rewarding. I got to know some friends better and make many new friends as well.

That's the beauty of dance. It's best when it's fun, shared, and enjoyed as an opportunity for diverse people to share a common interest and dance the night away. Thank you, Heather, Jay, Tom, and Mathew from *Get Out & Dance* in Wausau, Wisconsin. I'll be back! ▲







## Liz Rocco: 3 Time US National Open Champion

**Wins another US National open title with instructor Eric Hudson**

*By Eileen Arcilla*



In September, 2014 at the United States Dancesport Championships (USDC) in Orlando, FL, the Pro/Am partnership of Elizabeth Rocco and Eric Hudson won their second US Open title as US Open American Smooth Champions.

Liz started dancing ballet and jazz at a young age until a neck injury prevented her from dancing almost 15 years ago. As a result of the injury, she had to take a break from dancing. After a 5-year break, she decided to take a ballroom lesson inspired by her grandfather and his love of ballroom dancing. Over 40 years ago, she remembers Dean Constantine coming to her grandparents house to teach dance lessons in their basement on the weekends at parties.

Over the past eight years, Liz has won national and world Pro/Am titles in bronze and silver in all four styles of dance: International Standard, International Latin, American Rhythm and American Smooth. Liz's recent win is her 3rd win at the open level at the prestigious United States Dancesport Championships (USDC). In 2012, Liz and Eric won the US Open American Smooth Champion title her first year dancing at the Open level. In 2013, Liz and Eric won the US

National International Latin Open Gold champion title and in 2014, they became two-time champions of the US National Open American Smooth title.

Liz's believes her ballet and jazz dance training helped but that ballroom is very different than ballet and jazz. She had no idea how difficult and challenging ballroom was while dancing ballet. She loves ballroom dancing because it's a form of dance that she can do for a long time and she feels great when she's dancing well. During her 5-year break from dancing, she didn't realize how much she missed dance in her life. She loves that dancing makes people happy, fills the spirit and keeps you young.

Liz has been dancing with instructor Eric Hudson, for the past five years. She loves how well they work together and appreciates how much he cares about his students. "He's passionate about his teaching because he cares about his students and wants them to get better. He's an excellent teacher." She looks forward to continuing to grow and learn and feels she has just scratched the surface of possibilities in their dancing together.

*(continued, next page)*

*(Liz Rocco, continued)*

Liz and Eric have worked with coaches Toni Redpath, Rufus Dustin, Tony Meredith, Thomas and Izabella Lewandowski, Dariusz Michaelski, Inna Berlizyeva, Jonathan Roberts, Brian and Susan Puttock, Jose Decamps, Stephen Knight, Bill Sparks, Decho Kraev, Ray Rivers and Olga Foraponova to name a few, but with a smile, she says her favorite coach is Eric Hudson.

Among her many wins, her most memorable was winning at USDC this past September. US Professional American Smooth champion, judge, and coach, Toni Redpath, said the level of dancing at all age levels was at an all time high at USDC this year. The high level of dancing made winning the title even more exciting and memorable for Liz and Eric. For Liz, winning this year was a confirmation of her 2012 win and reward for hard work.

Liz's advice to other Pro/Am dancers is to constantly get coaching and to practice. Practice even when you don't feel like it. If you have goals, you need to dedicate yourself and put in the time. Having a good teacher makes a big difference. She currently takes eights lessons a week and takes advantage of many of the coaches that come into Cinema Ballroom. She participates in as many of the studio showcases and shows as she can. For her, they provide excellent experience, and are necessary to prepare for competition. She practices 2-4 hours a week and competes about seven times a year.

In regard to the cost of dancing Pro/Am, Liz says "Olympic athletes do not get trained for free. It's an investment in yourself and your dancing.. There are days when I come in from a stressful day at work and think I can't do this. In my lesson, I am forced to leave work issues at work and after, I get to go home and relax. [Dancing] is an escape....a total escape".

Liz is married and owner of Crocus Hill Electric company. Her husband Gary is supportive because he knows how happy dancing makes her. He helps run the business when she travels for dance. He says he lives vicariously through his wife and loves every opportunity to watch her dance.

She feels she's just scratched the surface. Her goal is to be a great Pro/Am open level dancer at the highest level, to the best of her ability. She wants to dance for the rest of her life! ▲

## COMPETITION CALENDAR

*Jan 10-11, 2015*

### **The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition**

Hosted by Donna Edelstein, Minneapolis/St Paul, MN

*Jan 16-18, 2015*

### **Manhattan Amateur Classic (MAC)-NQE (2015)**

USA Dance Chapter #3004 at Manhattan Center in Manhattan NY

*Jan 24, 2015*

### **PDX Ballroom Classic—NQE (2015)**

Hosted by USA Dance Chapter #1006 in Portland, OR

*Feb 14-15, 2015*

### **Mid-Atlantic Championships – NQE (2015)**

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

*Feb 28, 2015*

### **Quest For the Best**

Hosted by Seattle Chapter #1004, Lynwood, WA.

