

# **MINNESOTA**

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



#### **Minnesota Dancer**



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

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 was formed in 1991. Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members receive discounts on admission to monthly dances, as well as other benefits.

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

Executive Editor: Bonnie Burton Assistant Editor: Tom Crable Design & Layout: Julie Johnston Advertising: Paul Stachour

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Photos should be sent separately not embedded in any Word document. Email submissions to Bonnie Burton at bonnieburton@comcast.net

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Instructor Spencer Loufek and Sandy Nelson at Cinema Ballroom's
Havana Nights Showcase

Photo by Dan Browning

#### **USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES**

#### July

Saturday, July 21 Dancers Studio— Sterling Hall 415 Pascal Street N. St. Paul

7-8 lesson - Bolero Instructor: Troy Lerum 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

#### **September**

Saturday, September 15 DanceLife Ballroom 4444 W 76th Street.

Edina

7-8 lesson - East Coast Swing Instructor: Shinya McHenry 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

#### **August**

Saturday, August 18 American Classic Ballroom 1495 Steiger Lake Lane Victoria 7-8 lesson - Cha Cha Instructor: Paul Botes 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

If you join USA Dance at a monthly dance, you attend that dance for free!

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

# Minnesota Ballroom & Latin Pance Camp

3 DAYS OF SEMINARS AND LESSONS SUNDAY TEA DANCE WITH LIVE MUSIC



Jonathan Roberts US National and World American Smooth and US Intl Latin Champion



Toni Redpath US National and World American Smooth Champion



Michael Mead US National and World American Smooth



Nazar Norov American Rhythm



Toby Munroe US National and World World West Coast Swing Champion

#### OCTOBER 12-14 MNBALLROOMDANCECAMP.COM

#### THANK YOU TO **OUR SPONSORS!**









#### Why attend the Minnesota **Ballroom Dance Camp?**

- Unique opportunity to work with some of the best coaches in the US in one weekend
- Private coaching lessons are available for you and your students
- Convenient central location in the upper midwest

Attendees: Lee Whitney (President- attended by call in), Joyce Thompson (Vice President), Carol Post (Secretary), Bonnie Burton, Stephanie Clausen, Marla Heisterkamp (arrived 6:40pm), Gary Stroick, and Leslie Whitney. (Absent Jane Phipps)

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

- 1. Agenda: Approved 7/0/0.
- 2. Board Minutes April 3, 2018: Approved 7/0/0
- 3. Treasurer Report: Approved 7/0/0
- 4. 2018 Budget Development:
  - a. Motion to accept proposed budget expecting that amendments may be required. Approved 6/1/0
- 5. Special Projects:
  - a. Tea Dance: Several cash donations made to Special Events for Tea Dance.
  - b. Alzheimer's Association: Longest Day fund raising request–2 gift certificates sent to Association (valued at 550.00 includes Project Dance lessons and monthly dance admission for 1 year) as donation to Alzheimer's Association in lieu of hosting a separate Longest Day event.
  - c. NBDW: Flash Mob-need coordinator. Choreography is set and on YouTube. Many dancers have already started to learn routine. Will look into potential low/no cost practice space. Discussed possibly teaching/ reviewing/ dancing small sections of FM during monthly dances/Project Dance. Discussions ongoing.
- 6. Communications:
  - a. Minnesota Dancer: Julie Johnston is new layout editor for newsletter.
  - b. Website: Advertising ongoing for webmaster support.
- 7. Social Dance:
  - a. Chapter Social Dance: May 19-American Classic Ballroom-Waltz; June 16, DanceLife Ballroom-Quickstep; July 21, Dancers Studio-Bolero; August 18, ChaCha (location TBD),
  - b. Project Dance: May-Bloomington Ballroom, Waltz by Charlie Drenth; June-'nMotion Dance Center-Samba by Jennelle Donnay; July-No project Dance; August-Tango (location TBD),
- 8. K-12 Report/ Dancing Classrooms:
  - a. K12: no report
  - b. Dancing Classrooms: annual benefit luncheon is scheduled on Tuesday, May 8, Midpoint Event Center. Colors of the Rainbow Team Match scheduled May 20: River Front Continental Hotel, St. Paul.
- 9. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Report: Normandale College has informal social dance group. No additional contact information available.
- 10. Nominations Committee: discussed potential members to serve.
- 11. Membership Report: Update next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Next Meeting: 6 pm Tuesday June 5, 2018 Washburn Public Library Minneapolis, Minnesota (Downstairs Conference Room).



#### **Dancer's Night Out**

#### **USA DANCE**

USA Dance-Monthly-3rd Saturday Variety Dance, July 21, Dancers Studio - Sterling Hall, 415 Pascal Street N, St. Paul. Lesson 7–8 pm and dance 8–11 pm. Lesson-Bolero. Instructor: Troy Lerum.

