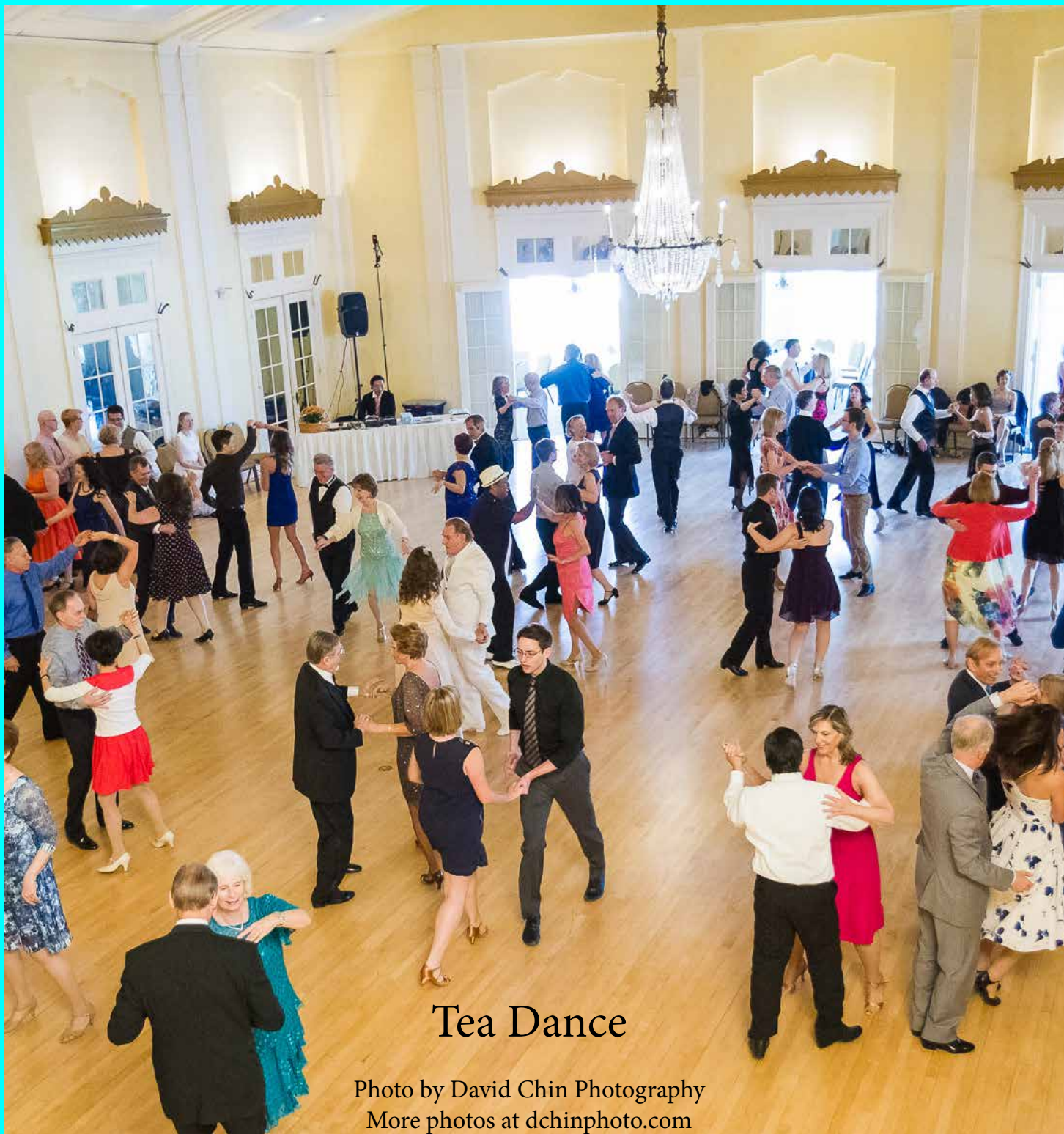


MINNESOTA

DANCER

June 2016



Tea Dance

Photo by David Chin Photography
More photos at dchinphoto.com





David Chin

PHOTOGRAPHY

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DANCER

An Official Publication of
USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



USA Dance: Who Are We?

