

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

February 2012

Photo from Snow Ball by Decadance Photography: Tony Eng



Inside this month's issue...

Snow Ball, Local Dancers Save Lives, Danceland, and more!

Join us for the USADance

February Monthly Dance

Saturday, February 18th

7-8 pm Tango Lesson

Instructor: Shane Meuwissen

8-11 pm Variety Dance

Music DJ: Shane Meuwissen

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Call for information on dance events.
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Fri 2/3 - Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance; Cinema Ballroom 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; Ballroom variety; lesson at 7:00, dance 8-11; 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sat 2/4 - Linden Hills Dancing Club; Lake Harriet United Methodist Church 4901 Chowen Avenue South Mpls; Variety Dance; free lesson 6:30; catered dinner 7:30; dance 8:30-10:30; \$35 per couple; advance reservations required, call 952 412 7230 or visit www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

Sat 2/4 - Medina: Tim Patrick Swings Sinatra; Medina Ballroom 500 Hwy 55, Medina; Great American Standards; lesson at 7:00; \$10; 500 Hwy 55, Medina; call 763-478-6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com

Sat 2/11 - Medina: Boogie Woogie Wonderland; Medina Ballroom 500 Hwy 55, Medina; Valentines Dance; music at 8:00pm; \$10; 500 Hwy 55, Medina; call 763-478-6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com

Sat 2/11 - Aqua Gliders Monthly Dance; 7540 Penn Avenue South, Richfield; Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance 8:15 - 11:15 pm, \$25 per couple (non-members); call 612 869 3062

Fri 2/17 - Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance; Cinema Ballroom 1560 St Clair Avenue, St Paul; Ballroom Variety; lesson at 7:00, dance 8-11; 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul; call 651-699-5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sat 2/18 - USA Dance Ballroom Dance Party; Cinema Ballroom, Saint Paul, MN; USA Dance Ballroom Dance Party 7-8 p.m. Tango Lesson Instructor: Shane Meuwissen 8-11 p.m. Variety Dance \$10, \$7 members

Sat 2/25 - Star of the North; Marriott Minneapolis West 9960 Wayzata Boulevard St. Louis Park, MN 55426; www.starofthenorthcomp.com

American Classic Ballroom.....(952) 934-0900
www.americanclassdance.com, 550 Market St., Chanhassen, MN 55317 (494 west to Hwy 5, right on Market Blvd, right on Market St.)

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Cheek to Cheek Ballroom.....(763) 755-3644
www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids. Harry Benson.

USA Dance – MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012

Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Sue Zeller (President), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Zhuojing Liu, Mike Jones, Yeun Chou, Andy Trawick, Jessica Madson

Location: Quixotic Coffee, 769 Cleveland Ave South, St. Paul

Call to Order: Quorum established. Agenda approved. December minutes approved.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

Jane distributed a 2011 financial report. The chapter's total liabilities and equity remain constant. The treasurer's report was approved.

Enter our Photo Competition!

Details on page 4

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PROJECTS

Music Committee

With Pete Maki's passing, we will be looking for additional DJs.

Zhuojing will coordinate with Andy Trawick the DJ assignments for the 2012 monthly dances.

Jessica is working on the DJ assignment for SOTN.

Improving the Quality of Ballroom Dance/5th Friday 2012 Dances

The board is exploring the opportunity to sponsor Sunday afternoon lesson/dance events.

Format: Constant location, time, syllabus instruction, teacher, and month-long commitment to one dance style.

Lesson followed by a short dance.

\$5.00 fee.

The year 2012 has three 5th Fridays. Chapter #2011 is planning to sponsor a dance on those evenings, which fall in March, August, and November.

Youth Fundraising

Yeun has written a letter titled "Youth Outreach Program" informing individuals and organizations of the opportunity to support the Chapter's mission of improving the quantity and quality of ballroom dancing. This letter will be posted in the Dancing Times. Please contact Yeun for your input as to who might positively respond to the letter's request.

Marketing Communications

Mike will continue to work with the 2012 Winter Carnival Royalty for an appearance at SOTN.

Sue reviewed her letter printed in the January Dancing Times. The board's hope is that in 2012 we will promote and advertise our mission/events in a broader-scale marketing format.

Star of the North 2012

Jessica distributed a planning overview and continues to work on this event. Go to the website: www.sotncomp.com

Please volunteer. There is a particular need for help in getting advertisements and donations to SOTN from benefactors and businesses.

SOTN Pete Maki Scholarship

There will be an opportunity to contribute at the January dance.

You may mail your contribution to:

USA Dance/MN Chapter 2011

25156 Dakota Avenue

Elko, MN 55020

Dance Floor

To be discussed at the February meeting.

Next Meeting:

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7th, 2012

Marriott Minneapolis West

9960 Wayzata Boulevard

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit 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 should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to: newsletter@usadance-mn.org.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Theresa Kimler, 7050 49th St. N, St. Paul, MN 55128 ■

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (300 dpi pdf or jpeg format ONLY) or camera-ready artwork to Suzi Blumberg (email: suzi.b@usfamily.net phone: 612-869-4416) 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. Payment to accompany ad.

Full page 7.5" wide x 10" high \$130

Half page 7.5" wide x 4.75" high \$80
OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high

Qtr. page 3.5" wide x 4.75" high \$60

Business Card 3 consecutive months \$50

SWAPLINE ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only). Send to: newsletter@usadance-mn.org

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH

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From the Editor

by Mary Beth Beckman



Here we are in February, and it's a leap year! What that means for me is one more day to rush about and gather everything for the March issue of the *Dancing Times*—the *Star of the North* issue.

Star of the North is on February 25th and 26th. Have you turned in your registration yet? Go to www.starofthenorth-comp.com to print out the registration form, check out the volunteer opportunities, and order your spectator tickets. The registrations have been trickling in from all over the midwest. You won't want to miss this year's event.

We got a lot of great stuff on *Snow Ball* pulled together at the last minute for this issue. The turnaround time for *Star of the North* is going to be even tighter, so I'm hoping everyone pulls together to give us a great *Star of the North*-centric issue for March. Bring your cameras, laptops, tablets, or even a notebook to the competition and write up a short article on your experiences between heats. Whether you're a competitor or a spectator, we want to hear your thoughts on *Star of the North* this year, especially since it's being hosted in a beautiful new venue.

I had a great January that culminated with a relaxing stay at the Tefft House Bed and Breakfast. In conversation, I discovered that one of the owners, Steve O'Connor, loves watching competitive ballroom dancing. So here's a shout-out to Steve and Marsha, who made the best breakfast of the year.

To solicit Mary Beth's editing services, contact her at mary.beth.beckman@gmail.com.

To ask questions about the newsletter or submit content, contact her at newsletter@usadance-mn.org. ■

Dancing Times Photo Competition

If you love combining the arts of photography and dancing, submit your best photo to the *Dancing Times* photo competition!

Photos must be taken at a USA Dance monthly dance, must feature dancing as the subject material, and must be high quality (in focus, good lighting, clear subject) and high resolution—we print at 300 dpi.

Not only could you win free admission to the next USA Dance monthly dance event, but your beautiful photo might be featured in the next issue of the *Minnesota Dancing Times*!

So get out your cameras and your dancing shoes, and have a blast at the next monthly dance!

Submit photos of our February dance (see the ad on page 2) to newsletter@usadance-mn.org by February 20. ■

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The President's Corner



Donna Edelstein has created a great event enjoyed by many other professionals.

Star of the North

You will want to invite everyone you know who enjoys dance to this year's SOTN. You will not want to miss this very special Star of the North amateur dance competition. The new venue is the Marriott West. This beautiful space has lots of room for spectators and participants. It's always more enjoyable to be in an aesthetically pleasing space, and I believe the Marriott West is the right backdrop for our artful dancesport.

On Saturday afternoon or evening we will have a special appearance from the St. Paul Winter Carnival Royalty. I understand that experiencing the St. Paul Royalty will be a special treat for SOTN spectators and participants.