Tapestry–Social Dance with USA Dance, 2nd Friday, July 13, DJ is Leland Whitney, lesson is Country Two Step, instructor is Duayne Wincell, lesson from 7–8 pm and dance from 8 to 11 pm.

Project Dance–No July Project Dance. Resumes in August.

#### **WEEKLY DANCES**

American Classic Ballroom–Fridays, lesson 6:15–7 pm and dance 7–9 pm.

Awakened Dance (at 'nMotion Dance Center)–Fridays, lesson 7–8 pm and dance 8–9 pm.

Ballroom & Latin Dance Club-Fridays, lesson 7–8 pm and dance 8–10 pm.

Costa Rica Ballroom–Wednesday, Practice Party, 8:15–9 pm.

Dance With Us America–Thursday, Practice Party, 8:15–9 pm.

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

Dancers Studio-Thursday, Variety Dance, 8-9:30 pm.

#### **OTHER DANCES**

Argentine Tango Milonga–Second Saturday of each month, July 14, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm–1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

Café Bailar Dance Club-Saturday Variety Party-2nd and 4th Saturdays, July 14 and 28, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30–8:30 pm and dance 8:30–11 pm. Cinema Ballroom– Practice Party, July 11, 18 and 25, 8–9 pm.

Cinema Ballroom–July 20– Dance'A'Roke, lesson 7–8 pm and dance 8–11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom–Sunday Night Dancing with Jerry O'Hagen and His Orchestra, July 8 and 22, 6:15 -10 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club-2nd and 4th Fridays, July 13 and 27, B-Dale Club, Roseville. 7:30 pm lesson free with admission and 8:30 pm dance.

Tapestry–Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, July 1 and 15, dance 6–9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels–WCS and Variety Dance, July 1 and 15, at DanceLife Ballroom, new location at 4444 West 76th Street, Suite 250, Edina, dance from 7–10:30 pm.



#### **Dance Contacts**

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to bonnieburton@comcast.net

#### **STUDIOS**

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM 1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria, MN 952.934.0900 www.acballroom.com

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO 534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul 651.227.3200

AWAKENED DANCE COMMUNITY (at 'nMotion Dance Center) 7988 University Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432 www.awakeneddance.com

BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE CLUB 1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville 952,292,0524

www.ballroom-club.com

BLOOMINGTON BALLROOM DANCE CENTER 3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington 952.392.9631 www.bloomingtonballroom.com

BLUE MOON BALLROOM 2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester 507.288.0556 www.BlueMoonBallroom.com

CINEMA BALLROOM 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul 651.699.5910 www.cinemaballroom.com

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS 816 Mainstreet, Hopkins 952.303.3339 www.costaricaballroom.com

DAHL DANCE CENTER 4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester 507.252.1848 www.dahldance.com DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT 651.605.5784 tricia@danceandentertainment.com www.danceandentertainment.com

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY 3142 1st Ave S, Minneapolis 612.822.8436 www.mndance.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA 10 Southdale Center, Edina 612.564.5483 www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCELIFE BALLROOM 4444 West 76th Street, Suite 250, Edina 612.345.4219 www.dancelifeballroom.com

DANCERS STUDIO 415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul 651.641.0777 www.dancersstudio.com

THE FLYING PIG DANCE STUDIO 6232 Lyndale Ave. S., Richfield 612.598.1094 www.tfpstudio.com

FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO 1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis 612.342.0902 www.fourseasonsdance.com

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO 1975 Seneca Road, Eagan, MN 651.451.6300 www.FredAstaireMN.com

MILL CITY BALLROOM www.millcityballroom.com

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO Bloomington, MN 612.799.4147 Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio

RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO Minneapolis 612.872.1562 www.theplacetodance.com STUDIOJEFF 701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201, St. Cloud 320.266.4137 www.studiojeff.com

T 4 DANCE COMPANY 2307 Cleveland St, Eau Claire WI 612-968-2401 www.t4dance.com

#### **CLUBS**

CAFÉ BAILAR www.cafebailar.com

LA DANZA DANCE CLUB Stillwater, MN 651.439.3152 Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub Contacts: Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB 320.763.6432 danceclub@lakesideballroom.org www.lakesideballroom.org

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN Email: latindc@umn.edu sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB info@mwcsdc.com www.mwcsdc.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB 952.941.0906 www.tcrebels.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB 952.475.0586 billcarlson@usinternet.com

STARDUST DANCE CLUB stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

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

SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA 612.224.2905 www.mntango.org

#### **Dance Contacts** (cont.)

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER 3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis 612.722.2914 www.tapestryfolkdance.org

