

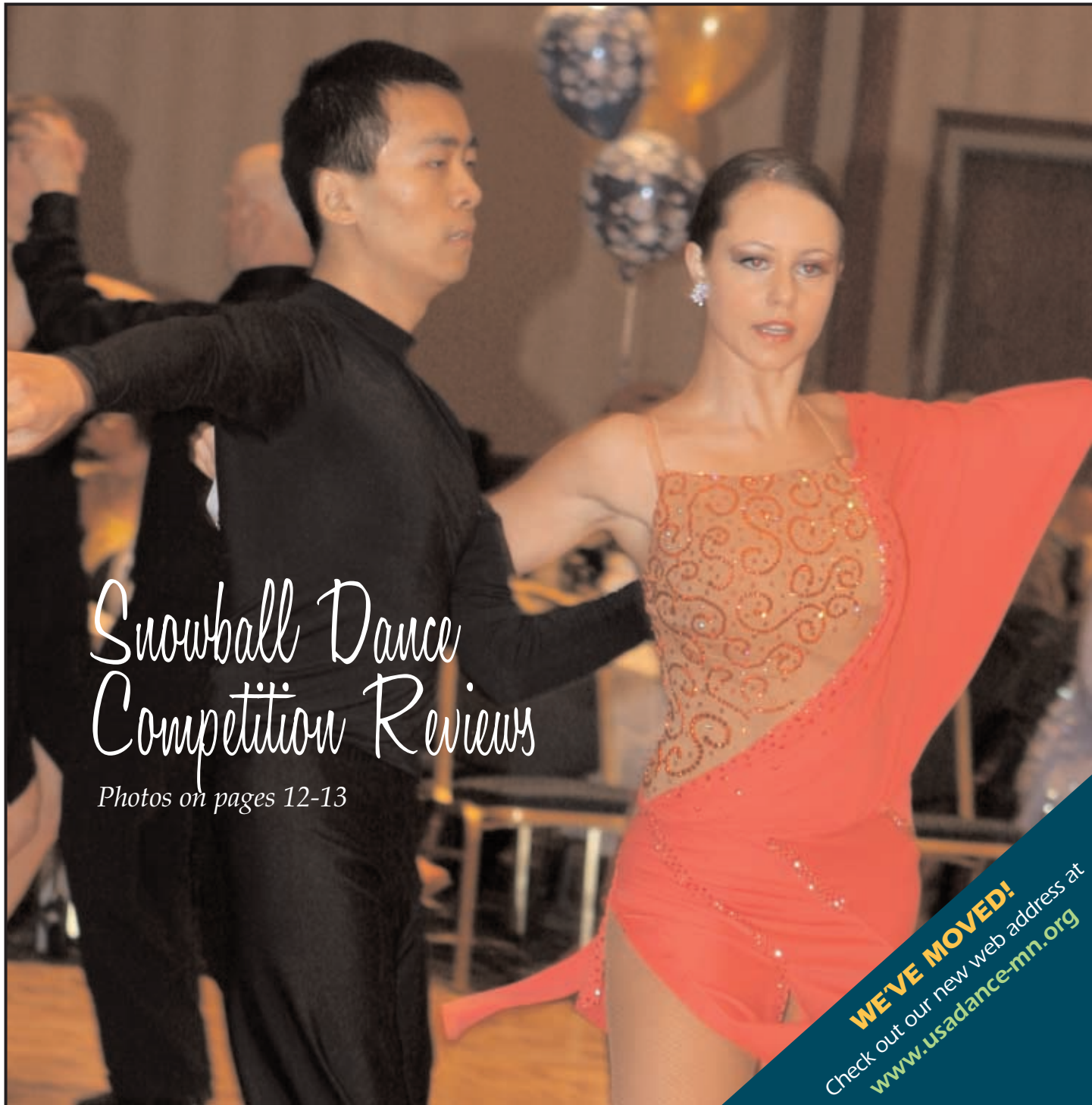
MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

February 2007



Snowball Dance Competition Reviews

Photos on pages 12-13

WE'VE MOVED!
Check out our new web address at
www.usadance-mn.org

Inside this month's issue...

The anatomy of a dance lesson, Star of the North info and more!!



Dancers Nite Out



- Fri, 02/02: First Friday Country and Swing Dance, Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 East Fourth Avenue, Shakopee; DJ: Bob Wood; FMI: 952.445.0412.
- Fri, 02/02: Club Salsero – Salsa Dance Party presented by Joy Davina at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul; FMI: 651.699.5910 or www.cinemaballroom.com.
- Sat, 02/03: Metro Variety Dance at Harmonies Dance Center (10726 France Avenue South, Bloomington); Lesson: 7:30-8:00pm; Dance: 8:30-11:00pm; DJ: David Olson; \$8 or \$6 (w/ any local dance club membership card).
- Sat, 02/10: Formal Viennese Ball at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul; Lesson: 7:30-8pm; 8-11:30pm dance to the sounds of Jerry O'Hagan's Orchestra; formal "dress to impress"; for best seating, reserve your tickets by 02/09/07 by calling 651.699.5910 or go to www.cinemaballroom.com.
- Fri, 02/16: "Havin' a Ball" singles dance @ Fridley VFW, 1040 Osborne Road, featuring City Lights Band; Foxtrot lesson: 7:30-8:30pm; Dance 8:30pm-12:30am; \$10; FMI: 763.780.3694.
- Fri-Sun, 02/16-18: The 10th Annual Star of the North DanceSport Competition to be held at the Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 East Fourth Ave., Shakopee – come and cheer on your friends or be a part of the camaraderie as a volunteer! Larger venue, more scholarships, more prizes, more excitement! FMI: call Mike Youngdahl at 763.274.1691.

Arthur Murray Dance Studio (651) 227-3200
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Babalu (612) 240-9053
800 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis. Monday Salsa Caliente Night; dance from 9pm-1am; cover \$5. Saturday Salsa Live Music Night; free salsa lesson at 9:30pm, dance to live latin music from 9pm-2am; cover \$10.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar (651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance from 8-11 pm/\$3.

Cafe Bailar Dance Club (612) 600-5129
2nd Fridays and 4th Saturdays of every month at On Your Toes school of dance: 5810 W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Lesson 7:30-8:30pm. Dance 8:30-midnight.

Cheek to Cheek Ballroom (763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN, 1st Friday Dance! Lesson 8-8:45 pm; Dance 8:45-11 pm; \$8/non-studio members; \$5/studio members.

Cinema Ballroom (651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, MN, Friday Night Dancing at the Cinema! Every Friday evening. Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am; \$10/general admission; \$6/with student ID.

Dancers Studio (651) 641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 99 Snelling Ave. N. St. Paul, MN. Every Friday night, Beginning and Advanced lesson at 8 pm, Dance 9-10 pm. \$15-25/non-members.

Hidden Haven Country Club (763) 434-4626
20520 NE Polk St., Cedar, MN Every Sunday from 6-10 pm. Classic country and rock-and-roll, the band is Ringer.

DNO continued on page 23

The 10th Annual

STAR OF THE NORTH DANCESPORT COMPETITION

February 16 - 18, 2007

**The Shakopee Ballroom
2400 East Fourth Avenue
Shakopee, Minnesota**

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

Theme of the Month...

ANATOMY OF A DANCE LESSON



Inside the Times

Dancers Nite Out	2
USADance MN Board Meeting Minutes.....	3
Editor's Intro	4
Star of the North Buzz	4
Star of the North Update	5
Nationals Update.....	5
Anatomy: Taking Both Private & Group Lessons	7
Anatomy: What Makes a Good Private Lesson?	7
Anatomy: Private Vs. Group Lessons	8
Anatomy: Might As Well Dance.....	9
Anatomy: Practicing Without a Partner	10
Anatomy: Thoughts On Dance Instruction	11
Snowball Stars.....	12
Snowball Dance Competition 2007	13
On Your Toes Silver Formation Team	17
Setting Dancing Goals for 2007	19
Demo News.....	20
Harmonies Closing	20
Etiquette Corner	21
Swaplines	22
Competition Calendar	23
Dance Contacts	24

From the Board

Minutes of the Monthly USA Dance Board Meeting
– December 3rd, 2006

Members present: Mike Jones, Debbie Thornquist, Erik Pratt, Jeff Skaalrud, Frank Kohlasch, Min Chong, Cheri Rolnick, Lisa Wu, Janie Nordberg.
Guests: DeDe Oeren, Rob Eliasoff.