*Mar 21, 2015*

### **Phoenix USA DanceSport Challenge**

Hosted by Phoenix Chapter #4033, Phoenix, AZ

*Mar 27-29, 2015*

### **2015 National DanceSport Championships**

To be held in Baltimore, MD.

*June, 2015*

### **NJ DanceSport Classic-Summer Sizzler—NQE (2016)**

Date TBD – To be held in Hackensack, NJ

*June 26-28, 2015*

### **Gumbo DanceSport Championships—NQE (2016)**

Hosted by Phoenix Chapter #4033, Phoenix, AZ

*July 9-11, 2015*

### **Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships**

Hosted by Scott and Amy Anderson in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

*July 25, 2015*

### **Mid-Summer Classic– NQE (2016)**

Hosted by southern Star Chapter #6038, Tampa, FL

*Oct 30–Nov 1, 2015*

### **Chicago DanceSport Challenge – NQE (2016)**

Hosted by Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001, Chicago, IL.



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*Elizabeth Dickinson is a life/executive coach and amateur ballroom dancer. If you enjoy her writing and would like to receive her weekly emailed coaching newsletter, contact her at: [elizabeth@pursueyourpath.com](mailto:elizabeth@pursueyourpath.com).*

## THE DANCING LIFE: THE VALUE IN BEING AGREEABLE

*By Elizabeth Dickinson*

**I**n third grade, I experienced a vivid encounter after I was eliminated in a class game. Although disappointed, I continued to cheer on my remaining classmate competitors.

My teacher Mrs. Theroux, called me to her desk privately to acknowledge me for being “agreeable”—with tears in her eyes. I was somewhat discombobulated by her reaction, but I never forgot it. It was an experience where I was recognized unexpectedly for something I took for granted.

As an adult, I learned cooperation, friendliness, consideration, and helpfulness are all part of the scientific definition of agreeableness.

Agreeableness is the single most important trait for getting along with others. It is tied to the ability to control impulses and regulate undesirable emotions like anger/frustration. Not coincidentally, impulse control is located in the same region as our “executive attention” mode.

If you have a child (or adult!) in whom you’d like to develop emotional regulation and impulse control, I recommend providing lots of positive reinforcement when s/he demonstrates agreeableness (like my third grade teacher).

While I don’t recommend adopting an agreeable attitude to everyone or everything and betraying important personal values, there is no doubt that society improves when people show basic civility to each other. (However, don’t think it’s okay to act like a doormat when faced with consistent bad behavior!)

A more challenging aspect of agreeableness is resisting the impulse to assign bad motivations to the person who unexpectedly cuts you off in traffic, or to the one who doesn’t follow through on a commitment, or to the person who forgets to use common courtesies like “please” and “thank-you”.

To be agreeable exists in both external and internal capacities. Which one is most challenging for you? Do you find it easier to demonstrate external cooperation and consideration, but secretly feel judgmental about others’ actions?

In the next month, I encourage you to challenge yourself. Where could you act more agreeably to promote peace inside and/or outside yourself?

And may we pursue our paths, recognizing the social and personal value in being agreeable. ▲



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# The Three Worlds of Ballroom Dance



**Social**



**Competition**



**Exhibition**

Social, competition, and exhibition ballroom dance are all united by a love of partnered dance. All three forms are enjoyed by their fans for good reasons. They share similar steps, vocabulary, and music. But it's helpful to know how they differ from each other. The essential difference between the three is that they have different audiences.

**The main distinction is that they have different audiences**

## **Social Ballroom**

**Your Partner**

Your partners want to interact with you spontaneously, for fun, doing steps that are also enjoyable for them.

- Sociable, i.e., friendly, and kind.
- Flexibly adaptive. You value and accommodate to styles that are different from your own.

## **Competitive Ballroom (DanceSport)**

**The Judges**

Then looking closer at the differences:  
**What are your audience's expectations?**

Judges want to see that the steps and styles are done precisely and correctly, with great flair.

- Rigorously correct, expansive.
- The many styles outside of the official syllabus are usually considered to be incorrect.

## **Exhibition Ballroom**

**An Audience**

Audiences want to be entertained, often with a preference for beautiful and impressive moves.

- Performance attitude varies widely, depending on the dance form.

**What is your attitude?**

*Originally posted by Richard Powers, Stanford University*

## Social

## Competition

## Exhibition

### What is the attitude concerning mistakes?

- Mistakes are accepted as inevitable. Social dancers laugh them off and move on.
- When a follow does something different from what the lead intended, he knows it's a valid alternative interpretation of his lead.
- Social dancers are happy if things work out 80% of the time. The other 20% is when most learning happens.

- Judges deduct points for every mistake, so competitive dance culture is aligned against making mistakes from day one.
- When a follow does something different from what the lead intended, he considers it a mistake, which is to be eliminated.
- Competitive dancers work hard to achieve 100%.

