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# Project Dance

No Project Dance Lessons in December.

See you in January, 2016

at Dancers Studio!

Minnesota

## Dancer

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



#### **USA Dance: Who Are We?**

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 was formed in 1991. Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels.

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members receive discounts on admission to monthly dances, as well as other benefits.

The *Minnesota Dancer* is published monthly by the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011, to provide information and news about ballroom dancing. Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance Minnesota #2011; send to Jane Phipps, 9018 Zanzibar Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311

Executive Editor/Layout: Assistant Editor:

Tom Crable Leland Whitney

Advertising:

Mailing: Committee member

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

Contributors: Bob Anholt, Suzi Blumberg, John Burns, Bonnie Burton, Elizabeth Dickinson, Ember Reichgott Junge, Deborah J. Nelson, Yvonne Viehman, Leland Whitney and Leslie Whitney.

Leland Whitney, President, 651.690.9367 Irwhitney@msn.com

Edward Soltis, Vice-President, 612.805.6516 ed.soltis@outlook.com

Jane Phipps, Treasurer, 612.859.5245 janep1951@gmail.com

Leslie Whitney, Secretary, 651.690.9367

Irwhitney@msn.com

## Dance Demo Opportunities!



Dan and Yvonne Viehman are longterm members of USA Dance Minnesota. Here they are dancing the Viennese Waltz at the Mall of America, February, 2015. To volunteer for dance demos, please contact Yvonne at <u>danvman@aol.com</u> or call her at 763.553.1202.



#### **HOLIDAY DEMOS:**

Sunday, December 6, 2015 – 1pm and 2pm - Maplewood Mall – near Santa station.

Sunday, December 13, 2015 – 1pm and 2pm - Rosedale Mall – 1st floor near Talbot's.

Sunday, December 20, 2015 – 1pm and 2pm - Maplewood Mall – near Santa station.

Again, please contact Yvonne at the above email address or phone number. Thanks for volunteering your time and talents!

# WOULD YOU LIKE ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF MINNESOTA DANCER MAGAZINE?

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#### **USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes**

#### Tuesday, October 6, 2015

#### Submitted by Leslie Whitney

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

**Guest: Gary Stroick** 

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

#### Call session to order:

- 1.Agenda A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the agenda.
- Confidentiality Meeting discussions are confidential. Chapter minutes are posted in the Minnesota Dancer.
- 3.Minutes A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the September 9th board meeting.
- 4.Treasurer's Report A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the September treasurer's report.
- 5.Preliminary Survey Results The survey will be discussed at the November meeting.
- 6. Social Dance, Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Reports
- **6.a. Monthly Dances –** Profit was made at the September

dance.

October - Cinema, East Coast Swing;

November - Cinema, Bolero;

December - DanceLife, Samba

Tom Hamre has agreed to be an alternate DJ at the monthly dances.

- Project Dance Karen distributed a handout detailing the options for defraying the costs of Project Dance.
- **6.c. Dancing Classroom's Fundraiser –** Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 until 8:00, Dancers Studio, Sterling Hall. There will be general dancing, a presentation about Dancing Classrooms and perhaps a performance by one of the enrolled classrooms.
- 6.d. K 12 Coordinator Report Discussion of the fundraiser for Dancing Classrooms. Leslie and Joyce continue to attend the Advisory Board meetings for Heart of Dance.
- 7. Business Cards Ed will complete the design, solicit bids and order the cards. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to fund this order.
- 8. Communications Coordinator Report
- **8.a.** Minnesota Dancer Deadline for articles, advertisements, etc. is the 15<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- **8.b.** Website, Facebook, Constant Contact On September 24<sup>th</sup> 700 recipients received the survey sent via Constant Contact. The website has been updated and music logos are posted on the site.
- 9. Membership Coordinator Report
- 9.a. October 31, 2014 326 members
- 9.b. October 31, 2015 389 members
- 9.c. Discussion How can we involve the professional community?
- 10. Neutrality Policies Gary led the discussion of the USA Dance policies.

- **11. Ethics Committee** A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to appoint Gary chair of the Ethics Committee, replacing Tom, who will maintain membership on this committee.
- **12.** Chapter of the Year Nominations Joyce, Jane, Leslie, Carol and Lee will complete the application which is due October 31, 2015.
- 13. Volunteer of the Year Nomination Lee will email the criteria to board members. Nomination form is due November 30, 2015.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 3, 2015

6:00 p.m., DanceLife Ballroom, 6015 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55419



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Our famous Sunday Pizza Practice Parties will continue. **December 13th** will be a special Holiday "Pizza Party." We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces!



info@acballroom.com

www.acballroom.com

## DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

#### **USA DANCE**

USA Dance – Monthly – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Variety Dance, Dec 19 at DanceLife Ballroom, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm.

Project Dance – No Project Dance Lessons for December 2015.

January, 2016 Project Dance, Sunday, 2—3 pm, Dancers Studio, lesson is West Coast Swing. Instructor—Troy Lerum.

#### **WEEKLY DANCES**

DanceLife – Tuesdays, WCS Inter/Adv Class w Todd Paulus, lesson 7:30 – 9 pm and dance 9 – 10 pm.

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

Costa Rica Ballroom – Wednesdays, Practice Party, 9 – 9:45 pm.

Dancers Studio – Wednesdays, West Coast Swing, dance 8 - 9 pm.

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

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

#### **BIWEEKLY DANCES**

American Classic – Sunday Pizza Practice Parties, Dec 13, Holiday Pizza Party, 7 – 9 pm.