Star of the North is an affordable way to compete in dance. Dance competitions are a great way to set goals to improve your dance performance. For those participating, it is a great way to improve confidence for just about anything they do in life. Competitors "dance as if no one is watching."

This event has been well organized by the Star of the North Committee Chair, Jessica Madson. Jessica has attracted a great group of volunteers to pull off this event. The volunteer coordinators will make sure everyone is where they need to be to keep everything moving along. The judges, music DJ, MC, and registrar will be working very hard to have everyone dancing and awarded for dancing at just the right time.

The USA Dance mission is to improve the quality and quantity of ballroom dance. This dance competition is a

The Snow Ball Comp

During the winter months, going to the Snow Ball Competition is a great time. It's the music, the graceful movement, the faces filled with expression, that makes dancesport the art that it is. It really touches me to watch friends compete and dancers perform to their highest level possible.

great way for dancers to improve the quality of their dance abilities. Right now I'm sure participants are getting coaching from our dance professionals and practicing to prepare for this event. Come to cheer on friends, participate, watch, or introduce friends to dance.

Something that has been very fun to experience over the years I have been involved in dance is watching others improve their dance technique and steps, build confidence, and have great fun dancing. Right now I'm just thinking of all of the dancers I have been fortunate to meet within USA Dance-MN. Almost everyone I've met is so willing to help the next dancer.

Happy Dancing!
Sue Zeller ■

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The 2012 Snow Ball Goes National

By Donna Edelstein

This year the Snow Ball became part of the World Pro/Am DanceSport Series and attracted many national competitors. The top 20 students earned \$100 vouchers, which can be used at competitions outside of our region. For the first time, the Snow Ball offered DanceSport Series Qualifying events, earning points towards participating in the Ohio Star Ball Team Match.

Another first was the Snow Ball dance camp featuring Susan Puttock, former U.S. Standard Champion, giving a seminar on "What the Judges Look For;" Benoit Papineau, former Candian Standard Champion and 10-Dance Champion, covering "Creating Power Through Relaxation;" Chantal LeClerc, former Canadian 10-Dance and Latin Champion, on "Developing Great Footwork;" and Mikhail Zharinov and Galina Detkina, World Professional American Smooth Showdance Champions, on "Creating a Mood Through Dance."

The ballroom also had a totally new look in 2012 with hand-painted banners and handmade centerpieces in the signature Snow Ball blue. Rodney Pritchard of Proper Design League created the room décor.

The professional events were very exciting and got the packed crowd screaming out numbers and names. Alex Olivares and Lorin Jiminez from Houston won Rising Star Rhythm, with Taylor Westfall and Jennifer Corey from Colorado taking the runner-up spot. Dustin Donelan and Kirsten McCloskey from Minnesota placed third, Shane

Haggartey and Amy Liliberte from Minnesota fourth, Dmitri Dolgopopov and Gabrielle Friedenberg from Virginia fifth, Gordon and Kate Bratt from Minnesota sixth, and Mattand Audrey Kuphal from Wisconsin seventh.

Rising Star Smooth started with a semi-final. Krill Gorjatsev and Daria Zotova from Virginia captured first; Minnesotans Martin Pickering and Christine Hallberg, second; Christopher Kempainen and Bonnie Inveen, third; Eric and Deborah Gillitzer from Wisconsin were fourth; Iowans Susie and Derrick Murray, fifth; and Minnesotans Shane Haggarty and Rachel Damiani in their first outing together were sixth.

Rising Star International Latin was won by Rodolfo Bianquicett and Jessica Satori from Indiana. Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas and Rebecca Dahlquist-Eckhoff from Minnesota were second. Eliecer and Rebecca also won the Professional Showdance.

Top Students for the Snow Ball were:

- Top Newcomer - Sandy Haydon with Gary Dahl - Minnesota
- Top Bronze - Sophia D'Angelo with Mike Baris - Virginia
- Top Silver - Patricia Barrier with Gary Dahl - Minnesota
- Top Gold - Dee Iannone with Markus Cannon - Iowa
- Top Open - Ken Doughty with Lorin Jiminez - Houston
- Top Amateur Couple - Greg and Sue Prash - Minnesota.



Ten outstanding teachers qualified for Top Teacher prize money. They are:

- Gary Dahl – Dahl Dance Center
- Jay Larson
- Markus Cannon – Cannon Studios
- Scott Anderson – Twin Cities DanceSport
- Paul Botes – American Classic Ballroom
- Mike Barris – The Dance Factory
- Harry Benson – Cheek to Cheek
- Tony Delgado - Delgado Dance Studios
- Lorin Jimenez – Learn to Dance Houston
- Julie Jacobson.

The Top Studios for the 2012 Snow Ball are:

- Dahl Dance Center - Rochester, Minnesota
- Jay Larson - Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Cannon Studios - Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Pro/Am Scholarships were hotly contested with many worthy competitors trying to make very tough final rounds.

Below are winners of the Scholarship Divisions:

- Bronze Rhythm Scholarship - Inga Flider with Russell Hunter
- Silver Rhythm Scholarship – Carol Ferrell with Jay Larson
- Open A Rhythm Scholarship – Zhuojing Liu with Jay Larson
- Open C Rhythm Scholarship – Dee Iannone with Markus Cannon
- Bronze Smooth Scholarship – Jim Gray with Karin Ramirez
- Silver Smooth Scholarship – Darcy Adamczyk with Gary Dahl
- Open A Smooth Scholarship – Tracy Anderson with Scott Anderson
- Open C Smooth Scholarship – Dee Iannone with Markus Cannon
- Bronze Latin Scholarship - Dee Clark with Tony Delgado
- Silver Latin Scholarship – Jacqui D’Souza with Jay Larson
- Open A Latin Scholarship – Adel Jaena with Gene Bersten
- Open C Latin Scholarship – Jeanie LaFavor with Mariusz Olszewski
- Bronze Ballroom Scholarship – Jacqui D’Souza with Jay Larson
- Silver Ballroom Scholarship – Darcy Adamczyk with Gary Dahl
- Open A Ballroom Scholarship – Caitlin Massart with Jay Larson

Every year the Snow Ball features a spectacular show. Newlyweds Mikhail and Galina Zharinov, World Professional American Smooth Showdance Champions, presented beautifully choreographed and danced show numbers with effortless transitions in and out of lifts.

Complete results are posted on the Snow Ball website at www.thesnowballcomp.com.

Every year the Snow Ball strives to improve the quality of the competition, the friendliness, and the food. We believe that competitors dance their best in a welcoming environment with great spectators. We look forward to hosting the dance community again January 11 and 12, 2013.

Congratulations to all of the winners and those who danced their personal best at the Snow Ball. ■

ERV at Snow Ball: Competing Locally to Better the Dance Community

By Eliecer Ramirez

In early November of 2011, the students of ERV Dance Studios were offered the opportunity to take part in the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition of 2012. This challenge was met with great skepticism. Many were concerned about performing and competing as beginners not only in front of a live audience, but also having their performances scored by the high standards of competitive dance judges.

This can be a formidable experience even for seasoned professionals, not to mention for those just beginning their journey into the world of dance. Our team was reassured that we would be dancing to practice what we are learning and that the only people we would be competing against were ourselves.

Everyone wants to make it to the ultimate goal of being number one, but the only way to get there is to demand the best of yourself—to put yourself to the test, block the negative thoughts, and stay focused on the goal. No matter how many hours of practice it requires, no matter how many times we need to go through the routine, no matter what it takes, if we are dedicated in mind, body, and spirit, we *will* get there. Not only will our dancing improve, but the way we feel about ourselves will improve.

We really enjoy taking part in our local dance events. The cost is much more affordable than out-of-state competitions, and less time off from work is required.