- For *professional* performances, audiences expect perfection, so dance companies rehearse extensively to avoid any mistakes onstage.
- For *amateur* performances, the audience mostly wants to see that the dancers are enjoying themselves, so mistakes are generally accepted.

### What is your reward?

- The spontaneous enjoyment of dancing with a partner.
- The satisfaction of becoming proficient in a dance form.
- Self confidence.

- Competing. Winning.
- The satisfaction of becoming proficient in a dance form.
- Self confidence.

- Entertaining or impressing others. Enthusiastic applause.
- The satisfaction of becoming proficient in a dance form.
- Self confidence.

### Are there standardized steps and technique?

No, standardization doesn't function because each partner is different. You must modify your steps to adapt to each partner.

Yes, rigorously standardized, because competitors need to know exactly what technical details the judges want to see.

Sometimes, but in today's sampling culture ("*been there, seen that*") audiences prefer something they've never seen before.

### Is there a standardized style?

Absolutely not. You develop your own personal style, different from others. Some social forms like swing, tango and salsa especially discourage copying other's styles.

Yes, absolutely. You are trained to copy the style of champions before you, working hard to imitate every nuance of that standardized style.

Styles may be unique to the choreographer, thus not standardized. But the performing group usually works on copying and mastering that one style.

### Is there a fixed choreography?

No. You make it up as you go along, often based on what the follow is doing at the moment, and what occurs to the lead spontaneously.

Both lead and follow engage in a highly active attention to possibilities.

Yes. Competitors usually perform choreographed routines that they have rehearsed.

An exception is Jack and Jill competitions, usually in WCS and Lindy hop, with a partner one has not danced with before.

Yes. Exhibitions are usually choreographed and rehearsed. Furthermore, group routines often have everyone dancing in unison.

But improvised exhibitions do exist, especially in swing, tango and blues. ▲





*Lisa's first ballroom dance*

## “ . . AND FIRST PLACE IN ALL DANCES . . . ”

*By Lisa Mohr*



“And first place in all dances goes to Number 680, Tony Guinta and Lisa Mohr.” We had just won the Senior II Rhythm event at the USA Dance Chicago DanceSport Challenge, qualifying us to compete in that event at the 2015 National DanceSport Championships. We’re ecstatic! This was our first big ballroom dance competition and not only did we place well, but we qualified in all the events we entered.

My story begins one hot summer evening in July 2011 after a friend asked me to accompany her to a dance. Eagerly I said yes, but I had no comprehension of what a ballroom dance was. Instead, the picture of us free-style dancing at a local bar came to mind, which up to that point had been my only experience dancing. Dressed in my best tight skirt and rubber-bottomed wedge heels, I was ready and waiting when my friend Laura picked me up.

The evening began with a group class featuring the Waltz and they were teaching a basic box step and underarm turn; back-side-together, forward-side-together, walk-walk-walk, walk-walk-close.

This was a foreign language and I did not speak it. However, there were many gracious leaders there that night who counted

for me, and I was able to dance every dance that enchanted evening. I developed an insatiable hunger for ballroom dancing and started to seek out places where I could dance. It didn't take long to understand that I did not know how to dance and I needed to learn. I couldn't rely on my leader forever! I began by taking all the group classes I could find time for, which eventually lead to private lessons, Pro/Am competitions, and then more lessons. My pocketbook was taking a real beating, but I sure loved it!

One evening, about a year ago, I attended a midweek variety dance and asked a gentleman to dance. He took my hand, led me to the dance floor, and captured my heart while leading me in a hustle. Tony was already working toward developing an Am/Am partnership with someone else. He had plans to dance in the newcomer division at the Star of the North amateur competition, but expressed a keen desire to dance in the bronze division. Despite my mistaken thinking that amateur was for beginners or those who couldn't dance very well, I offered to dance with him. He agreed, and we started practicing together. The experience was enlightening.

*(continued, next page)*



(Lisa Mohr, continued)

We did not place well among the really good amateur couples in bronze, however, the joint investment in our accomplishment was indeed satisfying. Wanting to do this again, Tony began investigating competitions and we settled on the Chicago DanceSport Challenge. We worked very hard with our respective teachers, Shinya McHenry and Nadine Messenger, as well as practicing as much and as often as we could, and it paid off!

I now understand that amateur does not mean 'not good'. There are many wonderfully talented amateur couples dancing and competing and I am proud to be counted among them. And while I still enjoy Pro/Am dancing, Am/Am is different. Pros compensate in ways you don't understand until you decide to dance with an amateur partner at a high level. You have to know more, do more, give more, practice more. But the rewards are so much greater....and my pocketbook does not take near the beating! ▲



*Lisa and Tony at the 2014 Tea Dance*



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# ASK DR. DANCE

Submit your questions to Dr. Dance at [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).