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

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

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Assistant Editor: Leland Whitney
Advertising: Tom Crable

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

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

June
Saturday, June 18

DanceLife Ballroom
6015 Lyndale S., Mpls

7-8 pm lesson - E. C. Swing
Instructor: Shinya McHenry
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

July
Saturday, July 16

Dancers Studio - Sterling Hall
415 Pascal Street N, St Paul

7-8 pm lesson - Night Club 2 Step
Instructor: Troy Lerum
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

August
Saturday, August 20

Costa Rica Ballroom
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins

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

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

USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Submitted by Leslie Whitney

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

Absent: 0

Guest: Gary Stroick

Location: Lunds/Byerlys, 7171 France Ave. South, Edina, MN

Call Session to order:

1. Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the April agenda.
2. Confidentiality – Meeting discussions are confidential. Chapter minutes are posted in the Minnesota Dancer.
3. Minutes – March minutes were amended and a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept March minutes.
4. Treasurer's Report – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the treasurer's report as of March 31, 2016.
 - a. Budget updates and approval - A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to table the budgets for the Monthly Dances, Project Dance, Special Projects and Communication until the May meeting.
5. Social Dance, Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Reports
 - a. Monthly Dances
 - i. May – DanceLife, mambo
 - ii. June – DanceLife, east coast swing
 - iii. July – Dancers Studio, night club two step
 - iv. August – Costa Rica, waltz
 - v. September – Cinema, v. waltz
 - vi. October – Dance With Us America, rhumba
 - vii. November – Cinema, hustle
 - b. Special Projects
 - i. Registration and scholarship donations are on-going for the Tea Dance.
 - ii. The Chapter #2011 25th Anniversary Event will be held on Sunday, September 25th, Dancers Studio.
 - c. Project Dance
 - i. May – Cinema, waltz
 - ii. June – Dancers Studio, night club two step

-
- iii. July - Project Dance will not be held
 - iv. August – DanceLife, east coast swing
 - d. Dancing Classrooms
 - i. Colors of the Rainbow Team Match will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington on May 15, 2016.
6. Communications Coordinator Report
- a. Minnesota Dancer –We discussed advertising rates.
 - b. Website, Facebook, Constant Contact
 - i. The website is current.
 - ii. Constant Contact – Bonnie sent out a notice about the Tea Dance.
 - c. A recommendation was made to create a poster/flyer to advertise Chapter #2011 news since we no longer print a Minnesota Dancer. This would go out to the dance studios. Tom, and Ed will work on this.
7. Membership Coordinator Report
- a. April 30, 2015 – 364 members
 - b. April 30, 2016 – 316 members
8. Neutrality Policy – Gary led an on-going discussion.
9. 2016 Chapter Board Nominations and Election Committee – Gary will recruit a third member of this committee.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Location: Lunds/Byerlys, 7171 France Ave. South, Edina, MN



Beginner Nightclub 2-Step

Sunday, June 5th — 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 12th — 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 19th — 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 26th — 2:00 pm

Classes with Troy Lerum at

dancers studio
Live. Love. Dance.

415 Pascal Street North
St. Paul, MN 55104
651.641.0777



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

USA Dance offers dance instruction to members for \$3. Members who joined for the first time in 2015 attend free up to their 2016 membership expiration date, after that they pay \$3. Non-members pay \$8. Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

USA DANCE

USA Dance – Monthly, 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, June 18, at DanceLife Ballroom, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - E. C. Swing. Instructor: Shinya McHenry.

Project Dance, Sunday, 2-3 pm, June 5, 12, 19 and 26, at Dancers Studio, lesson is Beginner Nightclub 2-Step. Instructor is Troy Lerum.