Café Bailar Dance Club – 2 Saturday Variety Parties – Dec 12 at Ballroom & Latin Dance Club, Burnsville MN and Dec 26 at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 – 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, Dec 4 and 18, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 9 – 11 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, Dec 6 and 20, lesson 6 – 7 pm and dance 7 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, Dec 6 and 20 at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 11 pm.

#### **OTHER DANCES**

Dec 5 Cinema Ballroom—Student Showcase, 5-10 pm.

Dec 11 Costa Rica Ballroom – Showcase, 7:30 -10:30 pm.

Dec 11 Dancers Studio – Nutcracker Holiday Showcase, 7-10:30 pm.

Dec 12 DanceLife Holiday Showcase, 6-10 pm.

Dec 12 Tango Society of Minnesota's 2nd Saturday Milonga, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 8:30-9:30 and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am.

Dec 18 American Classic Dance Party with Scott Anderson and Paul Botes, 7-9:30 pm.

Dec 19 Linden Hills Dancing Club, at Lake Harriet UMC, Lesson and Dance, 6:30-10:30 pm.

Dec 31 LaDanza and Cotillion Ballroom Dance Clubs, New Year's Eve Grand Ball, Prom Center, 484 Inwood Ave, Oakdale, MN, 6 pm—12:30 am, reservations by Dec 21, 2015.



USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011

#### **Inside the MN Dancer**

#### MONTHLY DANCES

#### DECEMBER Saturday, December 19

DanceLife Ballroom, 6015 Lyndale S., Mpls, MN

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

#### JANUARY Saturday, January 16

Dancers Studio, Sterling Hall 415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul

7-8 pm lesson—West Coast Swing Instructor: Troy Lerum 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

#### FEBRUARY Saturday, February 20

Costa Rica Ballroom 816 Mainstreet, Hopkins MNI

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

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

Dance Demo Opportunities! 4
USA Dance Board Minutes 5
Dancer's Night Out
Dance Contacts
President's Corner
Competition Calendar
Competition Results
And the Survey Says 14
Your Dance Presence
Cruising & Dancing on Queen Mary 218
Heart of Dance Letter to the Board 20
USA Dance Showcase at the MOA 22
Dancing in Cities III25
Dance Floor Etiquette
Best & Worst of DWST Costumes 28
Correction from Dancers Studio 30

#### LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.

http://www.organizeronduty.com/testimonials.html

Dance address book also on the website

#### **DANCE CONTACTS**

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

#### **STUDIOS**

#### AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM

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#### DAHL DANCE CENTER

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3701 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington 651.605.5784 tricia@danceandentertainment.com www.danceandentertainment.com

#### DANCE WITH US AMERICA

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#### DANCELIFE BALLROOM

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

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stillwatercotillion@gmail.com 651/238-7636 Contacts: Patty & Stephen Ogborn

#### DE Studios

3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington 952-392-9631 www.de-studios.com

#### LADANZA DANCE CLUB

Stillwater, MN 651.439.3152 Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub Contacts: Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

#### LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB

320.763.6432 danceclub@lakesideballroom.org www.lakesideballroom.org

#### LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB

www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

#### MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB

763.442.1618 www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com

#### REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB

952.941.0906 www.tcrebels.com

#### SOCIAL DANCE CLUB

952-475-0586, billcarlson@usinternet.com

#### STARDUST DANCE CLUB

stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

#### SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB

Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis 952.894.1412 www.suburbanwinterset.com

#### TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

612.224.2905 www.mntango.org

#### TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER

3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis 612.722.2914 www.tapestryfolkdance.org

#### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

bdc@umn.edu Is.ad/umnbdc

#### USA DANCE, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011

info@usadance-minnesota.org www.usadance-minnesota.org

#### **SERVICES**

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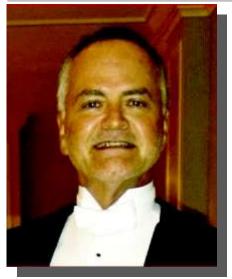
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#### **INSTRUCTORS**

Scott Anderson	612.816.4446
Wanda Bierbraurer	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
Bonnie Inveen	612.978.9371
Julie Jacobson	651.261.6442
Lukas Klotzsche	561.502.2822
Jay Larson	651.387.3886
Kristina Lee	715.821.9039
Deanne Michael	612.508.9255
Monica Mohn	612.874.0747
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Mary Rosenstiel	612.720.2584
Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

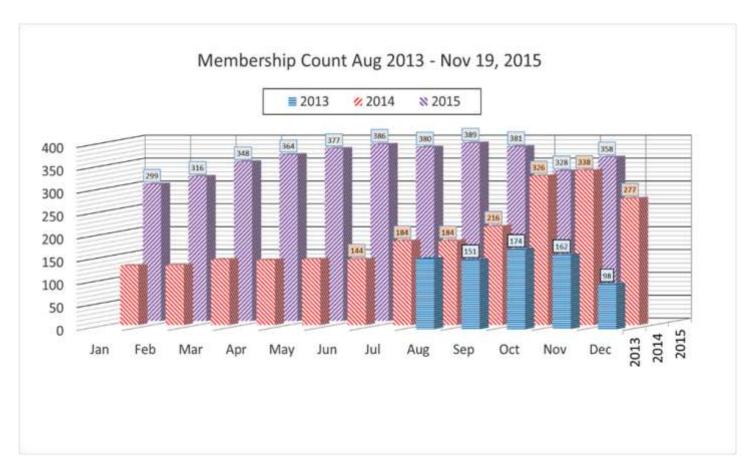


Leland and Leslie Whitney plan to compete at the USA Dance Senior IV National DanceSport Championships, Feb 20–21, 2016.