One very important factor is showing support to our local organizers for making these events possible. These organizers are not rewarded in dollars for all the hard work that goes into putting on a dance competition. The love of dance is what drives and inspires them, and the payoff is knowing that they are contributing to the local dance community.

ERV Dance Studios sponsored the Minnesota Star Ball for several years, and we know firsthand that without the support of our local dancers, these competitions would never have taken place. But the time, money, and effort that went into these events was nothing compared to the rich reward of watching so many dancers in one place sharing the thing they love the most: dancing.

We at ERV Dance Studios would like to thank Donna Edelstein for putting together this great event, and we look forward to many more in the future. We would also like to invite all dance studios, independent instructors, and amateur dancers to consider supporting our wonderful local events including Snow Ball, Star of the North, Minnesota Star Ball, Twin Cities Open, and Minnesota Madness.

Your support will make a big difference and will contribute tremendously to our own growing dance community! ■



Dahl Dance Center Competes at Snow Ball

By April Dahl

The Dahl Dance Center Team thoroughly enjoyed our weekend at the 2012 Snow Ball. Donna put on a wonderful event that included inspirational workshops, great organization for registration and check-in, and a friendly and exciting competition experience that made our new competitors feel welcome. We were very proud of each of our students and the effort they put in on the dance floor. It was great to see so many local faces and a few new ones to the MN competition scene as well.

Dahl Dance Center took home the award for top studio, as well as:

- Top Teacher - Gary Dahl;
- Top Newcomer - Sandy Haydon;
- Top Silver Student - Patricia Barrier;
- First Place Silver Smooth Scholarship - Darcy Adamczyk;
- First Place Silver Standard Scholarship - Darcy Adamczyk.

A big thank you to Donna for hosting such a wonderful competition, and we look forward to participating again! ■



Out of My Comfort Zone

By Sue LaVigne

I hate driving. I really dislike driving at night. That said, when I got the chance to combine two things I love, photography and dance, I was willing to go out of my comfort zone.

On January 13—a Friday, no less—I left East Bethel with a Google map in hand and drove to the DoubleTree Hotel in St. Louis Park. There, I had the most enjoyable afternoon experimenting with my daughter's Nikon D3100 camera and watching some wonderful dancers in the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition.

Friday was rhythm, and my photos were centered on Cheek to Cheek Dance Studio owner and instructor, Harry Benson, and two of his students, Rosemary and Annabel. It never ceases to amaze me how effortless and enjoyable Harry makes the dances as he guides his students through the steps and around other dancers. I know from experience that he can make even the most insecure and inept dancer (me) feel comfortable enough to really enjoy the dance.

While I am not ready to leave the comfort zone of the studio, I am very glad that Annabel and Rosemary left their comfort zone to compete and allowed me the chance to get some great photos. Check out the photos on the Cheek to Cheek website at cheektocheekdancestudio.com or on Facebook, and tell me what you think. ■



Left to right: Sandy Haydon, Elaine Case, April Dahl, John Vitek, Patricia Barrier, and Gary Dahl. Not pictured: Darcy Adamczyk and Gwen Amstutz.

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Competing for the First Time at Snow Ball

By John Vitek



I attended Snow Ball 2011 as a spectator, and I left determined to return to Snow Ball 2012 as a competitor, and I did. This was my first ballroom competition—as in, ever—having started my training under the coaching of Gary and April Dahl at Dahl Dance Center in Rochester, Minnesota, only a year ago. I was not sure what to expect coming into the event but was keenly aware that I was far outside my element. I’ve been an amateur competitive athlete my whole adult life, and I know how to prepare to compete, but I’ve never done anything like this before. I told my pro (April Dahl) that I had no worries about remembering the patterns, no worries about footwork, a

little worry about my musicality, and big worries about having to navigate around the floor and avoid running into someone else. That, to be honest, was my biggest fear. What impressed me most was the genuine camaraderie among the pros and their graciousness in knowing I was a first-time competitor. At the start of one of our dances, seeing our starting alignment, a fellow pro made sure to give me the space I needed. I was really touched by the kindness of that act.

The goal April and I set for the event was pretty simple: enjoy the experience and gain experience. On Friday morning we attended a workshop put on by Susan Puttock on “what judges look for.” Since we were the only attendees, April and I got a virtual private lesson with Susan—quite the value add to the comp. I listened to Susan intently when she told me that how I present myself through my dress and grooming mattered. Well, I can tell you, I knew I wasn’t going to be the best dancer on the floor, but I knew I could clean up and look great thanks to the beautiful suit made for me by Nick at LeNique—thanks, Nick. As for my dancing, I gave it everything I had and performed to the best of my current capabilities. I went for it and left nothing on the floor.

I have to say that I had thought of ballroom dance as a rather genteel activity. I wasn’t expecting the shout-outs of the crowd, “Go 304!”

“Where am I?” I wondered “Why are these people shouting numbers?” I will say that the rowdiness of it all rather grew on me, and one of the neatest and unexpected experiences was getting a shout-out of my number from complete strangers. I had expected it from my wonderful, loving fan base that made the trip up from Rochester and Winona, but I will say that a shout-out from a complete stranger . . . that’s just pure flattery, and at my age, I’ll take it. I was also really touched by the graciousness of my fellow competitor in the smooth dances who introduced himself and welcomed me. So here’s a shout-out to Ed Kadletz. You and Julie Jacobson danced beautifully, and your kindness put me at ease.

Donna, you and your team put on a beautiful event. I could not have been more impressed and pleased with my experience. Coming into an event where there are lots of veterans and close friendships, I could not have felt more welcomed. The professional show featuring Mikhail and Galina was amazing and inspired me to return to the studio to train even more. Of course, it was an honor for me to be part of the Dahl Dance Center team of competitors that took home the Top Studio recognition.

I know a goal of this event was to “just have fun,” but I have to make a confession. Now that I know there are trophies on the line—well, I’ll be back. I have already blocked off January 11 and 12, 2013. See you then. Congratulations on an event well done. ■



Snow Ball Kicks off 2012 Season

By Rachel Damiani

After four years of competing as a pro/am student, my ballroom dance experience has come full circle. Here I was, preparing for my professional debut at the same competition where I first competed pro/am. My partner, Shane Haggerty, and I had pushed hard to be ready for competition after only three months of working together. Dancing at Snow Ball was the fulfillment of a dream for both of us; it was my first time competing at the professional level and Shane's first time competing in all nine dances. And it was an absolute thrill!

I have not missed Snow Ball since I began dancing four years ago. It is an incredible experience to perform for such a supportive audience. All of the coaches we've worked with were able to see our dancing and give us immediate feedback. Our families and friends came out to cheer us on. Even our fellow professional competitors were encouraging (and surprisingly apologetic when we'd crash into each other). This support and enthusiasm from

our local community will carry us the rest of the season, when we will surely encounter straighter-faced judges and spectators.

Snow Ball was also a great networking opportunity for us. The judges are the same people I've seen on my panels at Milwaukee and Ohio Star Ball, but because Snow Ball is still growing, the judges had time to meet us and get to know our dancing. In addition to the local coaches I know well (who also judge across the country), I met Chantal LeClerc (Seven-Time Undeclared Canadian 10 Dance Champion), Richard Booth (Organizer of Colorado Star Ball and Golden State Challenge), as well as Susan Puttock (U.S. Open Professional Standard Champion).

When we made the final, we heard many cheers from friends and fellow dancers, which helped make this first Professional Rising Star American Smooth event such a success for us. We now feel ready to spread our wings and travel to other locations, where we may have to work a little harder to get the crowd on our side. But thanks to you, we'll have the momentum to do it. ■



Star of the North

Dancesport Competition

February 25 & 26, 2012

Marriott Minneapolis West,
St. Louis Park, MN

More at: www.sotncomp.com



History of Satin Stitches Ballroom Dance Costumes

By Deborah J. Nelson

My name is Deborah Nelson. I am a professional fashion and costume designer. I am the founder, president, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd. Our company is a custom design costume manufacturer located in the suburb of Coon Rapids, just minutes from downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul. We do custom ballroom competition gowns, and we also redesign and alter ballroom gowns, social dancing dresses, and men's ballroom apparel.