WEEKLY DANCES

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

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

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

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

American Classic - Fridays, Dinner and Dance Potluck Variety Dance Party, 8 - 10 pm.

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

OTHER WEEKLY DANCES

American Classic – Sunday Pizza Practice Parties, June 5 and 26, 7 – 9 pm.

Café Bailar Dance Club – Saturday Variety Party – June 11 and 25 at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, June 3 and 17, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom - Sunday Night Dancing with The Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra, June 12 and 26, 6:15 to 10 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom - 1st Saturday, June 4, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 10 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, June 5 and 19, dance 6 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, June 5 and 19, at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 10:30 pm.

OTHER DANCES

Twin Cities Rebels Swing Dance Club - 20th Anniversary Three-Day Extravaganza, June 10 - 12 at DanceLife Ballroom. Workshops throughout the 3 days and dance on Saturday night from 8 pm to midnight.

Tango Society of Minnesota - Argentine tango milonga. Saturday, June 11 at Triune Masonic Temple, St Paul. Free lesson 8:30; dance 9:30 pm - 1:00 am. See www.mntango.org for details.

DANCE CONTACTS

If you would be liked to be listed on this page, send your contact information to tcrable3s@gmail.com

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM
550 Market Street, Chanhassen
952.934.0900
www.acballroom.com

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

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB
1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville
952.292.0524
www.ballroom-club.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
3701 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington
651.605.5784
tricia@danceandentertainment.com
www.danceandentertainment.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA
10 Southdale Center, Edina
612-564-5483
www.dancewithusamerica.com

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

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

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

CLUBS

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www.cafebailar.com

COTILLION DANCE CLUB OF
STILLWATER
stillwatercotillion@gmail.com
651/238-7636
Contacts: Patty & Stephen Ogborn

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

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

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB
www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB
763.442.1618
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB
952.941.0906
www.tcrebels.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB
952-475-0586, billcarlson@usinternet.com

STARDUST DANCE CLUB
stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

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

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA
612.224.2905
www.mntango.org

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

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BALLROOM DANCE CLUB
bdc@umn.edu
ls.gd/umnbdcc

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Mariusz Olszewski	612.242.5159
Mary Rosenstiel	612.720.2584
Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

COMPETITION CALENDAR

June 11-12, 2016

NJ DanceSport Classic Summer Sizzler – 2017 NQE

Hosted by Mario Battista & Wendi Davies, Hackensack, NJ

June 24-26, 2016

Gumbo DanceSport Championships—2017 NQE

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

July 6-9, 2016

Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Hosted by Scott and Amy Anderson, Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, MN

September 30 – October 2, 2016

Carolina Fall Classic – 2017 NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder, Charlotte, NC

October 28-30, 2016

Chicago DanceSport Challenge - 2017 NQE

Hosted by Chicagoland Chapter #2001, Hyatt O'Hare Hotel, Chicago IL

November 2016

California State DanceSport Championships - 2017 NQE

Hosted by NorCal Chapter #4004, San Jose Civic - San Jose, CA

January 14 - 16, 2017

Manhattan Amateur Classic (The MAC) - 2017 NQE

Hosted by Greater New York Chapter #3004, Hyatt Regency, Jersey City, NJ

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

Dance events for every day of the week.

Updated daily.

<http://www.organicronduty.com/testimonials.html>

Dance address book also on the website

USA Dance Chapter MN Needs Volunteers

1. Photographer.
2. Advertising person for the Minnesota Dancer.
3. Assistant editor.
4. Illustrator for the Minnesota Dancer.
5. Volunteer for other needs.

For more information, email Tom Crable
at tcrable3s@gmail.com.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leland and Leslie Whitney, having just completed a busy 2016 National Championship season in age categories Senior IV, III and II, took a break from practicing and lessons during April. We are beginning to prepare for National Qualifying Events for the 2017 National Championships soon.