# President's Corner

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

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 membership count in 2015, relative to the last two years on a month by month basis, has increased membership count every month.



Since January 2015, membership count has remained steady or has grown every month, other than the expected decrease in the month of October 2015. This was anticipated because in October nearly one hundred

memberships expired and were not expected to be renewed. Many of these members joined in October 2014 in order to participate in the 2014 USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 Board elections. In spite of this expectation, membership count grew slightly in October this year relative to October last year.

Chapter Board elections historically have distorted membership count during the Fall election season, so it makes sense to compare membership this year, a non-election year, to the non-election year 2013. At the end of November 2013, membership count was 162. On 19 November 2015, membership count was 358, an increase of 196 or 121%.

As stated on the Chapter Website, <u>www.usadance-minnesota.org</u>: Our mission is to improve the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area, to promote ballroom dancing in the Twin Cities, and to help interested individuals connect with the ballroom dance community.

Membership count growth indicates that the quantity of ballroom dancing is improving. Through Project Dance, the currently free-for-members beginner dance lessons offered by the Chapter every Sunday afternoon, and through the one-hour lesson offered before the Chapter monthly dance, the quality of ballroom dancing is also improving.

#### COMPETITION CALENDAR

Jan 8-10, 2016

#### **Snow Ball Competition**

Hosted by Donna Edelstein, Minneapolis, MN

Jan 15-17, 2016

#### Manhattan Amateur Classic (The MAC) - NQE 2016

Hosted by Greater New York Chapter #3004, Secaucus, NJ

Feb 20-21, 2016

#### Mid-Atlantic Championships—NQE 2016

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

Apr 1-3, 2016

#### **2016 National DanceSport Championships**

USA Dance National Championships to be held in Baltimore, MD

June, 2016

#### NJ DanceSport Classic Summer Sizzler - NQE 2017

Hosted by Mario Battista & Wendi Davies, Hackensack, NJ

Jun 24-26, 2016

#### **Gumbo DanceSport Championships—NQE 2017**

Hosted by Gumbo LA Chapter #5031, Baton Rouge, LA

July 7-9, 2016

Twin Cities Open, Minneapolis, MN

Aug 5-7, 2016

#### Derby City DanceSport Championships—NQE 2017

Hosted by Greater Louisville Chapter # 2021, Louisville, KY

#### **COMPETITION RESULTS** Chicago DanceSport Challenge October 30 - November 1, 2015

#### Jeremy Anderson & Yuko Taniguchi

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Smooth

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Adult Championship Smooth

1st (of 2) Amateur Senior I Championship Smooth

1<sup>st</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Standard

6<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Novice Standard

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior I Gold Standard

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 5) Amateur Senior I Novice Standard

#### **Gregory Bajer & Ligaya Carlos**

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 13) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard

1st (of 3) Amateur Senior I Bronze Standard

1<sup>st</sup> (of 4) Amateur Senior I Silver Standard

#### Tyler Bridges & Andrea Wynn

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

#### Josh Dowell & Audrey Haugen

5<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth

11<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth 7<sup>th</sup> (of 13) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm

10<sup>th</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

#### Wyatt Gifford & Samantha Johnson

1<sup>st</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth

4<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 13) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard

5<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard

#### John Hinks & McKenzie VanderHagen

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth

10<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth

#### John Hinks & Rachel Marusinec

6<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm

8<sup>th</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

10<sup>th</sup> (of 13) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard

#### David Huang & Veronica Quinones

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm

6<sup>th</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Latin

5<sup>th</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Silver Latin

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

1<sup>st</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Smooth

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 6) Amateur Adult Novice Smooth

1<sup>st</sup> (of 5) Amateur Senior I Gold Smooth

1st (of 3) Amateur Senior I Novice Smooth

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Standard

5<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Novice Standard

1st (of 4) Amateur Senior I Gold Standard

1st (of 5) Amateur Senior I Novice Standard

1st (of 7) Amateur Adult Open Syllabus Intl. V. Waltz

1st (of 2) Amateur Senior I Open Syllabus Intl. V.

Waltz

#### Michael Kasinkas & Taylor Wall

5<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Smooth

4<sup>th</sup> (of 4) Amateur Adult Championship Smooth

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Standard

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Novice Standard

6th (of 7) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Rhythm

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 3) Amateur Adult Championship Rhythm

#### David Molstad & Allison Lund x

7<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth

12<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth

12<sup>th</sup> (of 13) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard

11th (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard

4<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Rhythm

5<sup>th</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

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

8<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth

6<sup>th</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Smooth

6<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Adult Novice Rhythm

5<sup>th</sup> (of 7) Amateur Adult Pre-Champ Rhythm

#### **Gregory Prasch & Susan Prasch**

1<sup>st</sup> (of 5) Amateur Senior II Novice Smooth

1st (of 5) Amateur Senior II Pre-Champ Smooth

1st (of 4) Amateur Senior III Novice Smooth

1<sup>st</sup> (of 6) Amateur Senior III Pre-Champ Smooth

4th (of 8) Amateur Senior II Novice Standard

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 9) Amateur Senior II Pre-Champ Standard

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 5) Amateur Senior III Novice Standard

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 11) Amateur Senior III Pre-Champ Standard

1<sup>st</sup> (of 7) Amateur Senior III Open Syllabus Intl. V.