I started Satin Stitches back in the spring of 1978 while I was still working as an assistant designer and head pattern-maker at a small women's "bridge apparel" manufacturer in downtown Minneapolis. I worked at Daj, Inc., for 3 1/2 years. Prior to this, I briefly worked for a less exclusive women's apparel manufacturer in Minneapolis after I graduated from college. I have a BFA degree from the Minneapolis College of Design, where I majored in Fashion Design.

Within a year or so of starting Satin Stitches, I had ballroom dancers as clients in addition to brides and pageant queens. I very much enjoy working with glitzy garments, which is why I started Satin Stitches.

Every small business evolves, and Satin Stitches has evolved towards custom, high-quality group costumes. The bulk of our current clients includes NHL and NBA dance teams, along with high school dance teams and show choirs around the United States and Canada.

Back at the beginning of Satin Stitches, I started setting up my Satin Stitches booth at various ballroom competitions around the Midwest, showing off our work with photo

albums and samples. I still have some really fun photos of our ballroom clients from 20 to 30 years ago.

Because Satin Stitches has evolved to new clients and venues, my ballroom friends haven't seen much of me lately. Most of my ballroom costume-watching has been from the comfort of my living room enjoying *Dancing with the Stars*. Check out www.satinstitches.com if you're interested in seeing my *Dancing with the Stars* Costume Critique blogs to get a professional costume designer's perspective on what is and isn't flattering for ballroom costuming.

I enjoy sharing my expertise, and besides these blogs, I've written many articles that have been published in national, regional, and local dance publications over the years. I've taught fashion design and pattern-making classes, and I've presented seminars on all aspects of costume design and the care of costumes. You can find many of these articles on our website. And with 33+ years' experience creating custom dance costumes for individuals and groups, I know a thing or two about how to achieve great fit on any body by camouflaging flaws and highlighting features.

But I'd like to do more! Starting next month, I'll be contributing to the Minnesota Dancing Times every month with fabulous costuming tips. In this column, I will discuss flattering and non-flattering design features and address any questions you might have.

So if you pass over my Satin Stitches ad every month wondering what Satin Stitches is all about, I hope I've been able to fill you in on our history. Check out our website or give us a call with any questions.

See you next month.

Have a costume question for Deborah? Send it to newsletter@usadance-mn.org. ■



Photos from Snow Ball by Decadance Photography: Tony Eng

2012 Star of the North DanceSport Volunteer Information

Submitted By Mike Jones

The 15th Annual Star of the North DanceSport Classic will be here soon, and we sure could use your help. The event is on Saturday, February 25th and Sunday, February 26th, and is located at the Marriott Minneapolis West Hotel, 9960 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55426 (near Hwy 394 & Hwy 169).

For volunteer purposes, the weekend has been divided into segments of time called shifts. The shift times may be subject to slight changes, and individual volunteers' participation times can be flexible if they have conflicts. Saturday is divided into three shifts, and Sunday is divided into two shifts.

Saturday Morning: 6:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday Afternoon: 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Dinner Break)

Saturday Evening: 6:30 p.m. – End (Approx. 11:00 p.m.)

Sunday Morning: 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sunday Afternoon: 12:30 p.m.– End (Approx. 5:30 p.m.)

Volunteer positions include ticket sellers, on-deck captain, coat check, judge/award assistant, and positions entailing a few other tasks. Sometimes volunteers rotate so that everyone gets lots of opportunity to see the competition.

Volunteers get a special benefit. When they're not volunteering, they can attend the SOTN competition FREE of charge. Snacks and beverages will be available for sale. If you wish, bring your camera and dance shoes.

Some volunteers do more than one shift, and a few of them have even been known to sneak away for a few minutes to participate in a competition heat.

Volunteering is a great way for non-competitors to participate in the event. You'll help our USA Dance Minnesota Chapter, meet lots of people, see some great competitive dancing, and maybe do some general dancing yourself.

Email your contact info (Name and Phone Number) and available shift time(s) to volunteers@usadance-mn.org. We need to hear from you ASAP.

Thanks from all of us at USA Dance Minnesota. ■

Photos from Snow Ball by Decadance Photography: Tony Eng





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Remembering Pete

The Star of the North Pete Maki Memorial Scholarship

By Cathy Dessert

A cornerstone of the ballroom community passed on December 24, 2011. As many of you are probably aware, his name was Pete Maki. He was our DJ extraordinaire, along with his partner of 15 years, Joyce Thompson. But as I learned, he was so much more. That, I knew, but really didn't think about. So here's to the wonderful memory of Pete Maki as so eloquently summarized by our own Anne LaTourelle. She collected thoughts and memories from many in the ballroom community and eulogized Pete with these words:

"I want you to think about any type of dancing you have ever watched, not just ballroom. The common denominator is the music that fills the silence and creates the movement in the dancer's body.

"Pete's passion and gift was to provide the musical inspiration that made the dancers move. Whether it was a social dance, a dance demonstration, something for the community, or a dance competition, the music he and Joyce played helped the dancers' feet take flight. But Pete took it a step further.

"Pete was passionate, always searching out new and different music. Particularly, he would try it out at the Annual Tea Dance, always providing an enjoyable and fun dancing atmosphere with his latest finds.

"Pete was also meticulous. His music had the correct tempo and beat, never varying from the requirements. We could always count on his attention to detail and his hours of preparation to have things just right.

"Pete was generous with his time, editing and burning CDs for many dancers with no expectation of compensation. He and Joyce volunteered countless hours helping the dance community at events like Dancing the Night Away, the annual Mall of America demo, and Star of the North.

"Pete understood the dancers' love of dance and the power of music. He strove to inspire the dancers to dance to the best of their ability, whatever their level of skill."

This is how I best remember Pete: dancing by the music table with Pete and Joyce playing music. I would dance by, and Pete would wave, sometimes applaud and give a big smile. I would feel like the only one on the floor. Funny thing: when I asked others about a memory of Pete, they described the exact same experience. He had that wonderful ability of making you feel like you were the only couple he was watching. He loved to see what you would do with the music he had selected. That was his gift.

Yes, we have a gaping hole in our community with the loss of this unique and talented man. But per Joyce's wish, we have created an opportunity to continue Pete's legacy of dance and established a memorial scholarship in Pete's name. It will be awarded at Star of the North. We hope to make it perpetual.

If you care to donate, you can bring a cash or check in any amount to the February monthly dance or mail your donation to Cathy Dessert, 468 Vadnais Lake Drive, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127. Please make checks payable to USA Dance-MN. ■

Local Dancers Rescue Many from Fire

By Suzi Blumberg



Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas and Rebecca Dahlquist-Eckhoff made news mid-December when they rescued more than ten people from a fire in Hopkins, Minnesota. A Monday morning at 1:47 a.m. they arrived at home after a long night of practice. Eliecer stepped out of his car and smelled smoke. He looked around and saw it was coming from the building next door to his condo.

Eliecer called 911. Rebecca walked around the building and saw a unit in flames. Both Eliecer and Rebecca went into the building through the back door. They started screaming until three families evacuated. It was getting too hard to breathe because the place was full of smoke, so they left the building.

At that time, they saw another family trying to get out from the second floor through the stairs, but they could not because of the smoke and the flames. Eliecer suggested they open their large sliding glass window. He found a picnic table nearby and climbed on it. They put their feet on his hands, and he lowered his knees and slid them down safely to the ground. He did this several more times until all were safe. Then a gentleman from another side of the building

started screaming for help, so Eliecer quickly moved the table and got him and his cat out the same way.

Timing was everything. Had they arrived home a few minutes early or few minutes late, they would have missed it. They are very happy to have been able to help their neighbors. They had never met them before but were very happy they were safe.