#### **DANCE INSTRUCTORS**

Meghan Anderson and	
Igor Afonkin	.612.816.5904
Scott Anderson	.612.816.4446
Nathan Daniels	.763.464.1021
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Loisa Donnay	.612.822.8436
Julie Delene	.612.598.5355

#### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB bdc@umn.edu Is.gd/umnbdc

Donna Edelstein	612.910.2690
Jennifer Foster	952.922.8316
Robert Foster	952.922.8316
Bonnie Inveen	612.978.9371
Julie Jacobson	651.261.6442
Jay Larson	651.387.3886
Deanne Michael	

#### USA DANCE, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011

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

Monica Mohn	612.874.0747
Mariusz Olszewski	
Todd Paulus	. 612-968-2401
Neli Petkova	347.602.3913
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
ARGENTINE TANGO	
Miriam Lea Ziven	. 847-340-6854





# Tickets & Schedule

#### All Sessions are Open to the Public

Tickets can be purchased at the Door Or ordered in advance at megamarc@frontiernet.net

#### **Hyatt Regency Minneapolis**

Wednesday, July 11<sup>h</sup>

**EVENING – 7 pm ......\$15** 

"Night Club" Dance events & Championship

#### Thursday, July 12th

MATINEE - 8:00 am - 5 pm.....\$15

Pro/Am American Smooth events - Bronze & Silver - Championships & Scholarships

**EVENING – 7 pm ......\$30** 

Pro/Am American Smooth events – Advanced levels – Championships & Scholarships; Amateur Multi Dance events; Solo Exhibitions

#### Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

MATINEE -8 - 6:30 pm.....\$15

Pro/Am American Rhythm events - All Levels - Championships & Scholarships

**EVENING – 7 pm ......\$45** 

Formations; Pro/Am Advanced Latin events;

**Professional Rising Star Events** 

#### Saturday, July 14th

MATINEE - 7 am - 6 pm.....\$15

Pro/Am International Standard events

Pro/Am International Latin Bronze & Silver events

**EVENING – 7:30 pm ......\$50** 

**Professional Open Championships** 

"TCO ROCKS!" Professional Show

# THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE TWIN CITIES OPEN!!

If you are interested in COMPETING in this event – please contact your teacher or email us at <a href="mailto:megamarc@frontiernet.net">megamarc@frontiernet.net</a>
By June 15<sup>th</sup>!

#### Sunday, July 15th

Smooth & Rhythm lectures from Sam Sodano, Linda Dean, Rufus Dustin, Forrest Vance, JT Thomas And Tony Meredith!

COST: \$110 10-3 pm







### There is no Project Dance in July.

Project Dance classes will resume in August, 2018, at DanceLife Ballroom. See you then!

Sponsored by USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011

**USA** Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$5. Non-members pay \$10.

Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org or fill out a membership form available at class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

www.usadance-minnesota.org info@usadance-minnesota.org Follow us @USADanceMN





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# COMPETITION CALENDAR JULY AUGUST

11-15

Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Hosted by Scott and Amy Anderson-Mpls., MN

#### **SEPTEMBER**

8-9

Kansas City Classic Kansas City, KS

#### **OCTOBER**

26-28

Chicago DanceSport Challenge NQE

Chicago, IL

10-12

OKC Dreamcatcher Championships NQE Oklahoma City, OK

#### OCTOBER

5-7

Carolina Fall Classic NQE Charlotte, NC

#### **DECEMBER**

1

California State DanceSport Championships NQE Oakland, CA

# Life as a Professional Dance Costume Designer for 40+ Years

© Deborah I. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

If you know me, or my company Satin Stitches Ltd, you are probably aware that I have had a 40 year journey as the founder and head designer of Satin Stitches. I wear many hats for a niche business that has been creating custom-designed dance and performance costumes for 40 years. On my Facebook page, I posted a new 'Fun Fact' with an old photo, every day during my 'Anniversary Month'.

Costume and fashion design have been a part of my life since before I started grade school. It is my passion. With brief ideas of becoming an astronaut or a stewardess, I followed my predestined path to create fabulous garments that initially included apparel for myself, wedding gowns, bridesmaids and mother's gowns for my friends and family, and then garments and costumes for clients during my four years at the only college with a Fashion Design in the Minneapolis area.

I graduated with stars in my eyes and set out to interview for some sort of fashion/costume design position at the Guthrie Theater and at the women's lingerie division of Munsingwear -Vassarette. I could have been hired at the Guthrie but I couldn't afford to work there, as they only could promise work for six months out of the year and they paid under the minimum wage. Drat! And Vassarette wasn't hiring at the time. So, off to an interview on 'Fashion Avenue', in Minneapolis, where I secured an immediate Assistant Designer position at a polyester pant suit manufacturer. This company proceeded to shut their business down within a year of my hiring, so I was lucky to secure an assistant patternmaker position across the street at a 5-lines-a-year, 'bridge apparel' women's garment manufacture. Here, I started as an assistant patternmaker and after three+ years, had become head patternmaker, head of the cutting department and was in fact, assistant designer to the owner of the company.