**My partner seems to have trouble ‘hearing the beat’ of the songs when we dance. How important is musicality? What are some suggestions to improve musicality so we don’t dance off-time, or worse yet, dance to different beats?**

**Donna says:** One definition of dancing is 'movement to music'. At the most basic levels we look for couples to be 'on time with the music', demonstrating the ability to step on beats that relate to the both the dance steps and the music being played.

Exhibiting musicality is a more advanced skill where the couple is able to express and interpret the music (while still being on time) showing their artistry.

Hearing the beats in music can be taught. When I coach someone that needs to learn to hear the music I'll often turn the base louder, and play songs with very clear downbeats so they can start to 'hear' what dancers listen for.

Oftentimes people hear the beats, but don't realize which beats we pay attention to and they get caught up in the melody or lyrics.

After hearing the beats we'll progress to nodding, clapping or tapping the beats. When I can see that he or she is hearing the beats then we move on to dancing to the music.

The leader is responsible for leading the steps which includes determining when to move. The follower needs to be tuned into the leaders movement.

You may hear the music differently, but as a follower you react not request, so there should not be a time when you choose to move at a different time than your partner.

The only way that a leader can learn to do his job well is if the follower allows him to lead.

The wonderful thing about dancing is that all of the skills that make a wonderful dancer can be taught!

**Paul says:** Musicality is one of the cornerstones of dancing. In a competition it is sure to be a factor in your placement, so working on it is always a good idea.

The reality is that people hear music differently. It sounds strange. After all a beat is a beat and should be heard by everyone who listens. Some people though, hear deeper notes like the bass easier and to others the higher notes are more prominent.

As in everything, practice makes permanent, so listening to music that you typically dance to as much as possible will help. Also, while listening, try to count the relevant counts with your partner aloud so that you can determine where the problem lies and work on improving it more specifically.

Ultimately it is the man who decides on the musicality, particularly in a closed hold. Therefore the lady, painful as it may be for her, should follow the lead to create at least harmony in the movement, if not in the music.

It is possible to be on time with the music, yet not musical at all. Think of a song and imagine that the beats are expressed by the feet, while the melody is what motivates the body. A good way to practice is to put a foxtrot on and just try to walk to the slow beats. These are the 1, 3, 5 and 7 beats if you count 8. Notice that when your leading foot touches the floor, is when the beat is heard, not when you're on the foot. You are only on a foot when the swinging leg passes the standing foot, usually on the even counts. This will tend to slow down the action for you and may serve to improve your awareness of the rhythm of your movement. ▲



*Donna Edelstein is a coach, judge, and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition.  
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763-557-6006*



*Paul Botes is a dance instructor, coach, choreographer, and judge. He is an owner of American Classic Ballroom, located in Chanhassen, MN. [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)*





*Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, president, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd. More costuming tips at: [www.satinstitches.com](http://www.satinstitches.com)*

Are you looking to add sparkle to your dance wardrobe for holiday social dances or performances this year? If so, you have two options: taking the simple route by showing just a hint of holiday spirit or fully immersing yourself in an extravagant Christmas themed costume or outfit. Either option will work, so assess which route you would like to take this year and go from there!

Assess your dance costume inventory. Do you have a basic dress or separates that can be updated? If you already have a festive red or green dress or separates that you can throw on, go for it! You'll save money and everyone will immediately think 'holiday' when they see you! View all potential clothing options with an extra dose of imagination! Could you or a friend work some holiday magic by altering or embellishing your garments? Or would adding a new clothing item into the mix do the trick?

## CREATING DANCEABLE HOLIDAY LOOKS

© Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

If your budget and imagination are on the minimal side and you're just not able to invest in a new outfit or dress, simply add some Christmas inspired jewelry to your apparel to pull your ensemble together. Anything that evokes the spirit of the season has the ability to transform an everyday outfit into a 'holiday' ensemble! Think ribbons, bows, stars, and tinsel! Either literally, like the festively kitschy 'ugly Christmas sweaters', or in an elegant fashion, like the beautiful evening apparel in colors that coordinate with Christmas décor.

If you are feeling especially adventurous with accessories or creative with some trim from a craft store, go for it. Don't be afraid to add some 'fur' (or feather boas) to a dress or outfit to give it that 'Ms. Claus' look. And, if you aren't shy, consider adding LED lights to your ensemble! A sprinkling of red rhinestones can add just the right amount of holiday spirit to an outfit.

If nothing in your closet will suffice, start shopping around for basics that, with a little added glitz and glamour, could become the perfect holiday dance ensemble! Keep an open mind! If you find some fabulous basics, make sure they will work for non-holiday dancing, too. Adopting this mindset will help you stretch your dollar, rather than break the bank.