Eliecer said, "You know, when you experience this type of thing in life, you learn that everything can be gone in minutes without your even knowing. This is why we have to live every day to the max and not wait to do the things we want to do or wait until tomorrow to do what we can do today."

Eliecer said he appreciated that he was in top physical condition because of his dancing, and this helped him during the rescue.

Eliecer and Rebecca are the owners and instructors of ERV Dance Studios in Hopkins and Costa Rica. They also are the organizers of the Minnesota Star Ball Dance Competition held annually in the Twin Cities. ■

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2:30 p.m. - Free Intro Tango Lesson

3:00 p.m. - Free Intro Swing Lesson

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Have dinner as a group at Keys Cafe

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Free Dance Party

RSVP: info@tropicalballroom.com.

Danceland

Chapter 13

By Lester Martin

Our class was small—only three couples, including Jessica and me. After the first 20 minutes, I figured out why the class was so small: Bronze International Waltz was really boring. In fact, we hadn't even started dancing. By now, Cassie would have gotten off a few bad jokes and had us doing at least two basic figures. Not Kristina. She was in lecture mode, telling us all about *rotation*, which she pronounced with a faint but fetching trill on the "R." She spoke of r-rotation as a body position and r-rotation as a body movement.

Meanwhile, in the back studio, the Pre-Teen Modern class was going like gangbusters. I could hear what sounded like a Broadway show tune. Andrew Lloyd Webber, perhaps?

As she spoke, Kristina also demonstrated her points about posture and movement. This was the best part of an otherwise dry lecture. Kristina had the trim body of an athlete: shapely, but not voluptuous. Whether she was moving or standing still, it was like she was posing for the camera, and she looked fabulous from every angle.

Eventually she stopped lecturing. *At last!* I thought. *Now we'll get to do some dancing.* Instead, she lined us up facing the big mirrors that covered one wall of the studio. We were told to place our feet together and raise our arms until they were parallel to the floor. Then we moved our hands forward, palms down, until they were directly in front of our shoulders, forming an angular oval. Within a few seconds, my shoulder muscles started to burn, and I could feel my lower back muscles tightening up. She went down the line behind us, stopping at each person to adjust our arms, backs, and heads, nudging us this way and that until we were in just the right position.

When she got to me she placed her fingertips on both sides of my neck. Immediately I felt my neck muscles start to relax. "That's better," she said.

Then she lightly tickled my upper back muscles on either side of my spine, which caused them to tense. "Use these muscles to hold your arms up, not your neck muscles." Sure enough, my arms felt a little lighter.

Finally, she took my head between her hands, gently pulling it up and back and turning it downward just a touch. "You should feel like you are suspended from the ceiling by a wire that is attached to the crown of your head." And she tapped a spot on top of my head directly above my ears. So *that's* where my crown was.

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When she got us all sufficiently corrected, she had us slowly turn our upper bodies left and right while continuing to look straight ahead. As we turned back and forth like a bunch of radar dishes, she continued to lecture.

"When you r-rotate your upper body you will feel your neck muscles stretching as your head leans slightly in the opposite direction. This is how the body works to maintain its balance. Every movement the body makes, no matter how slight, is counterbalanced by another involuntary movement, usually the contraction of a muscle group on the opposite side. The head is very heavy and makes a good counterweight. In this class you will learn to listen to your bodies and use these dynamics to remain balanced directly over your feet at all times."

The music in the back studio had changed to something more metallic. Aerosmith, or maybe Van Halen.

Maybe I'd gotten it all wrong. Maybe Bronze International Waltz wasn't really *dancing*, after all. It was more like physical therapy. Or maybe it was some kind of cult, and Kristina was hypnotizing us.

As we did our r-rotation exercise, I considered my classmates, reflected in the mirrors. Jessica looked smashing, as always. She'd probably heard all this stuff during her figure skating days.

At the other end of the line was Ned and his partner Ilsa. Both were very tall and lean, lightly tanned, and immaculately groomed. Ned wore a long-sleeved, heavily starched khaki shirt, dark green pleated dress slacks, and spotless patent leather dance shoes. He had a modest mustache, a sharply cut jawline, a full mane of glossy chestnut hair, and the confident bearing of an officer. I would have guessed his age to be 40. Ilsa was much younger, mid-20s at most. She was a blond-haired, blue-eyed Nordic goddess who never smiled. She wore black tights and a snug-fitting pink T-shirt that said "ASPEN" in bold glittery letters across the front. I could picture her at the Winter Olympics, slicing effortlessly through the last few gates in the women's slalom event, her golden hair flying behind her.

Next was Annette, whom I had met in Cassie's Rhythm classes. Annette probably weighed as much as Kristina and Ilsa added together. But since she was slightly taller than the other women, her weight was well distributed and she carried it gracefully. She usually wore silky dresses that accentuated her curves and rippled when she moved. Her partner was a beanpole of a man with a goatee, a head shaved clean as a bowling ball, and elegant little rectangular glasses. He wore black jeans and a black turtleneck sweater and stood about an inch taller than Annette.

After we had spent several minutes watching ourselves r-rotate, Kristina told the ladies to get into closed position with their partners while the men continued to face the mirror. Then she went down the line again, correcting arms,

hands, and heads. Especially the lady's head—adjusting it, then stepping back and studying the position, then adjusting it again. She did this two or three times with each lady, like a painter arranging objects for still life. Then she told us to try some more r-rotations in this position.

"Imagine that you are r-rotating around a pole," she said, "and your distance from that pole must remain constant. If you do this, you will counterbalance each other. You will learn to use each other's weight to create movement. This will give your dancing extra volume."

Dancing? Did she say "dancing"? Or did I imagine it?

As we went through this counterbalancing exercise, Kristina silently paced around us, inspecting our posture and movement. Finally she spoke.

"Okay, that's enough for today."

Huh? I looked at the clock on the wall. We had gone through 55 minutes of class without dancing a single step.

"Next week we will look at the knees and feet and talk about lowering."

Lowering? Good grief.

Jessica and I headed back to the waiting area, along with Annette and her partner. Ned and Ilsa remained on the dance floor with Kristina. I could hear them discussing something in hushed tones. When I sat down to change my shoes, I noticed that Ilsa was standing with her back to Kristina and her arms raised. Kristina was using her index finger to trace the line of Ilsa's spine from her head down to her butt. Ned was observing with sincere interest.

I turned to Jessica. She was looking at the floor and frowning. "So whaddya think about Bronze International Waltz?" I asked.

She looked up at me. Her expression was slightly pained. "When we actually get to Bronze International Waltz, I'll let you know."

"You must have heard a lot of theory when you were figure skating."

"Some, sure. But I never had a coach who talked *that* much."

Just then, Annette stepped up to us. "Oh, man, was I glad to see you guys here tonight!" she said breathlessly. "This International stuff seems really hard!"

Jessica looked up at her, and her face warmed into a smile. "Who's your friend?"

Annette grabbed her companion and lugged him over. "Say hi to Jens. He's from Denmark!"

We exchanged names and Annette continued: "We met out at the Stardust Ballroom. Monday Night Beginning Tango! Turns out he works for the accounting firm that does my company's books. He's going to help me with my taxes!" Jens just smiled bashfully. Annette leaned toward us. "These dance classes may be a conflict of interest," she said in a conspiratorial whisper, "but I'll take the risk." Then she beamed. "Jens has done International back in Denmark. And he's a *very* strong lead."

He'd have to be. Annette was a very ... exuberant dancer, and any man who dared to dance with her had better know what he was doing.

By now the Pre-Teeners had broken out of the back studio, squealing and shouting as they stampeded through the waiting area and out to their waiting moms or dads in the parking lot. They were followed by Cassie, who walked up to the computer at the front desk. Her face was flushed, and there was a small moist spot in the middle of her fluorescent orange Sneaker Pimps T-shirt. She spotted us and gave us a big wave.