Location: Erik Pratt's house, Minneapolis

Call to order: A quorum was established.
Agenda was approved.

Minutes from December and October approved.

Reports:

Treasurer's: December dance at Cinema was well-attended. Profits were donated to Sharing and Caring Hands.

A large donation was made to the Star of the North scholarship fund.

Annual budgets are due from committee chairs.

Tea Dance: The date is slightly earlier this year, on April 22, at the Lafayette Club. The date for 2008 has already been reserved for the traditional time, the first Sunday in May. Flyers and promotional ideas and materials were discussed. Flyers will be distributed at the Dance Extravaganza and SOTN. Newsletters and membership forms should be made available. Janie and Rob volunteered to help DeDe review and revise the flyers. DeDe and Erik will discuss possible incentives to encourage dancers to attend both the Tea Dance and the monthly dance that weekend.

Dance Extravaganza: Dan Viehman would like to be organizer again.

Motion made and approved to make Dan Viehman Chair of the Dance Extravaganzas.

Star of the North: Feb 16 - 18 at the Shakopee Ballroom. The Committee is meeting on Jan 3.

Old Business:

Board Elections: Min passed around the ballot that will be sent out this week. Members will have the option of mailing or e-mailing their vote or turning at the monthly dance. Ballots should be out by Monday and are due Jan 24.

Annual membership meeting: Discussed possible content and timing of it. Options include making it a separate, food-related event, making it part of a monthly dance or before a regular Board meeting. Erik will continue to investigate the options and the value of it.

New Business:

Board Notebooks: Erik passed around an example of the new Board notebooks that will be available next month. A motion was made and approved to allow spending on the new notebooks.

Volunteer Recognition: Recommended a Volunteer recognition dance, possibly in March. They will make a list of volunteers and are considering making certificates to recognize volunteers.

New USA Dance Rules: A link will be placed on the website. A handout was distributed with the summary of the rule changes.

Next Meeting: Tues, February 6, 2007 at Janie Nordberg's house, Golden Valley.

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance MN, was formed in 1991.

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

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

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meeting many new friends. For more information, call the **USA Dance MN HOTLINE:** 651-483-5467.

The *Minnesota Dancing Times* is published monthly by the members of the Minnesota Chapter of USA Dance, providing information and news of ballroom dancing to members and friends.

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Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity and content. Photos will be returned. Please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope or send high quality jpgs to Anne LaTourelle.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Anne LaTourelle, 6130 Ives Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442.

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (**high quality pdf or jpeg format ONLY**) or camera-ready artwork to **Cathy Dessert (651-415-0375 or cathydessert@comcast.net)** along with payment to **USA Dance MN**. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be typeset or designed for a small fee, contact Janie or Eileen. Payment to accompany ad.

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CLASSIFIED ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only).

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10th OF EACH MONTH
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How Do You Learn Best? from Anne LaTourelle

Welcome to the short month of February & Happy Valentines Day!

I learned first hand from being a trainer for 6 years that not everyone learns the same way or at the same speed. Some people learn by watching, (my husband learns well this way) some people learn from physically trying something (that's me) and other people learn easily by listening to someone describe something. In general, men are better at visual learning and ladies are better at auditory learning (ladies, maybe that explains why it seems men don't listen to us).

How do you learn best? Answer the following question;

1. When trying to determine the spelling of a word do you: a) picture the word in your mind b) say it out loud c) try writing it out
2. When inactive do you: a) doodle b) talk to yourself or others c) fidget or walk around.
3. When concentrating, are you distracted by: a) untidiness b) noises c) physical movement?
4. When memorizing something do you: a) write it down repeatedly b) repeat it out loud c) do something repeatedly?

If you answered with mostly A's

you are a visual learner, if you answered mostly with B's you are an auditory learner and if you answered with mostly C's you are a physical learner. If you answers followed no pattern then you probably learn well a variety of ways...lucky you!

Dance lessons are the same way. One size does not fit all. How should you prepare for a lesson? Should you try group lessons, semi-private or private lessons, or maybe a mixture of all of these? What should you expect from a good lesson? This month we explore these questions and more in "An Anatomy of a Dance Lesson". Enjoy! ■

Buzz, Buzz, Star of the North, Buzz, Buzz

Submitted By Mike Jones

It seems as though there is a lot of buzzing going on about the Star of the North DanceSport Competition; and rightfully so.

The volunteers have answered the call and we love 'em. Here is a recap of information. It's important to note the updated info regarding food and beverages.

2007 Star of the North Volunteer Information

Date: February 16-18, 2007

Location: Shakopee Ballroom, 2400 4th Avenue E., Shakopee, MN 55379.

Friday Evening Shift	5:30 PM – 12:00 AM	Competition
Saturday Morning Shift	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Competition
Saturday Afternoon Shift	1:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Competition
Saturday Evening Shift	7:30 PM – 12:00 AM	Competition

Shakopee Ballroom prefers that USA Dance-MN doesn't take in and/or sell any food or beverages. They offer a cash bar for soft drinks but they do not have food available. There are a number of restaurants and fast food locations in the immediate area. For volunteers that are working multiple shifts, we'll make special opportunities so that they can get food from outside sources. This is important to note because hard working volunteers can get mighty thirsty and hungry.

Competitors, volunteers, spectators et al... see you there.

And bring your dance shoes.

Email: SOTNvolunteers@USADance-MN.org ■



Star of the North Update

By Mike Youngdahl

By the time this edition of The Dancing Minnesota is published, there will be just over two weeks before the 2007 Star of the North State Games Competition. being held at the Shakopee Ballroom from February 16th-18th. Last month's issue of Dancing Minnesota had the theme of watching dance, while my article was urging participation to compete. This month's edition is about The Anatomy of a Dance Lesson, and I'm writing to ask for your support in coming and watching the competition. For those who know me, it's no surprise that my timing is off, once again. But I digress.

For those of you who have attended previous Star of the North competitions as spectators, I say a heartfelt "thank you." As a novice competitor who still gets nervous before each competition, your enthusiasm does make it easier for me. You may not notice the trembling knees and sweaty palms, but I'll have them. I may be calm on the outside, but I'm paddling like heck underneath. Just like a duck.

When someone who is unfamiliar with them asks what a competition is like, my first response is usually to say, "It's not your normal spectator activity. There are sights you don't often see, and sounds you don't often hear. It is sensory overload. But I love it." I love to "people watch"

and a dance competition is a veritable laboratory of human psychosis. Some competitors get nervous (like me), while others are fresh as daisies. Look at the on deck area of a competition to see what I'm talking about.

I'll be honest, though, it's not for everyone. There are fuddy-duddy's out there who will refuse to try anything new and different, but I feel that is their loss.

The mission of Star of the North is to provide an affordable way to get people involved in the participation and watching of ballroom dancing. You can help us by attending as spectators and bringing along those you think might enjoy seeing some of the best amateur dancing in the region. With the popularity of Dancing with the Stars, I have to believe you know at least two people who would think it's a hoot.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. For the Friday and Saturday evening session prices are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. The price for the day session on Saturday is \$1 for students and \$5 for adults. For more information, please call Mike Youngdahl at 763.274.1691. ■



Nationals Update

Editors Note; this excerpt is from an email from Ken Richards who will be the new DanceSport VP beginning in January, 2007.

First an introduction - I am Ken Richards and as of January first I will be assuming the reins of DanceSport VP from Gary Stroick. Gary's service to USA Dance and its Athletes will be remembered for many great contributions. Fortunately Gary remains available to assist us on special projects.

I expect the coming year to be an interesting one as the IDSF continues to foster a relationship with the professional dance community and run a World Professional Championship. There are several items that will affect all US DanceSport Athletes as of January 2007. This newsletter covers some of the highlights.

Ken Richards, VP-Elect of DanceSport - USA Dance

A new version of the rule book has been released. You will find this on the website along with an easy to use summary document. Special thanks to Turtle Brennan, Gary Stroick and all the other DSC members that contributed to this project. (http://usabda.org/dancesport_competitors/)

The biggest news in the new rulebook is the removal of virtually all restrictions for "Material Gain". This is a big change that is expected to help move all the US Athletes

forward. You no longer risk being classified as a professional for accepting payments for lessons or performances. You are only a "professional" when you declare yourself to be one, or register as a professional or compete as a professional in a Pro/Am competition.