Search through consignment or second-hand shops and scour the clearance racks at all your favorite stores for hidden, inexpensive treasures. I will caution you to be wary of Internet shopping, however (if you need more convincing, check out the pros and cons laid

out in one of my recent blogs, [To Buy or Not to Buy Your Costume From The Internet](#)). To ensure that you are getting exactly what you wanted, shop instead at a special occasion store or boutique in your area. These places will often provide more unique offerings than bigger chain stores can, and you'll be more likely to shine a little brighter in your holiday attire when it's not exactly like everyone else's.

If your budget is already tightened with holiday expenditures, remember that your new basic pieces can work for you during the coming New Year, too. You can also shop after the holidays and find great bargains for next year, as well!

If you are shopping for both Christmas and New Year's outfits, again, it's all about your accessories. Be sure to buy classic pieces that could work for both the kitschy and the classy depending on how you accessorize.

Of course maybe you have been 'good' this year, and deserve a special holiday treat! If this is the case, start shopping as soon as possible for the best selection of holiday frocks! And don't be afraid of adding a little extra sparkle! Are there *ever* too many rhinestones on a dance costume? ▲



# MEET ME AT THE MALL!

By Yvonne Viehman

The Mall of America was the site for dancers galore on Thursday, October 30, 2014! USA Dance hosted its annual Mall of America Dance Showcase. We gathered in the Rotunda and put together 60 minutes of great dancing! Whether waltz or swing, foxtrot or jazz, we entertained the crowds with fun-filled performances. We'd like to thank all of the dancers who showcased their talents that night.

The Twin Cities Performance Dance Team opened the show with a light-hearted, Gene Kelly-inspired foxtrot complete with umbrellas as they danced to "Singin' in the Rain." The team consisted of: Cheri & Art Rolnick, Bernie & Scott Osborn, Lori & Jeff Goldstein, Lynne Schulz & Ha Tuong, Ellen & Don Ardery, and newest members of the team: Lisa Wu & Daniel Lai.

The Rhapsody & Rhythm Formation team followed with a sassy Cha Cha. The team included Emily Boole & Isaac, and Stephanie Riley & Frank Kohlasch. An energetic performance!

The Rotunda floor became a flurry of dancers as the following joined in for smooth, rhythm and/or standard dances. Many

thanks to these dancers: Theresa Kimler & Nels Petersen, Linda & Tom Crable, Lynne Schulz & Ha Tuong, Elaine Davis & Mike Jones, Jackie Dalton & Russell Alliev, Cheri & Art Rolnick.

In addition, there were many dancers from the U of M Dance Club who danced smooth, rhythm or standard. We are grateful for the following: Kevin Viratyosin, Tijen Petersen, Hannah Alyea, Erik Anderson, Nicole Anderson, Melissa Baddin, Kyle Condiff, Alana Correa Sa, Danika Dahl, Joshua Dowell, Jackson Fossen, Shelby Gilliland, Audrey Haugen, John Hinks, Nick Johnson, Jacob Karr, Michael Kasinkas, Christina Kylo, Karen Maldonado, Rachel Marusinec, Meredith McKinney, Naomi Ochoa, Daniel O'Connell, Timothy Opdahl, Rosemary O'Connell, Jordan Lik, Yang Quah, Danielle Ringle, Luke Rohl, Patrick Severin, Sarah Snapp, Thomas Stastny, McKenzie van der Hagen, Chelsea Visser, Taylor Wall, Elizabeth Weaver and Seth Westlake.

Thank you to other dancers including: Ron & Doris Lazarski, Ted & Mary Ringberg, Elaine & Lynn Boergerhoff, Janie Nordberg & Dan Bakke, Lois Donnay & David Gardner, Lynne Schulz & Lowell Franz, Tom Bischoff & Irene Erickson, Jeff Goldstein, David Carlson, Michael Lack, Paul Hodapp, Tom Lannom, Jack Smrekar, Michael Winston, Mike Wasik, Barry Rosenzweig, Danny Kristal, Ric Riebe, Mitch Ottinger, Craig Standish, Eric Neubauer, Mike Mohs, Robert Bloomquist, Chris Williams, Lori Goldstein, Barbie Albers, Marie Reilly, Melonie Robran, Gretchen Vandeputte, Bonnie Warhol, Britty Goldstein, Pat Dechaine, Laureen Darling, Melissa McCabe, Sherry Richter, Nicky Marzo, Diane Frey, Sarah Beach, Amy Hutson and Yvonne Viehman.

Kudos to the following for fantastic solo performances: Theresa Kimler and Nels Petersen (tango) and Linda and Tom Crable (waltz). Thank you, Neli Petkova & Nic Westlake, for dancing tango Thursday morning in the backyard on Kare11 Sunrise at 5:30am, when it was only 39 degrees!

We could not have done the show without help from these amazing folks: Joyce Thompson (music technician), Karen Kettler Tepley & Mike Jones (on-deck captains), Cathy Dessert (photographer), Dan Viehman (emcee).

The Mall of America marketers, Sarah Schmit and Tara Neidberg were helpful in giving us media exposure. Thank you, Danielle Dewald, our MOA event coordinator and Emily, for all the effort coordinating this event! Thanks again to everyone as together, we made it happen!