"Hi, there, strangers!" she called out. "So how do you like International?"

Jessica and I just looked at each other. Kristina continued to draw diagrams on Ilsa's body while Ned watched and nodded. ■

The MN Snow Ball

Photos by Cathy Dessert



Gentlemen Lead

By Jack Munday



Readers of this column know that we have had health issues from time to time that have kept us off the dance floor. Only two of them actually came from dancing, and we resolved both nicely. But this raises the question of health and dancing in general. Knowing that dancing is good for our physical, mental, and emotional health, how do we take care of ourselves as dancers?

In the January / February 2012 issue of the magazine *Departures*, an article by Rebecca Milzoff titled *With the Greatest of Ease* tells of an interview with David Hallberg, the first American to be a principal dancer at Russia's Bolshoi Ballet. Hallberg talks about his head, arms, hands, torso, legs, and feet. We asked our instructor, Monica Mohn, to translate Hallberg's ballet analysis of the body into ballroom dance advice.

Monica quickly pointed to his comments on the torso, where he says, "With strong abdominals, your body aligns better, your back doesn't hurt as much." The article also noted that he exercises, doing daily crunches.

Monica said, "The torso is the key. Your core comes from when you engage your abdominal muscles." She stood as one normally does, relaxed. Then she engaged her abdominal muscles and transformed into dance posture, taller,

straighter, able to move more fluidly. "He's right. The torso is key to both proper core and to staying fit for dancing."

Fran reminded us that she aggravated an existing knee problem by over-straining striding sideways in the bolero. The strain didn't heal properly, instead leading to a total knee replacement because of arthritis issues. She is fully recovered, I should add, and we danced the bolero not long ago in a showcase. Then I led Fran in the bolero basic.

"Moderation," I said.

"Is best," Fran said.

"Always," Monica said.

Monica then went on to demonstrate the exercises she recommends for our feet, rising and lowering on the balls of her feet. "Strength in the feet helps prevent injury, and they are vulnerable like Hallberg's article suggests."

I also asked Scott Anderson about exercise and injury in dancing. Scott is one of the performers in Beyond Ballroom Dance Company, so his dancing is more physical than what Fran and I do. He said he dances in rehearsals, in competitions, performances, teaches many lessons, and needs to maintain his strength and conditioning and avoid being dehydrated. "I try to stay focused and organized and get rid of lactoids with a healthy diet and plenty of water. Stretching and warming up are both important to do before dancing at your best. I have my students warm up before I get to the lesson."

Of course, the article is about ballet; Hallberg says his right arm is stronger, so that is the arm he lifts the lady with, and his left foot is his pivot foot, so the calf is more developed and stronger. But the torso comments were right on point. How many of these columns, especially early on, quoted "posture, frame, and core"?

*John S. Munday is a writer and lawyer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife Fran. Together they began ballroom dancing at Cheek To Cheek Studio. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn. Jack's new book, *Beauty In Partnership, A Memoir of Ballroom Dancing*, is available at www.johnsmunday.com and at several dance studios.* ■

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Competition Calendar

Feb 4, 2012

USA Dance Southwest Regional - NQE

Hosted by Orange County USA Dance Chapter #4018 at Clubhouse Five in Laguna Woods Village, CA. Qualifying event for 2012 Nationals.

Feb 18 - 19, 2012

Derby City DanceSport Championships - NQE

Sponsored by Greater Louisville USA Dance Chapter #2021 in Louisville, KY. Qualifying event for 2012 Nationals.

Feb 25-26, 2012

Star of the North DanceSport Classic

Marriott Minneapolis West.

<http://www.starofthenorthcomp.com>

Mar 16 - 17, 2012

Steel City Classic Dancesport

Hosted by Rozana & Terry Sweeney of Art & Style Dance Studio in Pittsburgh, PA.

Mar 30 - Apr 1, 2012

2012 National DanceSport Championships

USA Dance 2012 National DanceSport Championships to be held at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, MD.

Apr 13 - 14, 2012

USU Dancesport Challenge

Organizer Adam Shelton & US Ballroom Foundation to be held in Logan, UT.

May 12 - 13, 2012

Columbia Star Ball - NQE

Organized by Mark W. Tabor and Tiffanie Rhodes to be held in Portland, OR. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

May 18-19, 2012

Minnesota Star Ball

www.MNstarball.com

Jun 29 - Jul 1, 2012

Gumbo DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Louisiana Gumbo USA Dance Chapter #5031 in Baton Rouge, LA. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Jul 28, 2012

River City Ball

Hosted by Portland, OR USA Dance Chapter #1006. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Oct 5 - 7, 2012

Carolina Fall Classic - NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in Greensboro, NC. Qualifying event for USA Dance 2013 Nationals.

Nov 2 - 4, 2012

Chicago DanceSport Challenge - NQE

Hosted by the Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

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Dancing and Commitment

By Elizabeth Dickinson

As a new dancer, I vividly remember my first dance teacher bringing in a well-known coach to work with me. For a great deal of the session, he did nothing but have me change weight from one foot to another. I remember feeling quite vulnerable because I just could not get this. He kept saying, "Commit! Commit!" I had no idea what he meant, so I just kept shifting my weight from one foot to another. How hard could this be? Why couldn't I get it?

"I *am* shifting my weight," I said defensively.

"That's not what I asked you to do," he said. "I want you to put *all* of your weight on one foot, then the other, just like you do when you walk. Commit!"

I've been mulling over the concept of commitment recently. The dictionary definition of commitment is, "an act of committing to a charge or trust." Commonly we think of commitment as something binding of the person who gives it. I don't think I've thought very much about the aspect of trust.

When we walk, we trust that each foot is capable of carrying our entire weight for a second before the other foot

accepts it. In our dance partnerships, we trust (to varying degrees) that our partner will lead or follow.

What does it mean to put your entire weight behind something? What does it mean to trust enough to put all of yourself into something you commit to?

An unconventional spiritual teacher once said, "In most great endeavors committing 100% is easy. 98% is hard." (He actually used another word meaning "difficult" unsuitable for most publications...)

It may seem like a stretch to say the transfer of weight is a trustful commitment. All I know is that during the times in dance and in life where I've been able to trust myself and to fully commit my weight from one foot to another, I am more graceful, and my life flows with a sense of effortlessness.

And while there are times in life when it is appropriate to hang back, to split the difference, to evaluate, to be cautious, there is something in the act of commitment and trust that allows us to fly. May we all find those moments. May those moments be many.

(Elizabeth Dickinson is a dancer and professional life coach in the Twin Cities. If you have topic suggestions for future columns, please feel free to contact her through her website at elizabethdickinson1.wordpress.com.) ■

ASK DR. DANCE

Donna Edelstein is a popular coach, judge, and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition. Paul Botes is an accomplished dance instructor, coach, choreographer, and judge who has produced many nationally titled students and couples. He is an owner of American Classic Ballroom, located in Chanhassen, MN. Submit your questions to Dr. Dance: newsletter@usadance-mn.org.

Q

I'm going to be competing for the first time at Star of the North on February 25th. I have events set up with multiple amateur dance partners. Do you have any advice on competing with multiple partners? They all dance differently, and I'm afraid some of my dances will be really close to others with different partners. I'm not sure what to expect, and I want to make sure that all of my partners feel good about our dancing.



She said:

It can be tough to adapt to different partners, but that is what pro/am teachers do all the time when they compete with students.

Warm up on your own, and suggest that each person you dance with is warmed up and ready to go too, even if you don't have time to get ready with each other.

Try to be sensitive to each person's style of movement, be in the moment responding to what you feel, listen to the music, and have a good time. Good luck!