Look for other important rule changes on costumes and the Senior age divisions. ■





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(Click on Star of the North)

ANATOMY OF A DANCE LESSON



Taking Both Group & Private Lessons

By Andy Trawick

As a lead, group lessons and private lessons go hand in hand for me. With group classes I enjoy learning new patterns presented as well as dancing with a variety of partners. Dancing with different partners helps me improve my social dance skills. I am challenged when leading people of different heights as well as different skill levels. Having danced with someone in a group class I feel more comfortable dancing with the same person at a social dance. Group lessons familiarize me with many dance instructors whereas with private lessons are generally with one instructor.

Private lessons are superb for working on the details of basic skills as well as mastering patterns learned in group classes. I've taken private lessons with and without a partner. For lessons without a

partner I enjoy working on basics (a never ending task) and learning new patterns suggested by the instructor.

When I encounter difficulties social dancing with specific patterns I'll ask the instructor how I can improve my lead skills for those patterns. Sometimes I find my timing is off, lead isn't clear enough, or some other nuance that isn't always obvious to me. Once in awhile the instructor will be the lead and I'll be the follow so I can understand the issue being reviewed. When a lesson includes a partner, usually for an upcoming showcase or competition, I find the lesson invaluable for honing the steps we intend to dance. The instructor is immensely helpful in providing feedback to both of us as individuals and as a team. ■

What Makes a Good Private Lesson?

By Donna Edelstein

A good private lesson requires a teacher that understands your goals and interests and can customize each lesson to give you what you want.

For some students a realistic goal would be to become comfortable leading on a crowded floor. Another student would want to work on techniques that can make their dancing feel more natural and look better. A competitive student might want to make a specific final or win a certain title.

Each person is different and has a unique learning style, level of interest, and amount of time and money that they are willing to commit to dancing. A good teacher will adapt their content, teaching methodology, and type of feedback to match the student's needs, level of expertise and personality.

A qualified dance teacher should have passed professional exams in each style of dance that they are teaching. They should have a joy

about dance and a passion for sharing their knowledge. They should strongly suggest that you perfect certain techniques that are essential to dance competence before moving you on to more advanced levels. They should give you honest feedback in a positive way. They should be polite and respectful. They should take an interest in your dance progress.

Students should be able to purchase only the services that they use. A less experienced teacher should cost less than a more experienced teacher.

Dancing is something that we do because we develop a love for it. Nobody should feel roped into lessons that they can't afford, have to buy a package that includes items they don't want, or feel restricted from learning at their own pace.

Dance should be one of the great joys in your life! ■

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FRI	LATIN NIGHT	7:30-12am	Bio-cushion
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ANATOMY OF A DANCE LESSON



Private vs. Group Lessons

By Caroline Olson

Two of the most common ways to learn to dance are by taking either group lessons or private lessons. So, is one method better than the other? Both offer many advantages while they have things about them that may be a drawback for some people. I do both and I like them both. I teach group and private lessons and I also take group and private lessons. Sometimes while taking a group class, I may already know the pattern. What I get out of the class is practice time to work on my technical dancing. I will often lead the patterns so that I get more practice time doing the other part.

Group lessons have a lot of pluses on their side. For starters, they are an economical way to work on your dancing. Group lessons are usually only a fraction of the cost of a private lesson. That, in and of itself, is the determining factor in many people's decision on how to go undergo the learning process. However, they offer so much more than affordability.

There is the social aspect of a group environment. Getting to know other people who are learning the same things at the same time makes the experience so much fun. These people often times become your peers within the dance community. They encourage you, help you and laugh with (not at) you. It is a wonderful way to make new friends and find people to go out dancing with or to practice with. A well-taught group class not only will teach you dance patterns, but they offer good information on technique for doing your footwork, body positioning and proper lead and follow techniques.

How much you get out of a group class depends a lot on where you are in the learning process. If you are brand new to dance, just getting the basic pattern down may be all you really latch on to. If you continue to take classes, eventually you won't have to concentrate quite so much on what your feet need to do, and you can put more emphasis into your body positioning, how to lead or follow patterns so that you can dance.

The great thing here is that in a group setting, you really need to learn to lead or follow well, because you are continually rotating partners and don't get comfortable with knowing just how your partner is going to feel when you dance. To me, this is the main reason for dancing: To get to dance with everyone and be able to have a good time doing it. Knowing that you are competent enough to lead or follow almost anyone and have both parties enjoy the

experience is pure joy.

Some people are not comfortable in a group setting, or feel that they do not learn well in that environment. Or, if a couple wants to dance only with each other, either socially or competitively, they often choose to learn by private instruction. There are those who take group classes and want to supplement them with private instruction to help them improve faster.

Private lessons are a great way of getting one-on-one interaction with a professional who can really work on what you need to work on. They can see and feel what you are doing well, or what bad habits you have picked up. When you take a private, the information you are given is specifically meant for you. Many times in a group class, an instructor will describe something that is being done incorrectly, but we are sure they are talking about someone else. As a result we don't pay close attention what they are saying.

Private lessons can be fairly expensive. Their value is that you are spending the entire time on your dancing and how to improve it, not just general information that may not pertain to what you are doing. The learning curve for private lessons is much faster. I originally took privates to work on my own issues and try to improve in general. Once I decided to try competitive dancing, I realized there is no other way to really do this other than by taking private lessons. In many (most) ways, my dancing has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 2 years, even though there are times when I question why I seem to take so long to see improvement. They force me to continually work on all the



PRIVATE VS. GROUP continued on page 9

ANATOMY OF A DANCE LESSON



Might as Well Dance

By Sandy Havrilla

*"We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance." ~
Japanese proverb
Odoru ahou ni miru ahou, onaji aho nara odoranya son son.*

Which literally means:

"We are foolish people who dance or see (people dance).
If after all we are foolish, we lose if we don't dance."

Others have translated:

Dancers are fools; lookers-on are fools!
If both are fools, why not be dancing fools!

We started taking ballroom dancing lessons about one year ago after a 26 year hiatus. Gathering friends together we registered as a group and started once again to reacquire ourselves with the joy of dancing.

Tuesday night quickly became the best night of the week. We spent time with friends learning to do something that we as a couple truly enjoy. Group classes gave us the opportunity to spend time with friends away from work. We learned basic steps from a variety of different dances. Changing partners periodically we could learn with different people breaking some of our bad habits and sharing some of our good habits.

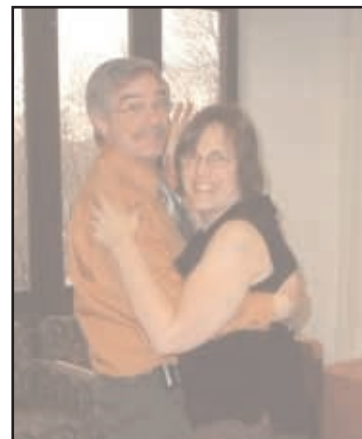
Our instructors were wonderful and helped make the evening an enjoyable and productive one. They were always good about asking what we wanted to try and teaching at a pace that worked for everyone.

Eventually we reached a point where we wanted to focus on learning as a couple. We sought out who agreed to work with us on a more individual level. It gave us the opportunity to be taught at a rate that suited us and not the larger group.

I found myself wanting to learn the more technical aspects of each dance. At the same time I wanted to continue to learn a variety of dances and different steps to each dance. This improved our versatility when we went out dancing.

Semi private lessons are more conducive to this form of teaching. Now we do more than just take lessons, we watch competitions and follow dance shows. We are learning to identify what makes a good dancer and recognizing the technique required in each dances.

We have come a long way in the past year but we are still shy about dancing surrounded by experienced dancers. We have to remind ourselves that everyone had to start at the beginning just like we did. The more we dance and practice the better we become.



We made a commitment for the New Year to practice one to two times per week outside of dance class. This is a passion that we share and can enjoy together for many years to come. We need to remember the Japanese proverb whenever we hesitate to go out on the floor with more experienced dancers: "We are fools whether we dance or not so we might as well dance" and the Hopi saying "For to dance is to hear our hearts speak." ■

PRIVATE VS. GROUP cont. from page 8

little things that make a big difference.