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

For over a year, USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 has been using ballroom dance music compiled by Joyce Thompson and Peter Maki at our monthly dances. This collection was built over many years. Their music mixes were also used at several USA Dance National Championships, pro-am competitions such as Star of the North, our monthly dances and the Tea Dance. After Pete passed away, their mixes were unused for a while. Last year Joyce made this music available to our local chapter exclusively. We have received many compliments on the quality of music that is played for your dancing pleasure.

Donna Francisco organizes the dance parties at Tapestry Folk-dance Center (3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis MN). These dances are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 6:00 – 9:30 pm. There is a group lesson from 6 –

7 pm. Donna has requested that we collaborate with Tapestry to co-sponsor two dances using Joyce and Pete's music. A portion of the proceeds from these dances will go to our chapter. We have agreed to this proposal. The first event will take place on Sunday, July 3rd. Krista Haskin will teach Balboa Level 1. Music for Balboa is not part of the music mixes, so it will have to be added for this style of dance.

Come dance with us!



Wonderful Tea Dance

By Carol Post, Chairperson

The Lafayette Country Club was the site of this year's USA Dance 2016 Tea Dance. For 24 years, dancers have enjoyed an afternoon of dancing in a beautiful ballroom to some of the best music in the country, exceptional entertainment and the chance to mix and mingle with old friends and new. Once again the delicious brunch preceding the dance was sold out. Many other dancers joined in later in the afternoon to a near capacity filled ballroom. Due to the generosity of student sponsorships from

the dance community, dozens of students from Carlton University, University of Minnesota Rochester, University of St. Thomas and the University of Minnesota were able to attend.

Shinya McHenry DJ'd fabulous music from the collection of Joyce Thompson and the late Pete Maki. Attendees were treated to a sassy American Smooth Foxtrot and elegant Vienesse Waltz by top National Competitors Andy and Janie Nordberg.

that attended the event. You made the success of this event possible. If you haven't attended the Tea Dance yet keep your calendar open next year and plan to attend. It's an afternoon you don't want to miss.

Thank you to the USA Dance Minnesota board, and 2016 Tea Dance Committee members Joyce Thompson, Bonnie Burton, DeDe Ouren and Sharon Kennedy.

A special thank you to all of those



Tea Dance Committee 2016 (L. to R.): Bonnie Burton, Joyce Thompson, Sharon Kennedy, DeDe Ouren, Chair Carol Post



Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer. She works in Sales for a digital forensic company. She's active in her church including dancing with a Hebrew worship dance team, gardening and walking.

Tea Dance Fabulous Annual Event

by Suzi Blumberg

Bill Nunn and Jeannie Hill have been special friends and enjoyed dancing together for many years. They met at a MN USA Tea Dance eleven years ago and have gone to the last seven Tea Dances together. Bill remembers when the Tea Dance began in 1992 because it was a significant time in the history of Twin Cities ballroom dance. Many ballrooms were closing including the Bel Rae Ballroom and Prom. The Tea Dance at the Lafayette Club was a refreshing discovery when big dance floors were vanishing. It was a new chance to dance in a proper ballroom at a beautiful venue on Lake Minnetonka.

It was a great time to connect with people Bill knew who were training and competing—both students and teachers. The Tea Dance would showcase some of these people and it was great to see them perform! These showcases still exist at the Tea Dance and every year we are wowed by wonderful and extremely talent-

ed local dancers. Bill remembers that the level of dance was better in the beginning because more people were training and competing. It was a very active and fun group and the Tea Dance was a great place to get together outside of competition. It was fun to get all dressed up and to get together in a social setting, not a competition.

Pete Maki and Joyce Thompson did the music for the Tea Dance for many years and excelled at their choice of music and the tempos they played. This made the Tea Dance special and was a big draw for Bill because the music was competition grade. This level of music continues on today.