Donna Edelstein donnawrites@msn.com 763 557-6006

He said:

Dancing with one partner is difficult; dancing with multiple partners is even more challenging, especially for a beginner. Try not to focus too much on remembering who leads what, but focus more on direction and the pace of the lead. Try to have fun and realize that, as a beginner, you are allowed to make mistakes. The error beginners sometimes make is to give the mistakes too much importance, thereby ruining the experience. Also, remember that you only learn by making mistakes, so accept that it is a part of the learning process. ■





February 2012

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➤ **Contact Jeff @ 320 266 4137 or jeff@studiojeff.com**

New women's dresses for sale \$200 to \$400 size small. Pics at www.studiojeff.com.

➤ **Contact: diana.fu2@gmail.com or 952-288-6159**

Latin, rhythm, salsa Dress, Size 0-6, brand new, piquant red color, sensual fringes show movement, open back with straps that can tie into various patterns, built in bra. \$380, negotiable.

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

Size 2-6 prices \$500-\$700 American smooth gowns. Contact Cheri for details and pictures.

➤ **Contact Stacie @ 612-251-8108 or SPIERSON0081@yahoo.com**

Purchase, rent to own or weekend rental available. Pictures available.

Seafoam green latin/rhythm dress. Short playful skirt. Includes matching bracelets, choker and ear-rings. Sizes 0-6. \$1,950.

Black latin/rhythm dress with bugle beads and Abs. Dress worn on Dancing w/ Stars and in Take the Lead. Size 0-6. \$1,850.

Black Lace with peach underskirt smooth gown. Entire dress is lace, long sleeves, open back. Skirt slit in back. Worn on dancing w/ Stars. Size 0-6. \$3,150

Deep Purple rhythm/latin dress. Skirt has some movement. Sexy but covers your sides. Size 2-8. \$2,750

Fusia Smooth Gown. High slight on side, open back. Including jewelry. Worn on Dancing w/ Stars. Size 4-8. \$2,350

Blue latin/rhythm dress. Full flowing skirt. Matching jewelry. Made for a larger chest. Size 6-8. \$2,450.

Black and Rose Print Standard Gown. Full sleeves, large floats. Size 0-4. \$2,950

Lady Supadance latin shoe, 2.5" heel, fits an American 5 ½-6, never worn, style #1066, sell for \$151 asking \$75.

➤ **Contact Theresa at theresakimler@yahoo.com or 651-773-3511**

Size 2-6: Royal Blue Beauty Smooth Gown. Navy blue dress covered solid in rhinestones in different shades of blue. Gives an ultimate shimmer and looks almost royal blue on the dance floor. Fox fur cutt on left arm, long sleeves, slimming fit. Made by Randall Designs. Championship dress. Pics avail. \$2800.

Size 2-6: Black Elegant Smooth Gown. Black mesh peeks through an intricate overlay for a stunning look. Cobalt blue rhinestones, necklace, earrings complete the intrigue of this dress. Long sleeves, one arm with fox fur cuff. See photo in April 2010 issue, page 21. \$2400 pics avail.

➤ **Contact AnnaMaria @ 612-280-6869 or annamariaregerson@comcast.net** Retiring from competitive dancing, selling my gowns, rhythm dresses, and accessories. Wide variety of smooth gowns and latin dresses.

Princess White Championship Gown, beautiful white lace one-piece, chiffon layered skirt, multicolored AB stones with flower details, open back, accessories available, Marsha Wiest-Hines designed, asking \$1300.

Black smooth gown gives great movement on the floor. Open back, V-front straps, hand-sewn pearls, Swarovski crystals size 6-8, newly offered, asking \$1250.

Yellow smooth gown to Show your beautiful back, elegant, size 4-6, covered with Swarovski crystals, great movement on the floor, newly offered. asking \$1000.

Fuchsia rhythm dress (size 2-8) bell sleeves, open back, asymmetrical/slit open shows leg movement, AB stones, beautiful low back, accessories available, asking \$500.

Sexy-hot Yellow rhythm dress, stunning yellow with contrasting royal blue appliques, AB and Swarovski stones, you will be noticed!, accessories available, asking \$1200.

Light pink rhythm dress, bust covered in Swarovski crystals and sequins. For those who Dare to Bare tastefully. Open back, halter top, one of a kind. Asking \$1,800.

Gorgeous black rhythm dress, size 6-8, open back, really shows great legs, tons of AB and Swarovski stones, 3 layers of black hand-beading/ asymmetrical, will be noticed. Asking \$1275.

Many more showcase gowns/dresses, and evening wear. Sizes 4-8,

some 10-12. Gorgeous accessories to help you shine on the floor. AB and Swarovski hair jewelry/ earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings. Affordable.

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

Georgous Peach Championship Gown. This dress is one of a kind!

Beautiful open back, stretch satin skirt with godets add fullness to movement. Fully stoned bodice and elegant gloves to match! Like new! Made by Marsha Weist Hines. Size 2-8. Asking \$1200. Pics available.

Newly Offered! Beautiful Pink/Metallic Gold Smooth Gown. Very feminine look with lace trim on neckline, bodice, long sleeves and hems. Full coverage in AB multicolor stones! Like new - worn only twice!

Size 2-8. Asking \$1100. Pics available.

Elegant Black Championship Gown, luxurious maribu boa on hem & neckline. Beautifully designed with open back and long sleeves, shows off curves. Covered in AB multicolor stones. Size 2-8. \$1100 obo. Pics avail.

Black Gown with Hot Orange & Yellow Accents. Stunning gown has fiery orange and yellows accents drapes on long sleeves, bodice and chiffon layers of skirt, sexy slit shows off legs, beautiful color rhine stones. Size 2-8. \$800 obo. Pics available.

Sexy Pink & White Rhythm Dress! This stunning dress has tons of stones, beautiful pearl beading & flirty skirt! Bracelets, necklace, and accessories included. A showstopper! Size 2-8. Asking \$700. Pics avail. More gowns available to purchase and rent. Payment plans accepted.

➤ **Contact Joan @ 6123864174 or jdzazer@comcast.com**

FOR SALE: 1 pr DANSport t-strap rhythm shoes, size 3 1/2 European; 2" flare heel worn approx. 10 times. Price: \$40.00; original price \$145.00.

1 pr Kelaci Eminence 3 rhythm shoes, size 5 1/2 European; 2

1/2" flare heel worn once. The Kelaci shoes are very very flexible. Price: \$75.00. Original price \$155.00.

Also one pair of nude court shoes with clear bands, size 7 or 7 1/2 American; 2". Worn less than 10 times. Price: \$50. Original price \$150.00.

FOR SALE: Designed by Doré. Beautiful Royal Blue Smooth Gown.

Size 6-10. Bodice is encrusted with blue and green AB stones. Long sleeves. Skirt has godets and moves very elegantly. The skirt is royal blue with a green underskirt. Earrings included. Original price of this gown was \$3800. Price slashed to \$1400.

➤ **Contact janislivi@msn.com for the following:**

Super sale on many ballgowns. Under 5'3" and 130 pounds? try these:

The Millenium Gown, Silver sparkle all over, white sheer netting on sleeves with AB stones, peridot stones, and crystal stones scattered. Zipper entry. hand washable. asking \$300.

The Tangerine Dream Gown, neon tangerine color stretch lycra, swimsuit entry, AB stones, floats, hand washable. Asking \$125.

The Genesis Gown, neon yellow, orange roses, yellow stoning, yummy to wear, swimsuit entry, smooth/standard floats. hand washable. \$125. May sell Pink Champagne Gown for the right price.

➤ **Contact Shannon xin9264@hotmail.com (651)230-8901(c)**

Design Dress by Vesa, One-of-a-kind dress yellow stretch velvet drapes elegantly in front and back. Covered in crystal and citrine rhinestones.

Large citrine rhinestones and other decorative beads accent shoulders and panel at front and back, beneath the waist. Also large gold pallettes on the panel. A fringe skirt in front and back creates movement. Sides open to show off lines. Matching wristband, headband, feather hair accessory inc. Worn once by British prof rising star. Fit 0-6, 5'1"-5'5". Asking \$950.