If you are taking a private lesson by yourself, you get to spend the entire time dancing with a pro. This is a great way to learn, and to get spoiled. The general population of dancers doesn't dance nearly as well as the pro does. But you will certainly improve, and the other people you dance with will notice and appreciate it. If you are a couple taking privates, sometimes it is the best way to realize that you, and not your partner, is the one not doing something correctly. It is a good way for both of you to learn correctly and at the same pace together.

I would suggest that if you haven't taken any private lessons, try at least one with a professional. Then you can decide which way or ways you prefer to continue on with your learning. Whatever your preference, keep taking lessons and keep dancing. The beauty of dancing is that we will never know it all and learning is at *least* half the fun. ■

ANATOMY OF A DANCE LESSON



Practicing Without a Partner

By Andrea Johnson

Ballroom dancing is a unique hobby (or addiction if you are like me). It takes a lot of time and energy to become good, and it also takes a partner. It always frustrated me when I would go to a lesson and realize I had forgotten everything for the prior week. But, I didn't want to be one of those weirdoes who dances with themselves in front of the mirror. Well, I am proud to say, I am now one of those weirdoes (although I still try to stay in a hidden corner or in a private ballroom).

After years of my instructor telling me to practice my routines on my own, I finally started to listen. Shortly after, the most amazing thing happened: I got better. More importantly, I started having lessons that were far more productive than when I didn't practice between lessons.

If you think about a dance class like a regular class in school, you would naturally have some sort of homework between classes in order to put into practice what you have just learned. So, to make a long lesson short, I have compiled a short list of 3 easy things you can do between lessons in order to get the most value out of your lessons and become a better dancer much faster. (If you already have a dance partner, these steps also apply!):

1. You guessed it: Practice! Practice! Practice! Even if you look silly practicing on your own (if you don't have a partner), people won't think you look silly when you wow them on the dance floor with your quickly progressing dance moves!
2. Take notes. This may sound silly, since you can't exactly carry a notebook around the dance floor. But, I will often jot down a few key points after a lesson or about a new step and I'm amazed at how often I look at them during practice! Also, while you are practicing, don't forget to write down anything you have questions about for the next lesson. If your memory is anything like mine, a notebook and pen are your two best friends.
3. Come prepared on the day of your lesson. This means, show up with enough time to stretch, go through some of your routines or new steps, and have your dance shoes on by the time your lesson is to begin. Bring questions about anything you had problems with while practicing between lessons.

Dancing is an expensive habit and most people want to get the most out of their lessons. Even if you are just dancing

for fun or socially, it's still a good idea to do all that you can do between lessons. Follow these steps and you will impress your teachers, impress your friends, or, with any luck, impress a few judges on the competition dance floor as well! ■

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ANATOMY OF A DANCE LESSON



Thoughts on Dance Instruction

By Nels Petersen

If you are looking for the most out of your dance lesson or outside coaching I might suggest a few things.

1. Knowing exactly why you are dancing comes first. If your reasons are not written down and reviewed once in a while they are garbage. If your reasons are clear, you can communicate this to an instructor and understand why you are spending a pile of money.
2. You should know how you learn and communicate this. Visual, auditory, tactile, etc. If a world class female permits me to dance with her, I learn a million things about where my body, feet, and weight should not be or should have been inside of 10 seconds.
3. If you fail to understand that instructors and coaches are contractors that you hire to work for you (basically your employees) I guarantee you are asking for trouble. If you think a bad carpenter, plumber, electrician, financial consultant or software engineer can screw you up, it's nothing compared to what a bad dance instructor can do. I truly believe failure to exercise due diligence with contractors is a huge mistake.
4. Before hiring, interview your contractor, past students, other contractors and other dancers with much more experience than you who have no financial interest. Most dance industry personnel have such a high level of interpersonal skills we fail to measure their actual work performance. Be sure you are clear about your expectations before you hire. Don't hesitate to fire a contractor if the work isn't being done. Be sure your contractor has a willingness to learn and grow. Minnesota is 3-5 years behind that which is being taught in Europe and Asia. Is your contractor willing to invest in their profession and stay current? Would you buy a house built by a contractor who didn't care about current building codes?
5. In a lesson, give it 100%. If instruction is marginal to poor, don't waste time questioning the information. Take what you can and disregard the bad or unintelligible later.
6. Acknowledge that you may never become a world-professional champion and be determined to have as much FUN with your dancing as possible. ■



Nels Petersen holds more U.S. National open championship Amateur and Pro-Am titles than anyone in history and, having invested more in dance training than most earn in a lifetime, we thought we would ask this results-oriented businessman about getting dance training.

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Snowball Stars Alain Doucet & Anik Jolicoeur

By Anne LaTourelle, Nathan Daniels & Janie Nordberg

From a competitors view:

This year the Grand Finale' of the Snowball Dance Competition was Alain Doucet and Anik Jolicoeur former Five-Time World 10-Dance Champions from Canada. With the 7 a.m. start of competition I knew that these hard working judges had to be tired! Then, when talking with Donna Edelstein at dinner I learned that they had been up practicing at 5:30 a.m. that morning. As they took the floor around 11:45 p.m. I knew they had already put in a long day...standing as well as practicing.

The show started with Alain's voice coming over the loudspeaker telling us that if we were there to see a boring rendition of the 5 standard dances that we should leave. Although I for one never see good standard dancing as boring I was intrigued by this statement. The show started off with Alain dancing solo. He was joined by Anik playing the role of a shoe shine lady. I happened to glance away for an instant and the next thing I knew her short jacket had magically turned into a ball gown. How did that happen? Janie Nordberg was standing next to me and said it just came down and formed a dress. Very Cool!

We were also treated to a humorous tango where we were entertained with a mob storyline. I saw the gun in Anik's hand as she shot Alain right on cue at the end of the song. Their ability to combine fun, humor and elegant standard dancing into one show kept the audience entertained.

When they pulled Dan Messenger (the announcer and the host of the Wisconsin DanceSport Competition) down to the floor and put a wig on him and made him dance the ladies role, the room erupted in glee. They also used Joyce

Thompson & Pete Maki as props pretending the music system was malfunctioning. These elements really personalized the show for all of us watching.

All in all the dancing was amazing but they did more than that they made it a show. I've asked my teacher in the past about dancing humor...and why more people don't do it. He's told me that it is really hard to do but Anik and Alain made it look easy.

Nathan, what did you think from a Judge's perspective?

Well, Anne---you took most of the words right out of my mouth. I have only two more comments to add.

- 1) At the beginning of the show when Alain was prefacing that it would not be a standard demonstration, but a show --- he was certainly right. There are many people who do find a standard demonstration boring, because there is no 'flash and trash' (i.e. kicks, fans, rondes, splits, etc.).

The level of knowledge to be able to appreciate a standard demo is just a bit above the average dance education of the general public. The show, however, did have the highest level of standard dancing, infused with the comedy and drama of a 'show'!

- 2) Alain's pre-taped commentary before the tango number was lost on a lot of people because you had to

SNOWBALL STARS continued on page 23



The Snow Ball Dance Competition 2007!

By Anne LaTourelle

The name of the competition was the only thing that was cold as the weather outside was balmy. On Saturday, January 6th the dancers were heating up the floor at the Snow Ball Dance Competition. This year the competition was held at the DoubleTree located in St. Louis Park. Paul Botes and Donna Edelstein's competition grew by leaps and bounds this year as entries topped 2,500! Apparently a lot of folks enjoy getting out on the floor and showing off their hard work and passion.

The huge response to this competition meant that the competition's start time was moved up to...are you ready...7 a.m.! Yikes, it made me glad that I don't dance Latin or rhythm. Another adjustment to the huge support involved splitting the floor for syllabus heats to keep things moving along and on time.

There were more vendors this year which created a hub-bub in front of the ballroom where people were greeting each other, looking at jewelry, buying shoes, plus trying on new and used costumes. There was a veritable fashion show going on every time I walked through the venue. This added to the excitement and energy.

The syllabus events, solos, formation teams, and some championships events were run during the day with the scholarships and fabulous show running in the evening. The ballroom filled up at 7 a.m. and stayed full all day long. It didn't matter what time you danced there was a crowd at 7 a.m. and standing room 11:45 when the show started (see review in this newsletter).

With the addition of the Snow Ball to the already popular Twin Cities Open, local pro/am competitors now have multiple opportunities to compete at a high-class event. Kudos goes to Donna Edelstein and Paul Botes for running a magnificent event.