1st (of 6) Amateur Senior II Open Syllabus Intl. V. Waltz

#### Dom Pandy & Anjelica Montano

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Smooth 7<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth 5<sup>th</sup> (of 13) Amateur Adult Bronze Standard 11<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard 5<sup>th</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm 2<sup>nd</sup> (of 3) Amateur Adult Gold Rhythm 2<sup>nd</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Latin 4<sup>th</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Silver Latin

#### Joel Torgerson & Elizabeth Weaver

1<sup>st</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth 1<sup>st</sup> (of 12) Amateur Adult Silver Rhythm

#### Joel Torgerson & Tijen Petersen

2<sup>nd</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Smooth 3<sup>rd</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard 7<sup>th</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Standard 1<sup>st</sup> (of 3) Amateur Adult Gold Rhythm

#### Kevin Viratyosin & Karen Maldonado

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Smooth 8<sup>th</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Gold Standard 4<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Standard

#### **Kevin Viratyosin & Rachel Marusinec**

5<sup>th</sup> (of 14) Amateur Adult Silver Smooth 5<sup>th</sup> (of 10) Amateur Adult Bronze Latin 3<sup>rd</sup> (of 8) Amateur Adult Silver Latin

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

16<sup>th</sup> (of 19) Amateur Senior II Silver Smooth 6<sup>th</sup> (of 17) Amateur Senior III Silver Smooth

#### Nicholas Westlake & Neli Petkova

3<sup>rd</sup> (of 4) Amateur Adult Championship Standard



Saturday Salsa Night Kids & Parents dance
Friday Dance Party Teenagers dance
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## AND THE SURVEY SAYS . . .

By Bonnie Burton, USA Dance District 2 Director

The survey says that USA Dance Minnesota, on average, is a group of middle-aged, silver (intermediate) level, social dancers who attend 5-8 monthly USA Dances per year! A summary of highlights is shown below. Detailed results, including many graphs and charts, may be viewed on the website: <a href="www.usadance-minnesota.org">www.usadance-minnesota.org</a>

#### Background

- The survey link was emailed to members of the dance community and also posted on Facebook.
- Survey responses were accepted electronically during the period Sept. 24 Oct. 15, 2015. No paper surveys were used.
- Responses were anonymous, although a few respondents voluntarily provided contact info.
- The survey consisted of 25 questions, carefully developed and designed to gather feedback about three main activity areas of USA Dance Minnesota: monthly dances; the monthly newsletter; and project dance lessons.

#### Summary Information

- A majority of the responders (67%) said the monthly dances were important or very important to their membership with USA Dance Minnesota.
- A majority (60%) responded the newsletter was important or very important to their USA Dance Minnesota membership.
- A majority of responders (65%) said Project Dance was NOT important to their USA Dance membership; however an enthusiastic subset (35%) said it was VERY important.

#### **Demographics**

- The survey was completed electronically by 73 responders.
- Most of the responders (80%) are current members of USA Dance-Minnesota.
- The majority consider themselves to be at the intermediate-silver dance level (54%), and identify as social (63%) dancers.
- Slightly more males (52%) then females (48%) responded.
- A large majority (70%) are in the 56+ year age category.

#### Your current dancelevel: (72 respondents)



#### Monthly Dances

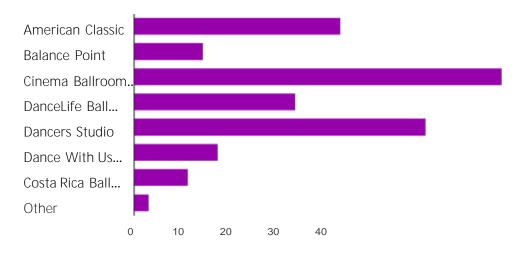
- 75% of the respondents attend some monthly dances.
- They attend for the following reasons: they like the music; if it's a convenient location; to see their friends; and because good dancers attend the dances.
- Favorite studios are American Classic Ballroom; Cinema Ballroom; and Dancers Studio.
- Main reasons to not attend dances: schedule conflicts (48%), and poor location/venue (28%).
- Almost 40% would like 'dance hosts who dance with the guests' to be at the dances.

### How many monthly USA Dance sponsored dances do you attend per year? (73 respondents.)



#### My MOST favorite locations for the monthly dance are: (Choose up to 3)

(64 respondents/163 answers)



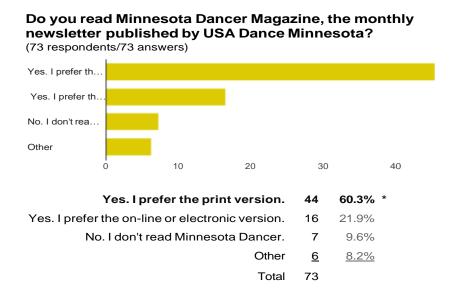
American Classic Ballroom	27	42.2% *
Balance Pointe Studios	9	14.1% closed
Cinema Ballroom	48	<b>75</b> % *
DanceLife Ballroom	21	32.8%
Dancers Studio	38	59.4% *
Dance With Us America	11	17.2%
Costa Rica Ballroom	7	10.9%
Other	2	3.1%

#### Project Dance

- More than half of the responders (57%) have NOT attended Project Dance; 42% HAVE attended; and this group appears to be a small, but very enthusiastic subset of the membership.
- Important reasons to attend include: dance being taught (55%); affordable (50%); convenient location (34%).
- Most (37%) learned about project dance via the newsletter; many (17%) heard about it from friends (word of mouth).
- Favorite Project Dance studios include: Cinema Ballroom; Dancers Studio; and DanceLife Ballroom.
- While many said they would NOT attend lessons if there was a small charge, a larger majority said the chapter SHOULD charge a fee to contain costs instead of discontinuing the program.
- Those who take private or other lessons, or have schedule conflicts, do not attend Project Dance.
- Many said the lessons were too basic, or indicated they would attend if the lessons were offered at the intermediate level.