It was one of the very best design jobs in the Twin Cities, but I wanted to create my own business and to specialize in custom wedding

"Costume and fashion design have been a part of my life since before I started grade school"

gowns and custom dance costumes! Along the way I had done free-lance patternmaking and costume-making, and had done some fashion design and patternmaking teaching, and worked with men's and women's alterations. All of this prepared me for starting Satin Stitches, back in April of 1978. I enlisted the help of my two creative sisters with branding/logo development and preliminary square dance costume sewing. I hung out my shingle with a yellow pages ad and started my venture. Within the first few months of Satin Stitches, I came into contact with some wonderful ballroom dancers. I attended ballroom competitions and began designing and creating ballroom costumes for my new clients.

By the fall of 1978, after continuing to work my 40-hour per week job in downtown Minneapolis and putting in perhaps another 40 hours per week on Satin Stitches, I made the choice to go solo at Satin Stitches.

The rest is history, so to speak: with all of my life's experiences with design, patternmaking, fitting, sewing construction and embellishing, I figured out the business parts of the business (which includes still learning). I've hired many skilled employees who maintain our custom designing business. I continue to research all different types of dance performances by attending niche competitions, conferences and learning from our clients, all a part of having a background for what our various clients need.

We are located in a retail location in a suburban strip mall, where we have been for nearly 30 years and we welcome appointments for touring our facility or for booking a design appointment for your solo dance or performance costume or for your team.

What's relatively new at Satin Stitches is our online Web Store, where you can order customizable costumes of all types. Twice a year, we add new styles. We no longer have a yellow pages ad, but we do maintain our website that includes many, many articles that I have written that pertain to 'all things costume' – the design of costumes and the care of costumes.

WHY IS ANY OF THIS

IMPORTANT? It may give you a better perspective of Satin Stitches. Why we exist, what we know, and how we continue to be relevant in this day and age of instant ordering and throwaway clothing. We are not simply a company that sews up what you ask for. We have decades of background experience that influences what we design and create.

We continue to create unique performance costumes (for individuals and groups) here in Minnesota, including ballroom gowns, where we pay attention to quality in our design, fit, workmanship and durability of our 'hand crafted' garments.

At Satin Stitches, you don't get one person who has professional expertise, but you get an entire team

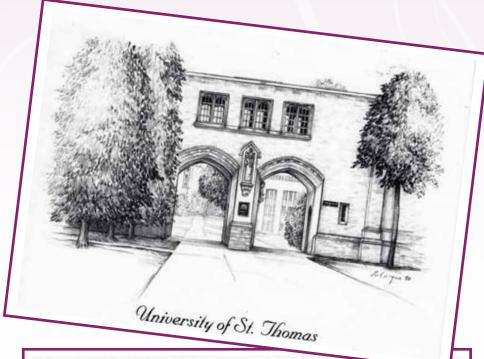


of professionals who have been in the fashion industry for many, many years. We have three designers, besides myself, who specialize in various design/sketching, draping and designing, CAD patternmaking, and embellishing. We have our cutting professional who works our computerized cutting machine and has hand-cutting experience. We have one expert who has had years of custom sewing experience combined with years of fitting/ alterations experience. We have several industrial sewing experts who work on our team production work. Everyone is cross-trained and has experience with different aspects of the world of creating custom dance and performance costumes.

So when you contract the services of Satin Stitches, you purchase the sum total of all of our experiences to create an incredible costume for you and/or your team.







Dear Wold Dance.

Thank you so much for the gracious opportunity that you gave us. You really helped us grow as Ballroom Dancers. We felt very welcome at your event! We learned so much from you and cannot wait to share what we learned with our friends back at St. Thomas.

Lincerely,

At. Thomas Ballroom Dance Club

#### **Tea Dance 2018**

#### An Afternoon at the Lafayette Country Club

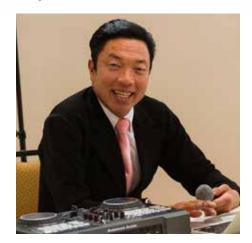
By Carol Post, 2018 Tea Dance Chair



Gary Stroick, President of USA Dance



Greg Warner, Senior VP of USA Dance



DJ Shinya McHenry

Photos by David Chin

The Lafayette Country Club was once again the venue for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tea Dance, sponsored by the USA Dance Chapter #2011. Beautiful weather and an elegant, grand ballroom welcomed guests to a delicious brunch and an afternoon of dancing.