2007 Highlights and Selected Results:

- Over 2,500 entries. That many would normally be danced over a two or three day event.
- WCCO news covered the The Snow Ball on both the 6:00 and 10:00 news showing highlights of the advanced smooth heats.

- Local cable covered the entire event. They are doing a show which will be edited and distributed on all local cable stations later this year.
- 18 top teachers
- Top studios: 3rd-Dahl Dance Center, 2nd-Dancers Studio, 1st-Cinema Ballroom.
- 12 judges from across North America.
- The Open Pro-am Scholarships were dominated by Kathy Howell with Martin Cawston. She won both the Smooth and Standard events. Dancing with John Abrams, Kathy also won the Open Rhythm.
- The pro-am Open Latin was won by Erica Cianciaruso with John Abrams.
- In the Amateur events, both the Open Smooth and Standard were won by Nels Petersen and Theresa Kimler.
- Open Amateur Rhythm was won by Jessica Madson & Emmanuel Ardeleanu
- Open Amateur Latin was won by Gene Bersten & Zhanna Vayntraub.
- Fuzzy snowbears were given to the loudest and most enthusiastic cheering audience members.

Whether you are a dancer or a spectator, don't miss your opportunity next year to enjoy the Snow Ball Dance Competition. Mark your calendars now for January 12, 2008! ■



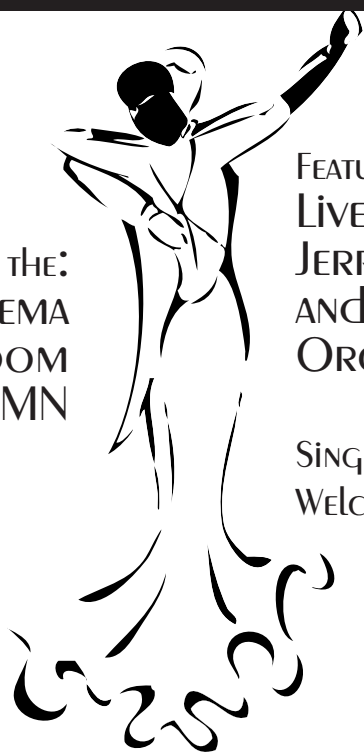
Snowball organizers Paul Botes & Donna Edelstein



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Fri. 2/2 Patty Peterson
Sat. 2/3 Jaca Gereau Quartet
2/9 & 2/10 Bill Duna Quartet
2/16 & 2/17 Steve Clark & the Working Stiffs
2/23 & 2/24 Christine Rosholt Quartet

*Candles + firelight + rich mahogany + chandeliers =
A romantic Valentine dinner at Matty B's!*



For reservations: 651-291-0404

Sunday February 25

"It's Matty B. Ballroom Time!"

- ☐ Dining room closed/cleared for dancing. All are welcome; no partner necessary.
- ☐ \$15 entry at door includes beginners' lesson at 5:15 and appetizer buffet!
- ☐ Christine Rosholt Quartet's live jazz standards 6-9 (Swing, Ballroom, Latin)
- ☐ Questions? Contact sarah@mattybs.com

- ☐ **Dinner Monday through Saturday 4-10**
- ☐ **Happy hour and late night specials**
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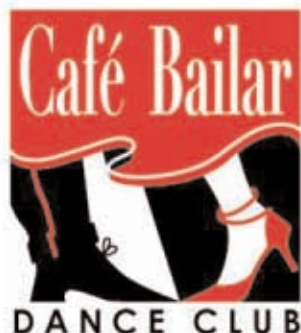
For appointments at Star of the North, call 651-647-0272

(Hair should be washed the day before and more than the normal amount of gel/mousse, should be used. If hair is of extreme thickness in length, one may choose to roller set/curl hair the night before the competition.)

**Cost per updo – \$45
(Student discount – \$35)**

*Heather was the
on-location stylist at
last years' Star of the
North competition.*

For appointments with Heather at j. goodreid, call 651-647-0272 • website: hairbyheatherbowman.com



Café Bailar Dance Club's social Ballroom and Latin dance schedule:

Friday, February 9th—Valentine's Dance



Saturday, February 24th—Board of Directors election night, and Member Appreciation dance
All current members and those who join this night receive free admission!

Friday, March 9th—Regular dance



Saturday, March 24th—Anniversary Dance (4 years!) Dress to impress!



Friday, April 13th—Regular dance

Saturday, April 28th—Regular dance

Friday, May 11th—Regular dance



Saturday, May 26th—Back to the '50s Sock Hop-themed dance party!
Wear your poodle skirts, scarves, and cuffed jeans!



Friday, June 8th—Regular dance

Saturday, June 23rd—2nd Annual Hawaiian dance party!
Wear your grass skirts and tropical shirts! Potluck.



Dances are held the 2nd Fridays and 4th Saturdays of every month.

Lesson 7:30-8:30pm. Dance with DJ: David Olson 8:30pm-12am.

Location: On Your Toes school of dance:
5810 W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Map and directions at www.cafebailar.com

Questions, Tricia Wood (612) 600-5129 or tricia@cafebailar.com

On Your Toes' Silver Formation Team presents All That Jazz!

By Tricia Wood

We all know Ballroom dancers have a lot of fun, but how often do you see performers really dress their part and get into it? On Your Toes' Silver Formation Team, lead by Jeff Nehrbass, learned new choreography this Fall to the song All That Jazz from the hit movie Chicago.

Our men dressed in drag to match our lovely flapper-dressed ladies while they performed their new jazz number at the Snowball competition. Russell was especially attractive in a homemade yellow fringed dress with purple sequins and a red garter, topped with a fancy wig. You'll have another chance to watch this spectacular and entertaining jazz piece at the Star of the North competition this February. To the right are pictures from their rehearsal.



Wednesday, February 14th—Watch World Champion Professional Jeff Nehrbass (Owner of On Your Toes) compete with World Champion Amateur partner Adrienne Brown on PBS television!

New events

More performances

New teacher-student outings

More teachers

New dance parties

More surprises

New Year at On Your Toes!

* Private lessons available Monday through Saturday

* New students receive first private lesson for \$40 with mention of this Dancing Times ad

* Salsa group classes every Wednesday— Beg. 7:00pm, Int. 8:00pm.

* Youth Ballroom group class every Saturday at 12:30pm.

Swing on by for a surprise in our studio!

For hints, call Tricia or James at (952) 928-7803.

On Your Toes school of dance
5810 W. 36th Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
www.onyourtoes.org
info@onyourtoes.org





The Dancers Studio Upcoming Events!

Midnight Star Showcase

March 24, 2007 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Join us for an evening of amazing amateur and professional dancing!

Our Midnight Star Showcase is one of our most exciting Showcases of the year because we bring in outside judges to critique the dancing.

The evening includes fabulous performances, delicious hors d'oeuvres, plenty of social dancing and ending with a one of a kind professional show.

Tickets on sale now! \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Celebrate the Dance of Love in the Month of Love!

Every Wednesday in February
The Dancers Studio will offer

Rumba at 8pm in both
Beginning and Advanced
Bronze level group classes.
Join us as we salute to this
romantic month!

Friday Night Dance Parties

Every Friday night at 9:00pm let The Dancers Studio be your host for a dance party at which you can practice a wide variety of partner dances! We always have a great time and hope you can participate in the fun, too!

All dance levels are welcome

For more information on any of these exciting events contact us at:

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Setting Dancing Goals for 2007

By Cathy Dessert

With the ringing in of the New Year comes the opportunity to look ahead and realize that you have a chance to make a change for the better. You only have to change one thing. If you can just stick with the plan, it becomes a new part of the old you. Hmm....sounds easy. I took this opportunity to poll some fellow dancers about their resolutions for the coming year. I got a great variety of insightful responses. This is what they said:

My goal is to begin competing. After 10 years social dancing, I have never been in a competition. I have always thought, though, that I would enjoy it and gain a lot from the training.

~Erik Pratt USA Dance-MN Board Member

It wasn't so long ago that I used to compete and perform every chance that I got. And that turned out to be pretty regularly. Recently, I've been bogged down with other things. (Does this sound like a familiar scenario?) Anyhow, for my resolution, I'd like to refer to an old Disco song written by Dan Hartman (which I've used as my dance music in at least 3 different dance competitions).