#### Monthly Newsletter

- The majority of responders (60%) read Minnesota Dancer and prefer the print version.
- Feelings are mixed about electronic delivery: 42% said 'Yes, do it' but 29% said 'No, and I'm NOT willing to pay for it'.
- Articles, event photos, and the Dancer's Night Out listing are the most popular sections; followed closely by Dr. Dance and the cover photo.
- We received many comments about how to make the newsletter more interesting: most were positive; a few were critical. There were many requests for dance etiquette, technique, floor craft articles.



The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter Board will carefully consider the survey results as they prepare their work plans for next year (2016). Stay tuned!





Elizabeth Dickinson is a life/ executive coach and amateur ballroom dancer.

# Your Dance Presence

By Elizabeth Dickinson

One definition of presence is the ability to project a sense of ease, poise, or self-assurance, especially before an audience.

Another definition of presence is a person or thing that exists or is present in a place but is not seen.

In dance competitions or even on the social floor, presence is something that is felt even more than it is seen.

There are visible physical ways to enhance presence (standing up straight, smiling, etc.) These are valuable because neuroscience suggests that a positive physical change to our posture also improves our emotional and mental state.

The reason we want to watch some dance couples more than others, or we are drawn to dance with one person more than another sometimes comes down to the presence they project, and their enjoyment in dancing.

Cultivating the sense that you belong somewhere, that you have a right to be there, and that you are enjoying what you're doing all contributes to the presence you project.

When I was an actor, the expression for establishing presence was "taking stage". Taking stage meant walking on as if you belonged, as if it was natural that people would approve of you, and with a sense that what was to come would be worth watching.

May we pursue our paths on and off the dance floor with a sense of confidence that we belong,

Best wishes,

Elizabeth



### Dance Floor Etiquette

Reprint of a past article from Minnesota Dancer, November 2014

Everyone is entitled to space on the dance floor, but in an acceptable location. Dance traffic travels in a counter-clockwise direction in concentric tracks on the dance floor. This is called the "line of dance".

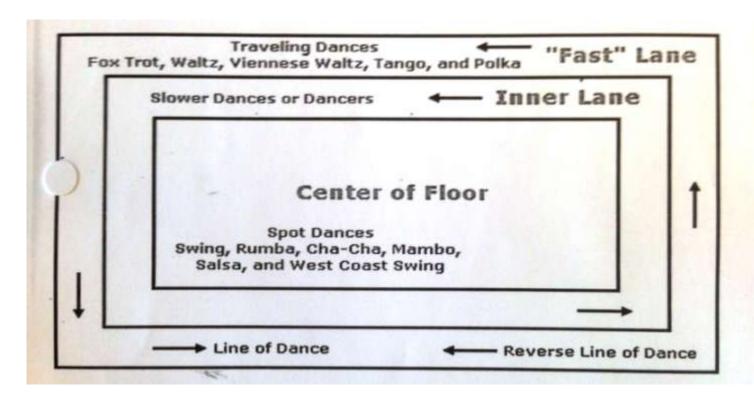
Faster-traveling dancers use the fast (or outside) lane. Such dances include: waltz, foxtrot, quickstep, tango, polka, Viennese waltz, samba, county two-step and so forth. They generally have the right of way, but should not cut through floor center. Do not go back line of dance without looking to make sure you're clear.

Slower (and beginner) dancers use the slow (or inner) lane, as well as country partner dancing.

Floor center is for spot (or position) dancers (jive, rumba, west coast swing, meringue, night-club two-step, cha -cha, mambo and bolero) and line dancers . Do not dance in the outside lanes unless everyone else is doing the same dance at the same time.

Following dance floor etiquette is a way to fully use the dance floor and avoid accidental collisions. If a collision occurs, it's common practice to apologize, even if it wasn't your fault. Avoid standing and socializing on the floor. Be sure to yield to oncoming dancers as you enter the dance space. Do not cut across the floor if a dance is in progress. The floor diagram below shows dance positioning.

Happy Dancing!!!





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

# Cruising and Dancing on the Queen Mary 2

By Suzi Blumberg

When local dancer, Dede Ouren, heard that Shinya McHenry of DanceLife Ballroom was offering a dance cruise on the Queen Mary II (QM2), she knew she had to go! She was getting ready to retire from a 52 year career in healthcare and had just sold her home of 33 years. She loves to travel, but had only been on river cruises. It was time to celebrate and check off another trip on her bucket list!

Shinya is a veteran of cruises – over 25 of them, but he had never been on the Cunard Line. He had always heard that they were the best cruiseline for ballroom dancers, because of their live orchestra and the huge ballroom dance floor! It was soon confirmed that the QM2 is indeed the ultimate trip for ballroom dancers. Six people from the Twin Cities boarded the ship at New York City on September 27 for seven days. The others cruising with Shinya and Dede were Nancy Williams, Dolores Houle, Ray Stiff and Brent Morrow.





As they sailed through the New York harbor, passing the Statue of Liberty and Manhattan Island, a live band was playing and champagne was being poured. The "Champagne Sail-Away" was on the top deck of the ship—poolside on the 11<sup>th</sup> deck.