Attendees included student sponsorship dancers from Carlton, St. Thomas and the University of Minnesota Rochester ballroom clubs, dancers from the Twin Cities and surrounding area, and members of USA Dance chapters in Arizona and Wisconsin.

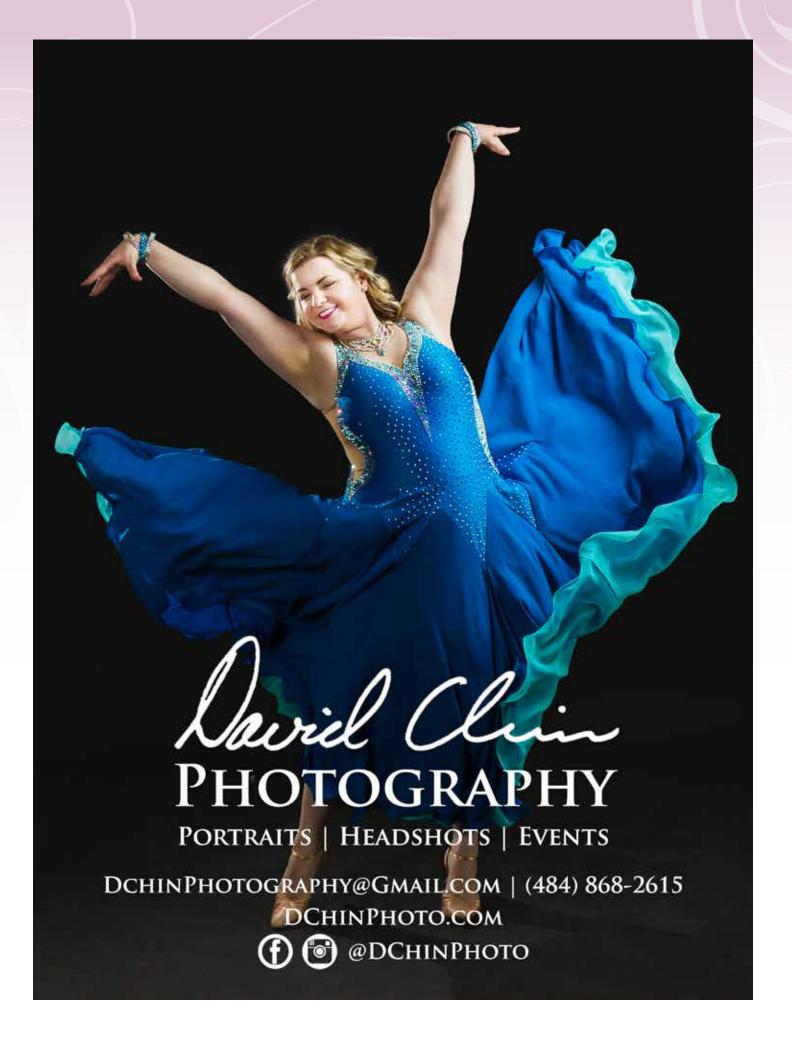
DJ Shinya McHenry filled the ballroom with music mixed especially for the Tea Dance by Joyce Thompson. Photographer David Chin artfully captured the dancers enjoying a wonderful afternoon of dancing and socializing. National Officers Gary Stroick, President of USA Dance, and Greg Warner, Senior VP of USA Dance, both local to Minnesota, were on hand to discuss benefits of membership. They also gave examples of how dancers could share their talents as volunteers locally and nationally.

Entertainment was provided by the Rhapsody & Rhythm Formation Team, directed by USA Dance Championship dancer and instructor Janie Nordberg. We were first to see the debut of their sassy, lyrical Fox Trot routine to "It's a Beautiful Day", followed by their ever-popular Tango danced to "Tanssimaan". The talented dancers were Courtney Tabakov, Ehren Kluge, Nelly Dorovskikh, Nick Benish, Emily Boole, Brennan Gensch, Jack Carlson, Joy Davitt, Tyler Bridges and Kelly Granquist. Thank you for sharing these beautiful dances.

Thank you to Joyce Thompson who managed publicity; Tea Dance Committee volunteers Leslie Whitney, Daniela Hofer and Judy Coughlin; members who donated to the Student Sponsorship Program; to those that made monetary donations to the Tea Dance event; and to the Board of USA Dance MN Chapter #2011 for continued support of this event. A special thank you goes to the ballroom dance community whose attendance and support make this annual event a success. Mark your calendar for April 28, 2019. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Photos by David Chin



# **Tapestry Folkdance Center Celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

By Suzi Blumberg



Tapestry Folk Dance Center just celebrated their 35th anniversary. They began in June, 1983 as a place that taught and enjoyed many different kinds of folk dancing. The first dances offered were English Country, International and Israeli Folk Dance and Contra. Now Tapestry's program list includes Ballroom, Bollywood, Family Dance, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Minnesota Traditional Morris Dance and Mostly Waltz Afternoon (another ballroom event scheduled the fourth Sunday afternoon of each month). Their building is located in Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood at 3748 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis. It has two dance floors: 1400 and 4000 square feet of sprung wood floors which many agree are some of the nicest floors in town. There's also a common area with a small kitchen.