My New Year's Dance Resolution is to "Relight My Fire"

~Mike Jones

My resolution is to ask more new people and beginners to dance. Beginners need to feel welcome and be encouraged to continue, and I remember how good I felt when a more experienced dancer asked me to dance.

~Caroline Olson

Here's a twist on the usual resolution: gain five pounds...

~Tom Thornquist

Too overcome past hurdles and seek new challenges!

~Janie Nordberg

I am such a dance addict that I probably need to give more attention to #1 - the Lord, #2 - my family/relatives, and #3 - my friends, long-time ones and new ones, including other dancers. I apologize to all that I have neglected or appeared unfriendly or uncaring to. How easy it is to spend more time dancing (or for some - watching TV, participating in sports, working overtime at our jobs, etc.) than give our devotion to the three things I mentioned above.

~Lynne Schulz

My dancing resolution for 2007 is to try to keep it fun and remember why I started dancing in the first place. I also want to write notes down after each lesson to try to remember more during practice.

~Anne LaTourelle

Our dance goal for 2007 is to open a wonderful new ballroom dance studio, The Classic Ballroom, in the

western suburbs. We plan to provide the finest instruction and the most fun special events for both the social and competitive dancer.

~Paul Botes and Donna Edelstein

To continue to grow our production company, Minnesota PerformDance Productions. Also, to grow and develop in the discipline of smooth.

~Lynn Kohlasch

From the dancing family of Knickerbockers:

Go as far as we can as fast as we can! Having begun our competitive dance career as "Seniors" in 2003, we know that our bodies are going to tell us to stop competitive dancing at a certain point. Consequently, we want to go as far as we can as fast as we can while our old bones and muscles hold up!

~Bridget & Jeff

Have fun and smile!

~Cal and Cleo

To improve my understanding of ballroom dancing. Hopefully, better understanding will lead to better dancing. To help others achieve their goals in learning to dance.

~Tom LaTourelle

And what is my resolution, you may ask? I want to make sure I find the joy in every moment of dancing I am afforded this year. No matter if it is social dancing, practice, competition, a lesson or coaching, or a spontaneous dance with a nursing home resident during a dance demo. The evidence being the grin on my face! ■

DANCE SOUP

- Watch Minnesota Stars on PBS!

Adrienne Brown, World ProAm Ballroom Champion, competes with her coach, Jeff Nehrbass of On Your Toes, the evening of Wednesday, February 14th, 2007 on America's Ballroom Challenge.



PBS is broadcasting American Smooth, American Rhythm, International Standard, and International Latin as 24 world-class couples compete for the title of "America's Best." Also see behind the scenes with makeup artists, hair stylists, costume sales, music vendors, and the secrets of judging.

America's Ballroom Challenge runs every Wednesday, from January 31st, through February 28.

Dance Demo News

Submitted by Yvonne Viehman, Dance Demo Coordinator



Let's Ring in the New Year!

That's exactly what we did at the Roitenberg Assisted Living Center on December 29, 2006 – two days early! The Senior Activities Director, Gayle O'Brien, called me up and asked, "Can you see if that family with the kids who dance are able to dance for us?" I responded, "The Knickerbocker family?" She replied, "Yes! The residents loved them the last time they were here and want them to be a part of the resident's New Year's Eve celebration." I promptly called the Knickerbockers and they were available to perform...what a relief! My worries of a replacement family were put to rest with that good news! (Ben and Jon – our sons – just aren't at performance level dancing yet at ages 5 and 2, but they could giggle their way through a twirling ride in mommy's arms!)

Anyway, it turned out to be a fantastic demo which included the following dancers: Cleo & Cal Knickerbocker, Bridget & Jeff Knickerbocker, Jeanne & David Schmit, Shim Syiem & Jay Cai, and Dan & me. The room was packed with about 50 people, including assisted living residents, memory care patients, and the staff! They gave rounds of applause as Cleo & Cal did energetic family routines with their parents in swing, tango, smooth, and rhythm routines! Their endless smiles made them the crowd-pleasers. Jeanne & David also drew in the crowd as they playfully interacted during their rhythm and smooth numbers. New to the demo scene were Shim & Jay. They performed international Latin, cha cha and jive

impeccably! We are happy they've joined the ranks of demo dancers!

During the Knickerbocker family tango routine, there is a point where the girls drop their roses on the floor. At that moment a female resident sitting in the front row got up and proceeded to walk right up to them. Bridget, trying to stay in character and on beat, whispered to the woman, "Please leave the roses where they are – they are a part of the routine." Not knowing if the woman heard her, she repeated, "Please just leave the roses where they are!" Oblivious to her request, the woman continued walking – all the way across the room to a door at the opposite corner of the room. She opened it a crack to let in a breeze and proceeded back to her seat by the same path – directly through the Knickerbockers! Her solo act stunned us all. I was amazed the Knickerbockers held it together without missing a beat! That's never happened in all our years of dancing at demos! Too funny!

We danced with the residents at the end and they loved being asked to dance! One of the memory care patients danced with Dan and she told him she'd been a ballroom dancer many years ago. As he began dancing with her, she immediately took up proper frame and danced a very elegant waltz with him! Does that mean your muscle memory never goes? Could be! We want to thank Roitenberg Assisted Living and Gayle O'Brien for inviting us back to entertain them and for their \$150 donation to USA Dance-MN! ■

Harmonies Closing (For Now...)

By Caroline Olson

The long anticipated redevelopment of our little corner of the world is scheduled to begin this spring. The building that houses Harmonies Dance Center is scheduled for redevelopment in spring 2007. The anticipated start of the demolition of the current structure will most likely happen in April, based on city approvals. The Rebels gave their notice to vacate as of March 31st. First and foremost, the Twin Cities Rebels Swing Dance club will continue, just as we did before the creation of Harmonies. The club will at least temporarily go back to being renters at another location.

What will happen to Harmonies is unclear at this time. I have not given up on the idea of re-opening another Harmonies site, and appreciate all of the leads that have been provided. Locating a site that is in an area that we want to be in, is affordable, and provides ample off-street parking is not as easy to come by as you may think. Any space that we find will have to meet all of the code requirements for plumbing, bathrooms, accessibility, electrical and sprinklers, along with other code compliance issues. To get this work done to a space is a major investment of time and money. There is a lot to be looked into to get another venture up and running. When it re-opens, it will most likely be under new, private ownership and not be under the banner of the Rebels.

I would like to thank all of you who have helped make Harmonies such a great place to dance. We couldn't have done this without all the volunteers helping us out. A very personal thank you to the

Rebels Board of Directors, some past and all present, and especially Bob Zimmerman and Tim Eide, for all the countless hours that you gave to make everything run smoothly. Many of you have supported the dance center by attending the classes, dances and practice night.

So many people gave of their time and talent to create it in the beginning, as well as helping with the upkeep to keep it going. We have had the great privilege of working with those who rented out the space on a regular basis – the Bloomington Swirlers Square dance club, the Metro Variety Dance, Scott Anderson, Jason & Erica, Bob Wood, Brett & Melissa Stepan and many, many others. It has been a fabulous experience for me to get to know and interact with so many people involved with the dance community through their involvement with Harmonies.

The concept of Harmonies is truly a great idea, a neutral place for holding dances of all kinds, open to everyone and promoting all different aspects of dance. It has been a comfortable place to teach and practice, with plenty of room for social interaction and room for dancing. I believe that there is a need for the dance center as proven by all the fabulous support over the last three years. We have received many suggestions on places to look at to keep it open. If it is meant to be, Harmonies will be back again soon. THANK YOU for making this a great adventure! ■

Etiquette of the Ballroom circa 1900

Etiquette Corner

The gentleman should call for the lady whom he is to escort, go with her to the ball, escort her to the dressing room, return to join her there when she is ready to go to the reception room... engage her company for the first dance, and escort her to supper when she is ready to go. He must watch and see that she has a partner for dancing through the entire evening. Upon reaching home, if the lady invites him in, he must decline. It is his duty to call in two days,

A gentleman should always walk around a lady's train and never attempt to step over it. If by accident he should tread upon her dress, he should beg her pardon, and if by greater awkwardness he should tear it, he must offer to escort her to the dressing room so that it may be repaired. If in the ball room a lady asks any favor of a gentleman, such as to inquire if her carriage is waiting, he should under no circumstances refuse her requests... well bred gentleman will look after those who are unsought and neglected in the dance.