There were two other dance groups also on this cruise. New Jersey had a group of 27 and another group of 20 from Philadelphia. The ship was designed to be a ballroom dance ship and had one beautiful large dance floor, roughly 25 feet wide and 43 feet long--the largest dance floor at sea. There was also a night club that had a smaller dance floor. Six dance hosts were provided by Cunard to dance with the single ladies, and Shinya said they were great. They never stopped dancing!

Dancing took place from 8:30 to midnight each evening. The orchestra played all ballroom and latin numbers. The people on the cruise were older and it definitely catered to the more elegant type. The dress code was dressy. Every evening the men wore a coat and the women were stunning in their gowns. It was very elegant!

The cruise began in Southampton England with over 2500 passengers. Not all were dancers, but many came to watch. There were dancers from all over the world—35 different countries. People who go on these cruises have gone a number of times. One person Shinya talked to said they had been on 8 Cunard cruises in a year! Another said he had never seen the dance floor so crowded.

Most of the dancers did International Standard style and Latin dancing, not the American style that is done more often here. Shinya was especially interested in what the English called Sequence Dancing. Sequence Dancing is where a pre-set pattern of movement is followed to a pre-determined order of music. I have a feeling we might be learning this form of dance at DanceLife Ballroom. They also did English Mixers, which are different from our mixers, so maybe Shinya will incorporate those in his future dance parties as well.

Dede loved the activities on the ship. She took an IT class and loved the musical performances each evening that included an eight piece orchestra. She thoroughly enjoyed a lecture by two US astronauts, Robert 'Hoot' Gibson and his wife, Rhea Seddon. They were the first couple to be married in the NASA program. She bought an autographed copy of Rhea's book, "Go For Orbit". The Canyon Ranch Spa gave classes every day on health and wellness. They also offered workout classes.

Every afternoon at 3 o'clock was a Tea Dance. Tea and crumpets, mini sandwiches and delicious desserts were served. There was a ballroom dance class offered during the tea. Other amenities were sitting areas around the ship for reading, having tea and three lounges. It was simply elegant! Dede loved the classical pianist, Phillip Smith, from England, a fourstring quartet called Sunrise Strings that played at dinner, a harpist played during the afternoon tea, a jazz trio, a band that played contemporary music and a Dixieland band that played one night. A total of 34 musicians were on the ship.

The QM2 is the flagship of the Cunard Ship Line and is billed as the 'most magnificent ship ever built'.

The cruise was called the New York to Quebec, New England and Canada Tour. This year, the Cunard Line is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

Dede enjoyed taking ballroom dance lessons taught everyday by Shinya and Russian dance stars Sergey and Olga Konovaltseva, who also performed three times during the cruise.

She loved stopping at the ports that offered excursions like lighthouse tours, biking, walking and bus tours. In Bar Harbor, Maine, she took a schooner sail excursion. Next was St. John, New Brunswick, Canada but because of the Blood Moon, there wasn't enough water to get into the harbor. They sailed on to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada instead, where Dede enjoyed a ride on the tall ship through the harbor. The last port was Quebec which had the same options as the other ports.

Shinya says he is definitely going to do this cruise again next year. He said it's the best cruise that any ballroom dancer can go on. Dede agreed that the cruise was 'over the top' and the trip of a lifetime! She enjoyed having Shinya as a dance partner and teacher, meeting people on the ship, the variety of activities and the food was wonderful. She gave a big shout-out to Eugenie Lyons for her great scheduling!



# Heart of Dance Letter to the Board of Directors of USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter

November 3, 2015

c/o Joyce Thompson

To the Board of Directors of USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter:

On behalf of Co-Founder Andrea Mirenda, myself, and our entire Heart of Dance and Dancing Classrooms team, thank you for your outstanding support of Heart of Dance and our new Dancing Classrooms program. We were thrilled with the benefit dance that USA Dance Minnesota Chapter organized and supported on our behalf with your generous time, talents, and financial gifts. Your organization is helping us bring the benefits of ballroom dance to fifth-graders in Minnesota this school year and beyond.

We are indebted to Joyce Thompson, a member of our Dancing Classrooms Advisory Committee, who invested time, talent and even cooking skills to the success of the event. Joyce, you are awesome! We also want to extend a big thank you to all the other USA Dance members who helped with the event, including Leslie Whitney of our Advisory Committee, Carol Post, who contributed auction items, and the many other volunteers who participated. We also appreciated the visibility given to our efforts in *Minnesota Dancer* magazine.

The benefit dance not only raised awareness of Dancing Classrooms among the ballroom dance community, but resulted in new donors to support our efforts and new volunteers for our Classroom Assistant program. The attendees provided a warm welcome for the talented fifth grade performers and their families—what joy when we all danced the Stomp together!

As you know, this fall we started Dancing Classrooms with two Teaching Artists serving 11 classrooms of over 250 students in four Twin Cities schools. Most of our students are underserved, and would not otherwise experience this opportunity. You saw how our fifth-graders are making great progress! Not only are they gaining self-esteem and self-confidence, they are learning gender respect, discipline, and teamwork. A young lady

who refused to join her class at the start broke through her barrier at the fifth session, and told the principal with wide eyes of joy, "I can *do* this!" Her confidence soared as she discovered her inner talents while her relationships with classmates also improved.