➤ **Wanted: Tailsuit.** College student looking for a used men's dance suit or tail coat set, 6'0" 150#, approx. size 37L. Contact Andreas at 651-983-5348 or amantius@comcast.net

➤ **Contact Sherri Earley at 651-271-7690 or wwp2005@gmail.com**

Red salsa or Latin beginners dress. Can fit anywhere from a 2 to 6. Adorned with black, silver & gold disc bangles. Comes with matching earrings & arm bands. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

Black beginners Smooth gown. Fits a ladies size small/2-4. Skirt is 3 layers. Red and silver stones. Optional black gloves can be included, \$10 extra. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

➤ **Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos** Gently used International latin dance shoes, size 7.5, dyed beige strappy heels. Great deal at \$40 plus will throw in a free pair of fishnet tights!

➤ **Champion dance dresses, Jennifer Foster at 952-938-0048**

➤ **Contact Lisa Wu at 651-278-4434 or lisa_wu_us@yahoo.com**

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

Purple & white Smooth Gown. Sz. 6-10, \$300

New Latin & Ballroom Shoes for sale, sz. 7, 8 & 9 \$40

➤ **Contact Bernice at 952.936.2185 or 952.545.2989**

DANCE SHOES FOR SALE: ladies' smooth-dance closed-toe pumps, size 8 or 8 1/2, flesh-colored, worn once, Capezio DanceSport brand, \$50, also some RHINESTONE JEWELRY available for sale

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. Submit Swaplines ads to newsletter@usadance-mn.org. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

Cinema Ballroom.....(651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN,
Dancing Fridays to DJ music and Every Sunday to Live music.
Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am. See website for details or e-mail info@
cinemaballroom.com

Classic Ballroom.....(763) 519-1314
www.classicballroomdance.com 4228 Lancaster Lane No, Plymouth
55441 (Four Seasons Mall – Cty Rd 9 west off Hwy 169) Dance parties:
1st & 3rd Friday of every month: 7:10 pm – two group classes (1 for
newcomers; 1 for bronze level and up); 8-9 pm party follows! Cost:
\$15/group & party, \$10/party only.

Club Salsero @ Cinema Ballroom.....651.699.5910
1st Friday Latin Dance Party, \$15 for lesson & party; students with ID
receive discount at door.

Dancers Studio.....651-641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 415 Pascal Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

E.R.V. Dance Studio.....952-303-3339
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN 55343, www.ERVdancestudio.com

Fred Astaire Dance Studio.....651-451-6300
5300 S Robert Trl, Inver Grove Hts, MN 55077, www.FredAstaireMN.
com, invergrovemn@fredastaire.com

Liola-La Bodega.....(612) 823-2661
Lyndale & Lake Street, Minneapolis; Sundays and Mondays SALSA
and Latin Dancing Costa Rica-style; Brought by ERVentertainment &
Tico Baila (612-240-9053)

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 Hwy. 55, Medina 55340.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club (651) 487-6821
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 10
pm-2 am.

On Your Toes School of Dance.....(952) 928-7803
1st Sat & 4th Fri Ballroom Dances. www.onyourtoes.org and info@
onyourtoes.org 5810 W. 36th St., St. Louis Park, 55416.
Jeff and Cindy Nehrbass.

Rebels Swing Dance Club.....(952) 941-0906
www.tcrebels.com New location for dances: Social Dance Studio, 3742
23rd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 1st & 3rd Sunday Dances; 7-10:30 pm; \$7/
members; \$11 non-members.

Rendezvous Dance Studio.....(612) 872-1562
711 West Lake Street, Ste B, Minneapolis, MN 55408 www.
theplacetodance.com

Social Dance Studio.....(612) 418-4046
www.socialdancestudio.com 3742 23rd Ave. S.,
Minneapolis, 55407

Suburban-Winteret Dance Club.....(952) 894-1424
www.suburbanwinterset.com

Tango Society of Minnesota.....(763) 576-3349
www.mntango.org Location for 2nd Saturday dances:
ERV Dance Studio, 816 Main St., Hopkins; Lesson 8 pm;
Dance 9 pm – 1 am \$10.

Tropical Ballroom.....(651) 414-0644
www.tropicalballroom.com 1750 Weir Dr., Woodbury, MN 55125
(inside Valley Creek Mall); James & Tricia Wood.

Universal Steppers Dance Club.....651-783-6619
www.universalsteppers.net MLK, 271 Mackubin Street, St. Paul 55102.
Thursday class 6-8 \$5. Tuesday practice 6-8 pm. Donations accepted.

Dance Contacts

Studios/Instructors

American Classic Ballroom, Chanhassen 952-934-0900
Paul Botes, Andreas Mantius, Natalie Palmer
Arthur Murray Dance Studio, St. Paul 651-227-3200
Scott Anderson 612-816-4446
Ballroom & Wedding Dance Studio, Minneapolis 612-371-0300
Harry Benson 763-843-2285
Gene Bersten 763-234-8656
Klaudyna Borewicz 612-203-9123
Champion Ballroom, Minneapolis 952-922-8316
Robert and Jennifer Foster
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids 763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul 651-699-5910
Jonathan Chen, Dustin Donelan, Michelle Hudson, Eric Hudson,
Kristina Lee, Kirsten McCloskey, Nadine Messenger, Shane
Meuwissen, Martin Pickering, Douglas Wallock
Dahl Dance Center, Rochester 507-252-1848
Dance with Us America 612-564-5483
Gene Bersten, Elena Bersten, Andreas Mantius
Dancers Studio, St. Paul 651-641-0777
Christine Hallberg, Jeff Halverson, Gordon Bratt, Kathryn Bratt,
Bonnie Inveen, Chris Kempainen, Troy Lerum, Maria LaNave-
Johnson, & Russell Hunter
Nathan Daniels 763-545-8690
Joy Davina 612-353-4445
Jennelle Donnay 651-357-2060
Donna Edelstein 612-910-2690
E.R.V. Dance Studio 952-303-3339
Eliecer Ramirez-Vargas, Rebecca Dahlquist-Eckhoff, Rachelika
Baruch, Will Weaver, Soodi Pessian, Alex Spencer
Four Seasons Dance Studio 612-342-0902
Rebecca and Bruce Abas
Fred Astaire Dance Studio 651-451-6300
Esther Granbois 612-872-1562
Lindsey Rebecca Hall 612-940-9546
David Hanson 218-722-0742
Julie Jacobson 651-261-6442
Tony Karadjov 612-203-5429
LaDanza Dance Club Stillwater 651-439-3152
Mark or Wanda Bierbrauer
Jay Larson 651-387-3886
Tom Larson 612-371-0300
Deanne Michael 612-508-9255
Monica Mohn 612-874-0747
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass 952-928-7803
Mariusz Olszewski 612-242-5159
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park 952-928-7803
Jeff & Cindy Nehrbass, Elly Mae Toupin, Laurel Behning, Julie Delene
Todd Paulus 612-353-4445
Rendezvous Dance Studio 612-872-1562
Mary Rosenstiel 612-720-2584
Social Dance Studio, Minneapolis 612-418-4046
Joy Davina, Todd Paulus
StudioJeff, St. Cloud, Jeffrey Ringer 320-266-4137
Tropical Ballroom, Woodbury 651-414-0644

Services

Made for Movement: costume design, production, tailoring
(Marsha Wiest Hines) 952-595-0003
Oh Sew Special: tailoring, alterations, redesign
(Susan Richardson) 952-746-5539
Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear
(Deborah J. Nelson) 763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Clubs

Aqua Gliders Dance Club 612-869-3062
Café Bailar 612-600-5129
LaDanza Dance Club, Stillwater 651-439-3152
Linden Hills Dancing Club 952-412-7230
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club 651-426-8658
REBELS Swing Dance Club 952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota 763-576-3349
Universal Steppers Dance Club 651-783-6619
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter 651-483-5467

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Bill Dessert 651-633-4600

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