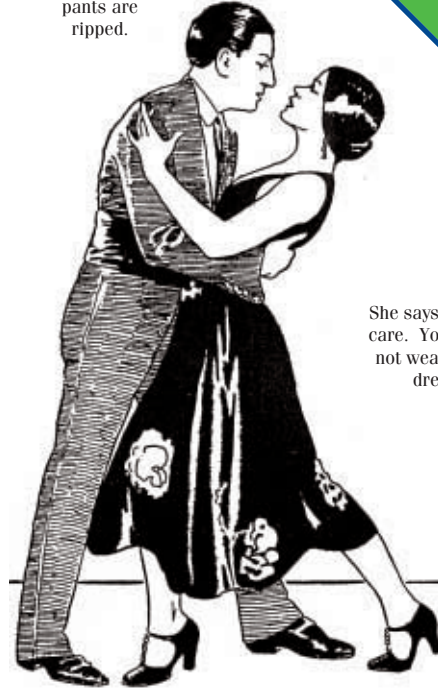
Rules for the Ballroom

- A man who knows how to dance, and refuses to do so, should absent himself from a ball.
- Noisy talking and boisterous laughter in a ballroom are contrary to the rules of etiquette.
- In a ballroom, never forget nor confuse your engagements. If such should occur, an apology, of course, must be offered and pleasantly accepted.
- Always wear white gloves in a ballroom. Very light shades are admissible.
- Usually, a married couple does not dance together in society, but it is a sign of unusual attention for a husband to dance with his wife, and he may do so if he wishes.
- Great care should be taken by a lady in refusing to dance with a gentleman. After refusing, she should not accept another invitation for the same dance

After the Dance

When gentleman are introduced to ladies at a ball for the purpose of dancing, upon meeting afterward, they should wait to be recognized before speaking; but they are at liberty to recall themselves by lifting their hats in passing. An introduction for dancing does not constitute a speaking acquaintance. ■

He says: My pants are ripped.



She says: I don't care. You're still not wearing my dress.

Submitted by the Monthly Dance committee:

Thank you to everyone who attended our December Holiday USA Dance! We collected four bags of food for Sharing & Caring Hands. This local non-profit organization seeks to be "a bridge from the caring community to the people in need of their help." Revenues from the holiday dance were also donated to the charity.

In a letter accompanying this donation Erik Pratt, Vice President of USA Dance-MN wrote, "We know this is a very

modest gift compared to the needs in our community. We hope, however, that through this gift we can, in small way, support you in your work to care for the basic needs of our neighbors as we strive to bring music, dance and expression to the community. "

We are pleased that Mary Jo Copeland, founder of Sharing & Caring Hands, has written back thanking us for our special gift. ■

☛ Contact Chris chris_scarlett@yahoo.com

Women's Capezio pumps, black with strap and thick 2" high heel, Size 7 1/2 to 8M, hard leather sole, excellent condition, \$10.

☛ Contact Ellen @ 612-600-9726 or EllenR_77@yahoo.com

Women's Celebrity dance shoes, black, 3 in. heels, size 8 1/2 - 9.

☛ Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos

Size 6-10 excellent condition, (stretchy) fuchsia, heavily stoned bodice. Made by Marsha Wiest-Hines. Problem solver dress, open drape chiffon sleeves, drop-waist slims and elongates, chiffon back drape. \$650.

Two unworn dresses: Black form hugging stretchy dress, deep front V held closed with leather straps. Body has multi colored shiny circles. Very hot sz. 6-8 \$75. Royal purple contemporary dress with 1 shoulder, asymmetric hemline, lots of beading. Never worn, sz. 10, \$350.

Authentic vintage disco outfit! Sleeveless 1 piece gray jumpsuit with 1 shoulder, full long legs flare when you spin, glittered top and matching belt. Right out of the 70's very good condition. Sz. Med. \$50

☛ Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net

Sunshine yellow smooth gown Size 2-10. Unique design, bracelet style cuff on one sleeve, matching arm and wrist band, drop waist belt solidly stoned, AB color stones throughout! Made for Movement. \$950.

Black/fuschia smooth gown Size 2-8. Striking gown with black stretch lace bodice, 3 layered chiffon skirt, dynamic fuschia chiffon wrap on one sleeve, AB color stoning. \$650 or BO.

Orange flame rhythm dress Size 2-8. This "one-of-a-kind" 2-piece dress has asymmetric sleeves & skirt. Sun AB stoning, beautiful braid detail belt and straps, matching wrist bands and jewelry. \$850.

Stunning red rhythm dress Size 2-8. Feel like a champion in this showstopper! Bracelet-style cuffs on sleeves, AB stoning with matching hipster belt. Full open back and slit in asymmetric skirt. \$750.

Gold/rose-red rhythm dress Size 2-6. Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmering gold, bell sleeves and flare skirt add great movement. AB color stones add extra sparkle! Rose hair piece. Steal deal at \$550.

Fuschia rhythm dress Size 2-8. Gorgeous Rose, fuschia, and Amethyst AB stoning, bell sleeves, asymmetric skirt, low back cut. Great movement on dance floor! \$350 or BO.

☛ Contact Kate VanAlstine at 651.214.0906 or yolanda4life@yahoo.com

Asymmetrical orange & blue smooth dress size 2-6 Cool, one-of-a-kind design looks great on the floor. \$300 negotiable

Green & blue rhythm dress size 4-10 Green body and skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 negotiable

Red-belted rhythm dress size 2-6 Super low V-neck, hot-red belt design. Very sexy! \$400

Black lace rhythm dress size 4-6 Sexy see-through long-sleeved look, lots of stones and pearls on the body with cool black and pearl fringe on skirt, matching earrings. \$700

☛ Contact Theresa at 651-773-3511 or theresakimmler@yahoo.com

Red Ballgown size 4-6: Inspired by Hilary Swank's Oscar dress and created by Designs to Shine. Elegant cut open back. Crisscross design with full coverage in front. Long sleeves with necklace and cuffs. Skirt accentuates movement thanks to 3-layers. Pics available. \$2,200.

☛ Contact Eileen @ 651-636-6306 or eileen@arcilla.net

Bright Blue Satin Smooth/Standard Gown. Get noticed in a bright shiny satin gown. Full skirt and cut makes you feel like you're floating! Open back with fully stoned inset and skirt hemmed with satin band. Cut is flattering for many figures. Comes with matching earrings, hair piece, neckband and arm bands. Professionally designed/created by Flair Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$1200.

Lavender Latin/Rhythm Dress. Lavender latin/rhythm dress with halter style top, ruffled hem and open back. Entire dress stoned in different colored stones which will make you sparkle! Dore Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$2100.

☛ Contact Rhonda @ 952-935-7810

Assorted Celebrity smooth & rhythm shoes. US 9-10N and split sizes. Practice shoes & 1 pr. Supadance rhythm sandals also available. Best offer.

☛ Contact Amy at 608-835-5666 or email albishop@charter.net

Latin/Rhythm Beautiful dress by Dancewear Designers by Julia Gorchakova. Size 8-12 for ladies 5' 4" to 5' 9". Unique royal blue dress covered in swarovski stones with fringe angled at bottom of dress. Fringe longest point falls just below knee. Halter straps with open back with built in bra/bodysuit. 1 yr old, worn twice. Originally \$2400 asking \$1800.

Latin/Rhythm. Size 8-12 for ladies 5' 2" to 5' 6". Black lycra material with white, gold, black sequins and beads all over dress. The mid section of bodice is open and fringe hangs over open section as well as on bottom of dress. Originally \$200 asking \$70.

Smooth Size 10-14 black chiffon circle skirt with one layer of black chiffon lined, elastic waistband. Brand New. Originally \$100 asking \$50.

Shoes Size 7 1/2 (American) pair of Diamant Champion round toe 2" latino heel, elastic court std shoes, flesh satin. Brand new. Originally \$110 asking \$50.

☛ Contact Cheri at artncheri@aol.com or 763-544-6724

Flashy fushia silk dress with silver swirls featured in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Size 2-4. This dress is very eye-catching on the floor. Asking \$675.

Aqua and Blue silk and chiffon dress. Gown in long sleeved with heavily stoned bodice and three tiered chiffon skirt. The dress is soft and elegant. Could be used for smooth or standard. Asking \$1100. Size 2-4.