Check out videos of our young performers at the benefit at <a href="www.HeartofDanceMN.org">www.HeartofDanceMN.org</a> or on our Facebook page. One video has had over 1,000 views! To stay informed of what your support allows us to accomplish, "like" us on Facebook and sign up for our eNewsletter at (http://www.heartofdancemn.org/eNewsSignup).

The fall semester residency will conclude with our exciting Colors of the Rainbow Team Match on December 13, 2015 at 3 p.m. at Dancers Studio. With your support, Heart of Dance is looking to expand to 15 classrooms for second semester of this school year. If you would like to introduce Dancing Classrooms to a school or if you know an educator who might want to partner with us, do let us know.

Thank you again for your support! You are helping to transform young lives one step at a time.

Warmly,

Ember Reichgott Junge

Co-Founder and Development Director

emberri@heartofdancemn.org

CC: Andrea Mirenda

Board Members and Advisory Committee, Heart of Dance/Dancing Classrooms





Ember Reichgott Junge
Co-Founder and
Development Director

# USA Dance Showcase at the

## Mall of America

# Photos by John Burns



























# Dancing in the Twin Cities III: West Coast Swing By Bob Anhol t

I have been dancing since 2000. I'm now a mostly variety ball-room dancer, so my memberships in B-Dales Club and TC Rebels Club have lapsed, but I once regularly attended these dances and classes. Linda Checky provided information about TC Rebels Club for this article.

This is the third in a series of articles about places to dance in the Twin Cities aiming to describe the culture of local dance events: types of music, participants, size of the dance floors, etc. These articles are designed for new dancers, out of towners, or long-time local dancers who want to try a new place. This article is a supplement to Lynne's Dance News or Dancer's Night Out list in this magazine and others which should be consulted for date, time, location, and cost information. Lynne's Dance News can be found at: www.organizeronduty.com/ testimonials.html.

The Minnesota West Coast Swing Dance Club holds regular dances on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. As the name is a mouthful, this is usually referred to as the B-Dales Club after the restaurant where the dances are held on Dale Street in St. Paul near Highway 36. This is one of the oldest dance clubs in the cities. having been founded in 1983 by Loren Greenberg and several others. It has met upstairs at the B-Dales restaurant since 1984. To reach the dance, park if there's space in the lot down the hill behind the club and enter the door on the bottom left of the building and go upstairs. The dance floor is small and about 80 people attend these dances, but the layout works pretty well when people stay in tight slots on the floor. They play three to five west coast swing tunes then for variety play a waltz, night club, cha cha or some other tune. Loren

Greenberg was the sole DJ up to a couple of years ago, but now the DJs rotate among several experienced DJs (and swing dancers) who play at several places around the cities.

B-Dales Club is one of the few dance venues that serves alcohol (through the restaurant), but they also provide water and popcorn. Participants bring goodies for consumption during the dance break on a pot-luck basis.

The TC Rebels Club was formed 19 years ago by dancers interested in advancing the education in west coast swing. In addition to dances held on the first and third Sundays of each month, they sponsor series of west coast swing classes ranging from beginner friendly classes, to specialty classes in particular aspects of the dance form: whips, six count variations, etc. Periodically they

bring in nationally recognized pros who over the course of a weekend teach several wellattended swing classes. Look for a particularly big weekend next year as they celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Unlike the B-Dales Club, they have bounced around over the years from Harmonies Studio, to Social Dance Studio, to Dancelife Ballroom. Between 60 and 70 people attend the Sunday night dances which is a comfortable number for Dancelife Ballroom main floor. Dancelife Ballroom has two smaller ballrooms which are used when more than one class is taught or are used to spread out when big events are staged.

Both B-Dales Club and TC Rebels Club are member organizations with memberships costing about \$25 per year. The admissions discount for classes and dances is significant enough so that becoming a member pays for itself relatively quickly.

Starks puts on west coast and variety dances on alternate Fridays than B-Dales Club. Between 60 and 100 attend these dances. A half-hour lesson is taught. Most of the music is west coast with a bit of east coast swing, night club, country, waltz and a little Latin.

A few studios give classes in west coast swing that are followed by dances. Dancer's Studio teaches beginner and intermediate classes on Wednesdays at 7 pm and 10 to 20 people attend the 8 pm swing party in one of their small ballrooms. Tuesdays at Dancelife Ballroom, Todd Paulus, a former instructor at Social Dance Studio, teaches a 90-minute class at 7:30 pm followed by a dance at 9 pm. Swingesota is a newly formed organization of dancers who have taught at TC Rebels Club and other places. As of October, they are waiting for a permanent home to open up and evaluating future class offerings, so look to www.swingesota.com for updates.

All west coast swing dances and classes are DJ'd. About the only places one can dance to live Blues music in the Twin Cities are at the Tuesday Night Blues Jams at Wilebskis restaurant and, depending on the band playing, at Minnesota Music café, both in St. Paul. Bring ear plugs; their music is very loud!

Additional information can be found at www.tcrebels.com, www.mnwestcoastswingdancecl ub.com, and studio websites.



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

# Best and Worst DWTS Costumes

By Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

As I write this article, we have seen 9 weeks of "Dancing with the Stars" Season 21, with just the semi-final and finale episodes remaining. If you have been following my 'Costume Critique' blog each week, you have read about which costumes I have loved and which I've hated.

In general, I love costumes that flatter the dancer and are mono-chromatic or at least have a very pleasing color palette. I don't love costumes that show so much skin that they look more like 'hoochie mama' costumes than classy dance togs. I love costumes that make use of real straps that blend into a fabulous design rather than costumes that tack on 'invisible' nude elastic straps that aren't fooling anyone. I love costumes that combine an interesting combination of fabrics and trims that create a beautiful textured look.