Tapestry is a volunteer organization. It has a Board of Directors and a small paid staff that work part-time during the day. One of the volunteer groups, the Program Committee, schedules the different types of dances and the music they will need. This committee

schedules the Saturday Contra Dances and Donna Francisco has been a member of this committee for many years.

For many years, the Twin Cities ballroom community enjoyed dancing every Sunday evening to the Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra at Cinema Ballroom in St. Paul. At the end of 2014, Jerry O'Hagan announced that he was changing to the second and fourth Sunday only and that gave Donna an idea. She asked the Board about having the other two Sunday night dances at Tapestry. She knew the floor was underutilized on Sunday nights, the same people would come to the Tapestry dance that had been coming to Cinema, and it would give opportunity to have other bands like Tim Patrick and his Blue Eyes Band, Cafe Accordion and Silver Lining, a chance to be involved. The best part of this idea is that it didn't compete with another dance studio's scheduled dances.

Ballroom dance joined the mix of dances offered at Tapestry in January 2015 and Donna was busy scheduling instructors and DJ's. At each dance, Bob Anholt supports the sound system. The idea was a big hit right from the start and the Cinema Sunday night crowd happily joined in. They rotate DJ's and the people who teach the lesson. The instructor usually brings in some of their own people and it provides more exposure to Tapestry. The lesson taught each month is coordinated with the USA Dance-Minnesota third Saturday dance, as well as Cafe Bailar's lesson for that month, so people going to these different venues can get an in-depth study on each month's dance.

My first memories of Tapestry go back to 2004 when I started ballroom dancing. Tapestry played a big part in my early years of dance. I already knew East Coast Swing and enjoyed their first Saturday of the month swing dances. Then I got involved in Terry and Cindy Gardner's Thursday night classes in EC Swing and Lindy Hop.

2004 was also a big year for dancers Dan and Patty Fitzgerald because they met at a Tapestry dance. Dan had just returned from a trip to Dublin, Ireland where he ran a marathon to celebrate his 50th birthday. He decided to join Rick Meinecke and his friend at Tapestry one Saturday night in November. Patty had just joined Equally Yoked, a Christian singles group that scheduled lots of fun outings for their members, and she planned on going to Tapestry the same evening. Both Dan and Patty have a strong Christian faith. Dan asked Patty to dance and as they were walking off the floor, they felt an unusual touch from God. Dan went to sit down with Rick and was mumbling something and Rick said, "Dan-what's wrong with you?"

Patty never gave Dan her number but he tracked her down through a mutual friend. Their first date was soon after. Patty knew Dan was to be her husband and Dan heard God speak to him, "Now that you've found her, take good care of her." Patty had been single for 15 years and didn't think she would ever be married again. They thank God for each other and that He brought them together. Patty says it's been pretty awesome relationship and they've been married for 11 years!

Tapestry's mission is, "To create opportunities for participating in the joys of dance and music from around the world." Tapestry is part of the national network of folk and folkdance organizations. It is a member of the National Folk Organization, the Country Dance and Song Society and the Society of Folk Dance Historians.

The anniversary celebration was held on June 16. Different dance demonstrations were enjoyed all day. The lovely ballroom couples pictured here danced nine different ballroom dance styles with a ten second break in between. It was a challenge! The dancers are (from L-R) Donna Francisco, Jon Koser, Jan Dobies-Hein, Jerry Bursh, Scot Gore, Ellen Werr, Kathleen McGonagle, Rick Meinecke, Vicki Naushultz, Bob Anholt, and Patty and Dan Fitzgerald.

The Mayor of Minneapolis gave the group a Proclamation that proclaimed June 16, 2018 Tapestry Folkdance Center Day in the City of Minneapolis.