If you're interested in dancing at other venues during the holiday season, please let me know your availability for these events:

**Sunday, November 30, 2014 at Rosedale Mall (1pm and 2pm shows);**

**Sunday, December 7, 2014 at Maplewood Mall (1pm and 2pm shows);**

**Sunday, December 14, 2014 at Rosedale Mall (1pm and 2pm shows); and**

**Sunday, December 21, 2014 at Maplewood Mall (1pm and 2pm shows).**

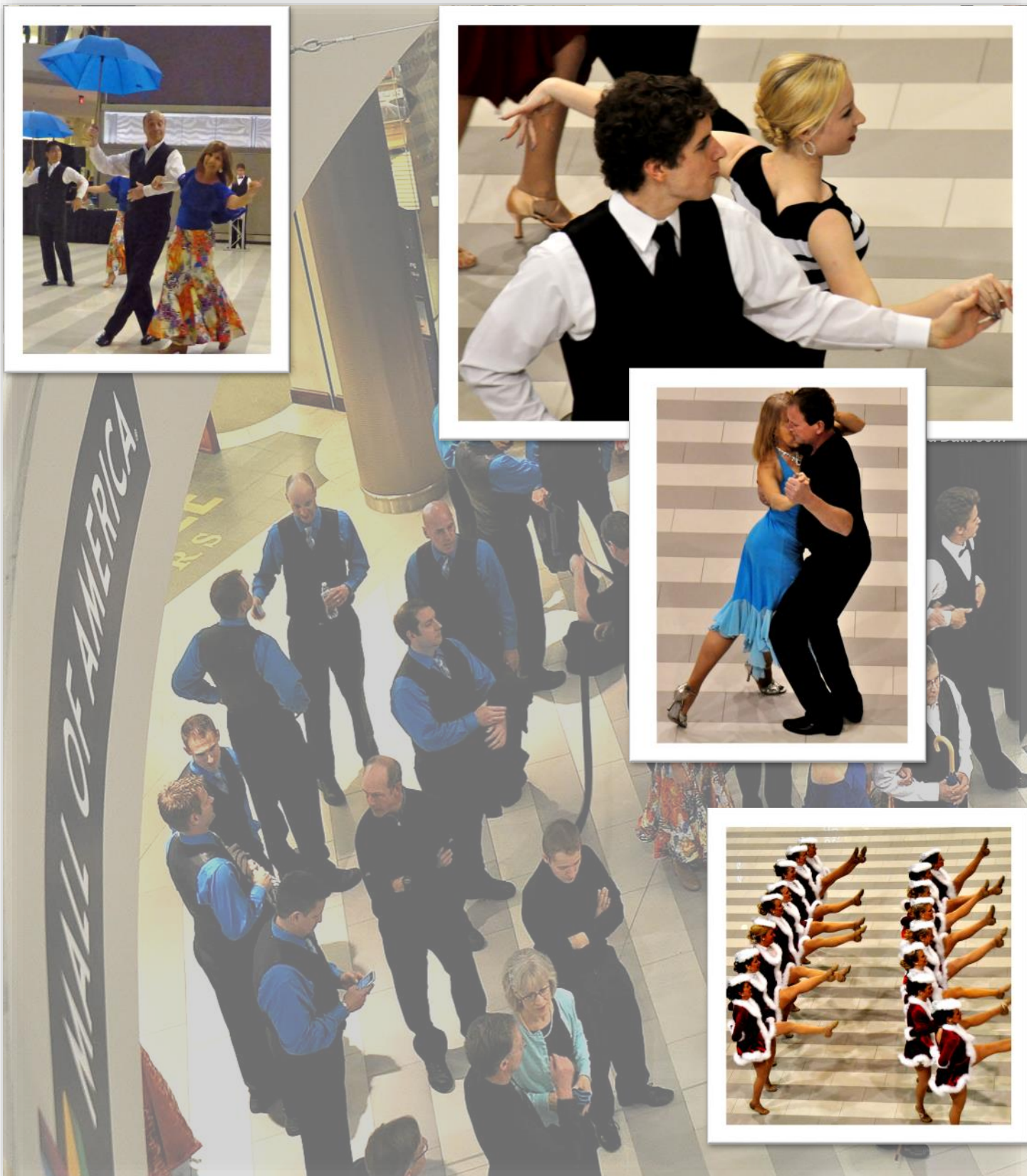
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# LAST LOOK . . . . . MALL OF AMERICA BALLROOM DANCE SHOWCASE

*Photos By Cathy Dessert and Scot Gore*







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## DANCE PARTNER WANTED ADS

Looking for a practice partner? Compose an ad letting potential partners know what you're looking for and how to contact you.

Submit ads to [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org). Please include area code with any phone number.