I also love costumes that coordinate well with their partner's costume. On men's costumes, I love when "feminine touches" are kept at a minimum. I like to see 'just the right amount' of embellishment on masculine costumes, so as to still coordinate with their female partners but not be completely feminine. I like to see men wear actual costumes instead of just putting on a shirt and a pant, with or without a vest or a jacket. I implore you to add a touch of something interesting that helps you to create a cohesive look for your partner and you.

Week 1: I liked a black fringed cost and Anna's turque when week 2: I hated to Paula's costume. Week 3: I loved to tume and Bindi's coats.

I like costumes to be well-tailored. Any costume that fits well will make the dancer look much better than any costume that doesn't – no matter how beautiful that ill-fitting costume is. I like costumes to be age appropriate as well as body shape appropriate. Know what silhouettes work well on your *own* body and don't try to force an unflattering silhouette for your own costuming, just because you like the style.

When a dancer is spinning, one of my biggest pet peeves is that the fringe and or ruffles or other features obscure the dancer's svelte silhouette. Fringe is great, but it needs to be strategically placed on the body!

So, you've heard a few of my likes and dislikes, now I get to share my 'cheat sheet' from this 21<sup>st</sup> season of 'Dancing with the Stars':

Week 1: I liked all of the long gowns and Alexa's black fringed costume. I hated the jockey costumes and Anna's turquoise unitard.

Week 2: I hated the race car jumpsuits, but loved Paula's costume

Week 3: I loved Sharna's gown, Emma's yellow costume and Bindi's 70's costume. I hated the yellow lab coats.

Week 4: I loved most of the couple's costumes, especially Paula & Louis, Nick & Sharna, and Alex and Lindsay. I was disappointed by a few ho-hum costumes.

Week 5: I loved Nick & Witney and Alek & Emma's costumes, but hated Bindi's yellow feathered costume and Allison's blue dress. I also loved Sharna's costume.

Week 6: I loved Sharna's green disco dress and Lindsay's jail house rock costume, but didn't love Mark's animal-themed costume.

Week 7: I loved Bindi & Derek's Argentine Tango costumes and Team Nightmare's matching pinstriped costumes, but was disappointed by many of the guy's costumes.

Week 8: I loved Bindi and Tamar's costumes, but didn't like many of the guy's costumes and girl's Contemporary costumes!

Week 9: I loved the retro-influenced costumes worn by Witney and Bindi, and hated Alexa's boring white dress and the weird no-shirt, shirt on Alek.

As with all of my 'Costume Critiques', these are my personal opinions, based on my personal likes and dislikes, influenced by my B.F.A. fashion degree and decades of critiquing costumes that I see in movies, Broadway shows, dance performances and Red Carpet looks, along with all the thousands of costumes that my custom performance company has created for our clients. Yes, I loved many of them, but there have been a few that I didn't like, yet were loved by our clients. So, no matter your tastes, if your costume flatters you, it is a good costume!





# Correction for "Dancing in the Twin Cities II: Ballroom Variety Dance And Practice Parties at Dance Studios" from the October Minnesota Dancer.

Dancers Studio, with its beautiful Grand Ballroom and its newly added Sterling Hall, has a bright atmosphere for a glamorous party night. The Thursday Night Variety Dance Party is a friendly practice environment full of Dancers Studio students and ballroom dancers from the Twin Cities. Dancers Studio has two group classes at 7pm, a beginning and an intermediate class, which segue into the Variety Dance Party. The party is free to all students attending the classes and accommodates all levels of dancers. At least six Dancers Studio instructors attend each party and are happy to dance with everyone.



Dance Instructors: Meredith McKinney, Zach Robinson and Heather Kowalski.

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#### Regular programming continues:

- Sundays The Twin Cities Rebels
- Mondays- Salsa with Keri Simonson
- Tuesdays West Coast Swing with Todd Paulus
- Wednesdays Argentine Tango with Sabine Ibes & Diana Devi
- · Thursdays Bachata with Keri Simonson
- Fridays DLB Variety Dance Party with Shinya McHenry
- Saturdays Argentine Tango & Beginning West Coast Swing with John Carlson
- DLB group classes ONLY \$5

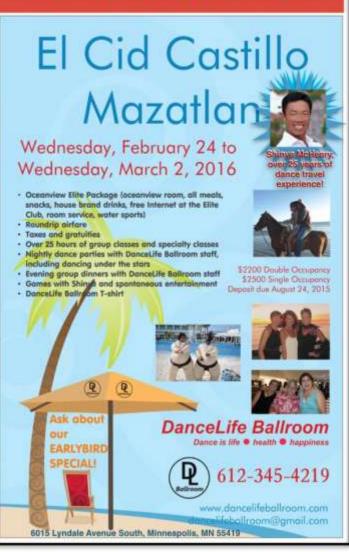
#### **December Highlights**

- 6TH Twin Cities Rebels 1st Sunday Dance 7-11 pm
- 5TH DLB 1st Saturday Dance
- 20TH Twin Cities Rebels 3rd Sunday Dance 7-11 pm
- 26TH Argentine Tango
   4th Saturday Milonga
   9:30 pm-1 am
- 20TH Twin Cities
   Rebels HOLIDAY BALL
- •28TH Scottadance & Shinya Shinding 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Shinya McHenry & Scott Anderson



# STILL ENROLLING! DANCE CAMP FOR GROWN-UPS! THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!



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