### Proclamation

WHEREAS, Tapestry Folkdance Center was founded in 1983 by a group of willing and enthusiastic volunteers, offering a variety of folk dances in the Twin Cities, and continues to

WHEREAS, Ed Stern and Rolla Breitman laid the foundation for Tapestry Folkdance Center in 1984; and

WHEREAS, more than 250 folk dancers donated more than \$174,000 to help purchase a building at 3748 Minnehaha Avenue South in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the mortgage was paid off in 2017; and

WHEREAS, with over 2000 hours of volunteer labor under the guidance and creative work of architect and folk dancer. Bill Jacobsen, and contractors and folk dancers. Tom Barnes, Jan Raven, and Demi Miller, the building was renovated to become Tapestry's home;

WHEREAS, with major donations from The McKnight Foundation, The St. Paul Foundation, and The Bush Foundations renovations were completed for the opening day on September 17th, 1999; and with subsequent funding from The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council; and

WHEREAS, Minneapolis is home to immigrants from all over the world who wish to dance the dances of their heritages and traditions, and

WHEREAS, Tapestry Folkdance Center's mission "To create opportunities for the joys of music and dance from around the world" is a magnificent expression of our shared humanity; and

WHEREAS, the future of Tapestry looks bright as they develop new programs, add new renters, and endeavor to make sure the people who dance at Tapestry are representative of all the peoples in our great city.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jacob Frey, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby proclaim June 16th, 2018 as:

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER DAY in the City of Minneapolis, and congratulate them on their grand celebration scheduled for Saturday, June 16th in its 35th year.



Mayor of Minneapolis

# **Project Dance Influences the Dance Community**

By Julie Johnston

I'm such an advocate for Project Dance, I want to extol the benefits I've received from it and tell you why I continue to attend. Project Dance is on hiatus for the month of July so it's a good time to let people know the benefits of this great resource.

I have been involved with ballroom dance for three years. I've been a member of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 for almost as long, and I attend every Project Dance that I can.

Project Dance is held every Sunday afternoon at 2 PM at participating studios in the Twin Cities area. It includes one hour of dance instruction and a half hour of practice afterward. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month except July and December.

Project Dance was created to fulfill the mission of Chapter #2011, "to improve the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area". Some of the benefits include: low cost, professional instruction, exposure to different studios and different instructors and teaching styles.

My experience has found it valuable for both new and more seasoned dancers. While a new dancer is taught from a beginning level that they can follow, I've found the dancers at the lesson to be at many different skill levels. I am encouraged to bring friends because they can enjoy the benefits of a low cost lesson and an introduction to the joy that is ballroom dance.

Why am I still going after three years? **Practice, Practice, Practice!** There is always something I'm trying to improve in every dance. Not only do I work on my muscle memory, but I work on some piece of technique that I'm not disciplined enough to do on my own. So now my secret is out; I'm not very good at practicing. I love the structure of the classroom.

You'll have the exposure to different dance studios, instructors and styles. I love the moment when the light bulb goes on, as an instructor explains something I didn't understand, in a different way that makes it click in my brain. The subtle differences between instructors can be great exposure to what works for you personally.

Project dance is a reasonable cost to introduce the new dancer, or to supplement the lessons/practice of a more seasoned dancer. Your membership of only \$35 a year supports your local chapter and gets you into each lesson for only \$5 per person.

I hope I've convinced you to give it a try. Project Dance will begin again in

August at DanceLife Ballroom, 4444 West 76th Street, Edina, and will feature beginning Tango. Then, they will build on August's lessons by following up with intermediate Tango lessons at the same location In September. This is the first time Project Dance lessons have been offered at an intermediate level! This is eight weeks of progressive Tango skills to add to your dance card. Come and enjoy the fun!

If you are currently not a USA Dance-Minnesota #2011 member, you can join online at: http://usadance.org/ membership/ or at any Project Dance session. Hope to see you there!



Sue, Paul and Scott at June Samba lesson at 'n Motion Studio.

Photo by Julie Johnston



7 PM LESSON 8-11 PM VARIETY DANCE

USA Dance Minnesota # 2011 American Classic Ballroom



1495 STEIGER LAKE LANE, VICTORIA, MN

## Standing Out, Not Sitting Out at Social Dances

From the Archives

By Bob Anholt



Photo by David Chin

I have sometimes seen near pro-quality follows attending dances who never get asked to dance. Similar to any social scene, it can take time to become known as one of the regulars and to be sought out. But there are things follows can do to accelerate acceptance. First, stand out by standing up between songs when partners change, indicating that you are ready and want to dance. The worst thing you can do is to be engaged in a conversation with neighbors. Just sitting alone, expecting to be asked is not a good strategy. Women can ask men to dance also. Make eye contact! The Argentine tango community teaches the technique of asking and agreeing to dance with just eye contact and a nod.

It behooves leads to seek out follows that have been sitting out during the previous tune and ask them to dance. The same could be said for follows asking sitting leads to dance, although given the fact that there are usually more women than men at most dances this is unlikely. We want everyone to have a good time so try to dance with everyone during the course of the evening.