#### ► Justin Sundberg 612-964-1741, [justin@jdsundberg.com](mailto:justin@jdsundberg.com)

Lead, 5'10", 28, seeks practice partner for smooth, rhythm, and WCS. Open to all styles and possible lessons or competition. 3 years experience. Will provide floor time at a major studio.

#### ► Luz Taaca 952-232-8958, [luztaaca@yahoo.com](mailto:luztaaca@yahoo.com)

Follow, 5' 4", seeks practice partner for bronze/some silver-level smooth and rhythm. Takes private lessons. Loves to perform. Available for try-out. Possible lesson sharing, showcases, or competitions.

# COMPETITION RESULTS

## ***CHICAGO DANCESPORT CHALLENGE (NQE)***

***Chicago, IL***

***October 31-November 2, 2014***

***Minnesota Competitors***

### **Jeremy Anderson & Yuko Taniguchi**

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 6) Amateur Adult Novice Smooth  
1<sup>st</sup> (of 2) Amateur Senior I Novice Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Smooth  
1<sup>st</sup> (of 3) Amateur Senior I Pre-Champ Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard  
1<sup>st</sup> (of 6) Amateur Senior I Silver Standard  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 9) Amateur Adult Gold Standard  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 6) Amateur Senior I Gold Standard

### **Tony Guinta & Lisa Mohr**

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior I Bronze Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior II Bronze Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 5) Amateur Senior I Bronze Rhythm  
1<sup>st</sup> (of 7) Amateur Senior II Bronze Rhythm

### **CJ Hurst & Lorie Hurst**

1<sup>st</sup> (of 1) Amateur Adult Gold Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior I Gold Smooth  
6<sup>th</sup> (of 9) Amateur Adult Gold Standard  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 6) Amateur Senior I Gold Standard

### **Michael Kasinkas & Taylor Wall**

6<sup>th</sup> (of 6) Amateur Adult Novice Smooth  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Smooth  
11<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard  
8<sup>th</sup> (of 9) Amateur Adult Gold Standard  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 6) Amateur Adult Novice Rhythm  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Rhythm

### **Daniel O'Connell & Rosemary O'Connell**

4<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth  
4<sup>th</sup> (of 11) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 2) Amateur Adult Gold Rhythm  
4<sup>th</sup> (of 5) Amateur Adult Novice Rhythm

### **Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler**

1<sup>st</sup> (of 2) Amateur Adult Championship Smooth

### **Greg Prasch & Susan Prasch**

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 2) Amateur Senior I Novice Smooth  
1<sup>st</sup> (of 3) Amateur Senior II Novice Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 3) Amateur Senior I Pre-Champ Smooth  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 6) Amateur Senior II Pre-Champ Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior I Novice Standard  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Senior II Novice Standard  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 3) Amateur Senior I Pre-Champ Standard  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 12) Amateur Senior II Pre-Champ Standard  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior I Open Syllabus Intl. V. Waltz  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 9) Amateur Senior II Open Syllabus Intl. V. Waltz

### **Edward Soltis & Bonnie Burton**

9<sup>th</sup> (of 17) Senior II Silver Smooth  
1<sup>st</sup> (of 14) Senior III Silver Smooth  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 9) Senior II Bronze Standard  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Senior III Bronze Standard  
6<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Senior II Silver Standard

### **Kevin Viratyosin & Karen Maldonado**

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 5) Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 11) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard  
9<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard  
2<sup>nd</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm  
3<sup>rd</sup> (of 6) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

### **Greg Warner & Jill Smith**

11<sup>th</sup> (of 17) Amateur Senior II Silver Smooth  
10<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Senior III Silver Smooth  
7<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Senior II Silver Rhythm  
5<sup>th</sup> (of 12) Amateur Senior III Silver Rhythm

### **Nic Westlake & Neli Petkova**

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Standard  
4<sup>th</sup> (of 6) Amateur Adult Championship Standard

### **Seth Westlake & Talia Rudahl**

9<sup>th</sup> (of 11) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard  
8<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard

# DANCE CONTACTS

*A collection of businesses and clubs of interest to Minnesota dancers.*

*If you'd like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).*

## STUDIOS

### AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM

550 Market Street, Chanhassen  
952-934-0900  
[www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)

### ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO

534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul  
651-227-3200

### BALANCE POINTE STUDIOS

5808 W 36th Street, St. Louis Park  
952-922-8612  
[www.balancepointestudios.com](http://www.balancepointestudios.com)

### BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB

1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville  
952-292-0524  
[www.ballroom-club.com](http://www.ballroom-club.com)

### BLUE MOON BALLROOM

2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester  
507-288-0556  
[www.BlueMoonBallroom.com](http://www.BlueMoonBallroom.com)

### CINEMA BALLROOM

1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul  
651-699-5910  
[www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

### COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS

816 Mainstreet, Hopkins  
952-303-3339  
[www.costaricaballroom.com](http://www.costaricaballroom.com)

### DAHL DANCE CENTER

4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester  
507-252-1848  
[www.dahldance.com](http://www.dahldance.com)

### DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT

651-605-5784  
[tricia@danceandentertainment.com](mailto:tricia@danceandentertainment.com)  
[www.danceandentertainment.com](http://www.danceandentertainment.com)

### DANCE WITH US AMERICA

10 Southdale Center, Edina  
612-564-5483  
[www.dancewithusamerica.com](http://www.dancewithusamerica.com)

### DANCELIFE BALLROOM

6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

### DANCERS STUDIO

415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul  
651-641-0777  
[www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

### FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO

1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-342-0902  
[www.fourseasonsdance.com](http://www.fourseasonsdance.com)

### FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO

1975 Seneca Road, Eagan, MN  
651-451-6300  
[www.FredAstaireMN.com](http://www.FredAstaireMN.com)

### MILL CITY BALLROOM

2382 Hampden Ave, St. Paul 612-562-2733  
[www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

### NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO

Bloomington, MN  
612-799-4147  
[Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio](https://www.facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio)

### RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO

Minneapolis  
612-872-1562  
[www.theplacetodance.com](http://www.theplacetodance.com)

### SOCIAL DANCE STUDIO

3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-353-4445  
[www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

### STUDIOJEFF

701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201,  
St. Cloud  
320-266-4137  
[www.studiojeff.com](http://www.studiojeff.com)

## CLUBS

### AQUA GLIDERS DANCE CLUB

612-869-3062

### CAFÉ BAILAR

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

### COTILLION DANCE CLUB OF STILLWATER

651-388-1231  
[paynter@charter.net](mailto:paynter@charter.net)  
Contacts: Scott and Maggie Paynter

### LADANZA DANCE CLUB

Stillwater, MN  
651-439-3152  
[Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub](https://www.facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub)  
Contacts: Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

### LAKE SIDE DANCE CLUB

320-763-6432  
[danceclub@lakesideballroom.org](mailto:danceclub@lakesideballroom.org)  
[www.lakesideballroom.org](http://www.lakesideballroom.org)

### LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB

651-636-9747  
[www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org](http://www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org)

### MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB

651-487-6821  
[mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com](http://mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com)

### REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB

952-941-0906  
[www.tcrebels.com](http://www.tcrebels.com)

### STARDUST DANCE CLUB

[stardustdanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:stardustdanceclub@gmail.com)

### SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB

Woman's Club of Minneapolis,  
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis  
952-894-1412  
[www.suburbanwinteraset.com](http://www.suburbanwinteraset.com)

### TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

612-224-2905  
[www.mntango.org](http://www.mntango.org)

### TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER

3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis  
612-722-2914  
[www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

[bdc@umn.edu](mailto:bdc@umn.edu)  
[ls.gd/umnbdc](http://ls.gd/umnbdc)

### USA DANCE, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011

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

## SERVICES

### LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

[www.organizeronduty.com](http://www.organizeronduty.com)  
Contact: Lynne Schulz  
[lmsdance@gmail.com](mailto:lmsdance@gmail.com)  
Services: Weekly listing of dance events

### MADE FOR MOVEMENT

952-595-0003  
[www.made4movement.com](http://www.made4movement.com)  
Contact: Marsha Wiest Hines  
Services: Costume design, tailoring.

### OH SEW SPECIAL

7300 South France Avenue, Suite  
323, Edina  
952-746-5539  
[www.ohsewspecial.net](http://www.ohsewspecial.net)  
Contact: Susan Richardson  
Services: Tailoring, alterations, redesign

### SATIN STICHES LTD.

11894 Round Lake Blvd NW,  
Minneapolis  
763-323-9507  
1-800-48SATIN  
[www.satinstiches.com](http://www.satinstiches.com)  
Contact: Deborah J. Nelson  
Services: Custom-designed dancewear

## INSTRUCTORS

Scott Anderson.....	612-816-4446
Wanda Bierbrauer.....	651-439-3152
Rachel Damiani .....	612-718-6823
Nathan Daniels .....	763-464-1021
Jennelle Donnay.....	651-357-2060
Julie Delene.....	612-598-5355
Donna Edelstein.....	612-910-2690
Jennifer Foster.....	952-922-8316
Robert Foster.....	952-922-8316
Esther Granbois.....	612-872-1562
Lindsey Rebecca Hall.....	612-940-9546
Julie Jacobson.....	651-261-6442
Jay Larson.....	651-387-3886
Kristina Lee.....	715-821-9039
Deanne Michael.....	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn.....	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski.....	612-242-5159
Mary Rosenstiel.....	612-720-2584
Char Torkelson.....	612-709-6399
Lisa Vogel.....	651-208-0818
James Wood.....	651-242-2421



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ST. PAUL, MN**

**CALL: 651-699-5910  
WWW.CINEMABALLROOM.COM**



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