☛ Contact Michelle at 651-286-6705 (day) or 763-572-0418 (eve)

Sexy Bright Red Rhythm Dress. Size 4-8. Halter cut top, with stones all around collar. Beading on short flirty skirt moves well on the floor! Luxury Crushed Red Velvet very comfortable to wear. Gently used, is in excellent condition - all loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$400

Sultry & Exotic Gold Latin/Rhythm Dress. Size 2-6. This sultry 2-piece costume has lots of straps and fabric pieces that make for great movement. TONS of rhinestones - on the floor it completely shimmers. Comes with: necklace, 2 arm bands, 2 wristbands, and large matching hoop earrings. Looks great on the floor, very sexy All loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$600

☛ Contact Stacie at 612-251-8108 or PIER0081@umn.edu

Bright fuchsia Dore standard gown. Can't miss this on the floor. Chiffon skirt & float slowly changes from Fuchsia into purple. Stones throughout the dress. Stretchy material will fit sizes 2-8. Pictures available. \$2,400

2-Piece white Latin or rhythm dress. Very playful, has decorative AB accent stones on the skirt, fringes and end of sleeve. The bra is heavily stoned. Material is very stretchy and fit sizes 2-6. Picture available. \$1,400.

☛ Contact Lynn Kohlasch at 612-243-8800 or lkohlasch@earthlink.net

Latin/Rhythm Fuchsia & Blue Dress. Beautifully stoned with sassy short skirt and open back. Size 4-8. Asking \$550.

☛ Please call Anne @ 763-550-1223

Stunning hot pink American Smooth Gown which skims your body and creates great lines. Surplice look neckline with heavily stoned flounce, long sleeves with cut-outs and stoned flounce at wrist, V-back with stoned flounce. The lines of this gown are beautiful and the color really pops. Made for Movement. Size 6-10. Asking \$1000. Call Anne @ 612-280-7818.

Championship level gown. Get the latest style without paying full price! Brilliant turquoise American Smooth gown loaded with stones in a figure flattering pattern! Off the shoulder style with very sexy open back and side slit for great kicks. Slinky fabric really moves and is comfortable. Can be tailored to fit! Call Anne for more information. Size 8-12. Asking \$750.

Beautiful bright coral standard gown. Size 8 to 12. Made by Marsha Wiest Hines who described this color as "yummy"! Velvet and chiffon with beautiful coral and gold sleeves floats, bodice accents decorated heavily with beautiful colored stones. Very light weight to dance in and with an open back and V-front will fit many sizes and figures. These gowns really stretch to fit a large variety of figures... so try it on! Asking \$750.

Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members and subscribers the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

Competition Calendar

Feb 11, 2007 Phoenix USA Dancesport Challenge

Viewpoint Golf Resort, Mesa, AR. Sponsored by Phoenix USA Dance chapter. more info at www.PhoenixUSADance.org. Contact Felix Ray, 623-551-2324 or email felix.catman@cox.net

Apr 13 - 15, 2007 USA Dance Pittsburgh Dancesport Championships
Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sanctioned by USA DanceSport. For more information contact the organizer, Andrew Pueschel at 412-656-3667.

Apr 20 - 22, 2007 USA Dance NE Regional DanceSport Championships/NJ Dancesport Classic

South Mountain Arena, West Orange, N.J. Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies. Qualifying event for 2007 UsaDance National Championships. Info: NJDSC or by e-mail at questions@njdancesportclassic.com or by phone at 973-325-1399.

Apr 28, 2007 TREASURE COAST DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIP

Gulfport Casino Ballroom, Gulfport, Florida. Organized by Treasure Coast Chapter. Contact Nancy Welch, nancy01fl@aol.com, 727-576-1206

May 19 - 20, 2007 North Central Regional DanceSport Championships/Chicago DanceSport Challenge

Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel. Qualifying event for 2007 UsaDance National Championships. Contact organizer Barbara Finn at barbarakfinn@comcast.net, or visit our website at www.usadancechicago.org

DNO continued from page 2

Loring Pasta Bar

www.loringcafe.com/pastabar Sunday nights have tango or other latin music from 6-9 pm.

Medina Entertainment Center

(763) 478-6661

www.medinaentertainment.com 500 Highway 55, Medina. Wednesdays, Big Band Dances, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8-11 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club

(651) 777-5599

www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com B-Dale Club, 2100 N. Dale St., Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm, Dance 8:30 pm. \$5/WCS members, \$8/non-members.

Naar Grille Salsa Night

(952) 946-6227

11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night from 10pm-2am.

Rebels Swing Dance Club

(952) 941-0906

www.tcrebels.com Harmonies Dance Center, 10726 France Avenue South, Bloomington. Two Sundays per month, Dances 7 pm. \$5/Rebels members, \$8/non-members.

Shakopee Ballroom

(952) 445-0412

2400 East 4th Avenue, Shakopee. Every other Friday they offer either ballroom or swing or dance bands; lesson at 7:30 pm and band begins at 8 pm. Other dances scheduled occasionally.

Social Dance Studio

(612) 418-4046

www.socialdancestudio.com St. Paul and Minneapolis, 1st Fridays-Latin Dance Parties 9-12 midnight. \$5/person.

Tango Society of Minnesota

(763) 576-3349

www.mntango.org 2nd Saturdays, DanceSport Studio, 816 1/2 Main Street, Hopkins. Introductory lesson 8 pm, Dance 9 pm - 1 am. \$10.

Twin City Ballroom Dance Club

(651) 735-2233

twincityballroom.com 7166 10th Street North, Oakdale (corner of 694 and 10th St. N.). M-W: Lessons 8 pm, Fridays: Lesson 9 pm, Dance 10-11:30 pm, Sundays: Lesson 8 pm, Dance 9-10:30 pm. \$7/\$2 off with Univ. ID.

Wabasha Street Caves

(651) 224-1191

215 S. Wabasha St., St. Paul. Thursdays are "Swing Night" with big bands! Lesson 6:15 pm, Dance 7-10 pm. \$7 cover charge.

SNOWBALL STARS cont. from page 12

be privy to some inside ballroom information in order to get it!! Just a caution to anyone being clever-you must know your audience!

Janie, you were a spectator at this competition, what did you think from a spectator's standpoint?

I have seen this fantastic professional couple perform in years past and once again was not disappointed. They were thoroughly entertaining with a nice blend of precision, surprise, humor, and powerful dancing! I hinted to my friend (Anne) standing next to me that I thought I remembered that they were the masters of "costume wizardry" and we were rewarded with more magic as Anik seamlessly transformed from one character to another!

Alain was very entertaining as he kept the audience guessing with more surprises during costume changes and a cameo appearance of Danielle (alias Dan Messenger)! The show was a grand ending to a full and satisfying day! As hard as it was being on the sidelines (always a competitor as heart), it is wonderful to have events such as this to be inspired by! I, for one, will be waiting with much anticipation for the next opportunity to see this couple do their thing! ■

March Issue Teaser

Don't miss next month's coverage of...

"Back to Basics" & Star of the North Coverage

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

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Modie Chehouri.....	651-641-0777
Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
Wendi Davies.....	973-449-7654
Joy Davina	612-418-4046
Robert & Jennifer Foster	952-938-0048
Donna Frykman, St. Paul	651-777-5447
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Christine Hallberg	651-641-0777
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Julie Jacobson	651-261-6442
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Deanne Michael	612-508-9255
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Mariusz Olszewski	612-242-5159
Todd Paulus	612-968-2401
Eric Remsen	612-724-3156
Mary Rosenstiel	612-720-2584

Kate VanAlstine.....651-641-0777

Services

Made for Movement: costume design, production,
tailoring (Marsha Wiest Hines)952-595-0003

Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear
(Deborah J. Nelson)763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Studios

Arthur Murray Dance Studio St. Paul	651-227-3200
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids	763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul	651-699-5910
Dahl Dance Center	507-252-1848
Dancers Studio, St. Paul	651-641-0777
Foster's Dance Sport Studio, Hopkins	952-938-0048
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park.....	952-928-7803
Social Dance Studio, Mpls	612-418-4046

Clubs

Café Bailar	612-600-5129
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club	651-777-5599
REBELS Swing Dance Club	952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota.....	763-576-3349
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter	651-483-5467

USA Dance MN HOTLINE (651) 483-5467

www.usadance-mn.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: February 10th, 2007