There are better places than others to stand out at different venues. For example, at Tapestry people who mix usually congregate on the south wall; persons sitting on the north wall are less likely to be asked to dance. At Costa Rica Ballroom, the action is on the west wall, and the north wall is not as good. At Cinema, the rows of tables

act as a barrier reef. The best place to stand out is on the first row of tables or in front of them; dancers sitting along the back wall or even in the second row of tables are disadvantaged.

If you come to a dance as a couple, it is okay to dance exclusively, and it is not likely that leads will ask the woman in a couple to dance. If couples want to mix with others, they should stand up between tunes and split up. One long-married couple I know places themselves in different locations in the room and don't dance with each other more than any other partner, so one hardly knows that they are married.

There are valid reasons for follows (and leads) to say no to dance requests:

- Fatigue
- You feel completely inexperienced with the coming dance form
- You don't want to be monopolized by the lead (follow) who is asking

Realize that if you tell a lead "no" more than a few times he will stop asking you. If you say no, suggest that he please ask you again, or say "I don't know (for example) west coast but I would like to waltz with you". If a lead says no, promise a future dance and follow through.

Unless you are dancing a head-position-sensitive dance form (turning dances, outside partner, etc.), smile at your partner indicating that you enjoy dancing with them (or fake it). However, smiling or not, don't stare at your partner. Also realize that the leads need to pay attention to traffic around them so their attention is likely to change. During group or private lessons pay attention to your body movement in the mirrors; during

social dances be less mirror cognizant. The same goes for looking at your feet-always!

If you are a lead don't criticize or try to teach your partner unless you have an established relationship with them or they request that you do something again and ask about their role. If at first you don't succeed in a lead, let it go. Generally given the sound levels at most dances, it is not a good idea to be doing much chatting at all while the songs are playing. Between tunes, the window of opportunity for finding new partners is short so chatting puts both you and your partner at a disadvantage in finding new partners. A "thank you for the dance" suffices and is always appreciated.

Some personal things bear repeating:

- •Don't use strong perfumes or colognes as some people are allergic or sensitive to them. Scentless deodorant suffices.
- •Don't chew gum while dancing.

Whether you think you need them or not, munch a mint before the music starts.

- If dancing at a bar or restaurant that makes money from the drinks, respect them by purchasing their drinks, even if it is just water or soft drinks. At dance studios one should drink just water. Be nice to the floors by not spilling on them.
- If you wear a rock on your finger (e.g. a diamond engagement ring) make sure the rock is not rotated downward digging into your partner's hand. Bracelets can also interfere with dancing. For example, there is figure in hustle and salsa where the lead raises his partner's arms by running his arms up the inside of hers.

#### Bio About me:

I circulate at many social dances each week. I am also a co-organizer of Tapestry's first and third Sunday night dances.

### Lynne's Dance News

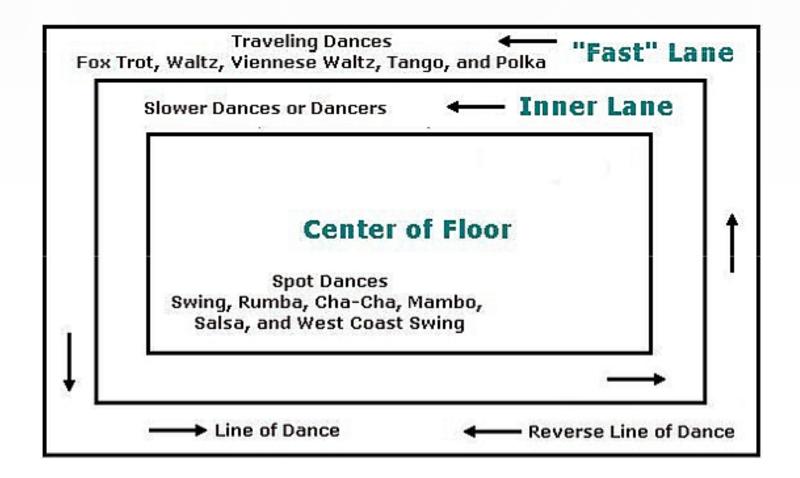
Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.

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www.lynnesdancenews.com





Instructor Spencer Loufek and Breana Gadient at Cinema Ballroom's Havana Nights Showcase



Instructor Dustin Donelan and Kelela Puranen

Photos by Dan Browning

#### Water in Rain - D. Arthur Tsang

Music swirling in the whispering wind, Broken lyrics echoing across the chasm, Offbeat notes in tear drop rain, Dance steps tripping across the gnarly path.

I want to dance to your music in the rain,
To hear your unsung words above the crowd,
To touch your imperfect heartbeat,
Pulsing to the rhythm of your life.

For to dance to your song is to feel your heartbeat,
To know the essence of water in rain,
The sounds of broken silence in morning darkness,
Your light from within, illuminating all that you believe.