Jeannie has been to the past elev-



Jeannie Hill and Bill Nunn with other dancers at the Tea Dance.

en Tea Dances. She joined the MN USA Dance board a number of years ago and served a two-year term heading up marketing and the website. One of the things she did was put together a slide show of the history of MN USA Dance and she was able to accrue photos from several people. She was impressed with the deep roots of our Chapter and how many people have done so well competing on a local and national level from our area.

One of the things Jeannie appreciates about the Tea Dance is that many long-standing champions come to the event each year. It's a great chance to see and engage with them. On the other hand, there are the college students, the next generation of ballroom dancers, who also attend.

When Jeannie was on the Board, she invited a number of dancers to come up from Northfield to the Tea Dance. This was their first exposure to the Chapter. Jeannie introduced them to Leland Whitney, our current president, so they would continue to come. To this day, they ask Jeannie to dance at the Tea Dance and thank her for creating that connection. Jeannie loves to invite guests to the Tea Dance—even those who do not dance—and she makes a point each year to bring someone who danced a long time ago because she knows they would enjoy it.

Jeannie says our MN USA Dance Chapter is unique to hosting such

an elegant and grand event that yields such splendor because of the backdrop of the beautiful Lafayette Club. Jeannie says, "Perhaps some of the public has forgotten the elegant waltz, dramatic tango and flirty cha-cha; however, they are all very much alive and in a state of grandeur at the annual "Minnesota Tea Dance." It's a chance to touch a lot of relationships of people she doesn't otherwise see and the event ties all generations together in the

fashion of a more formal society of ladies and gentlemen. In addition, the performances are spectacular and it's been a fabulous opportunity to invite friends with an interest in ballroom dance and introduce them to how much fun they would have if they choose to step into the excitement of ballroom dance with us.



Cotillion Dance Club

2105-2016 Season
10/10/2015 11/14/2015 2/20/2016 4/16/2016
(pre-registration is required)

Heights Hall & Club
 5880 Omaha Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082
(wood dance floor approx 58' x 35')

<https://sites.google.com/site/stillwatercotillion>
stillwatercotillion@gmail.com
 651.238.7636 Patty & Stephen Ogborn

Dinner & Dance Venue

Membership, Club Info & Contacts

Lakeside Dance Club

Lakeside Ballroom • Glenwood MN

Live Music! 3-7 p.m.

Velvet Brass • Jan 10 Feb 7 Mar 13

Jerry O'Hagan • Apr 17

Adm: \$10 pp • \$5 17-30 yrs old

lakesideballroom.org

danceclub@lakesideballroom.org 320-763-6432



Great Photos of the Tea Dance

Photos by David Chin Photography

dchinphoto.com







A Parent's Perspective Regarding Dancing Classrooms

By Michelle East

When I first heard about Dancing Classrooms coming to our school, I wondered how they were going to get all these fifth graders to willingly participate. I did not think that ballroom dancing was going to go over well with 11 year olds. However, I liked that the goal was to incorporate subjects such as math, history, geography, etc. into the experience of learning the dances, while at the same time teaching and promoting manners, respect, and confidence, so I hoped for the best.

My daughter was not happy when she found out that she would have to dance with boys from school. She thought it was going to be embarrassing and old fashioned. I might have expected more resistance from her, but since her grandmother, who is a member of a USA Dance Ballroom group, was going to be one of the classroom volunteers, she had to put on a good face about it.

From the first class it was clear to me that she was intrigued, and definitely interested in learn-

ing more. As the weeks went by, I watched her blossom with this new activity in her life. Suddenly, school was not so dreary, but rather fun. I could see her growing in confidence with her new found skills, and watched her maturing right before my eyes. Although the consensus of the class was the same as hers had been, once the students had a few classes under their belts, the embarrassment seemed to fade and then the real fun began.

At the end of the program, the Fifth graders were expected to

perform a few of the dances they had learned in the auditorium in front of the entire school. This was more frightening for my daughter than the competition that was still a few weeks away.

Our students had nothing to worry about as the crowd cheered and clapped for the dancers, enjoying themselves thoroughly. It was a great experience for the dancers, a sort of life lesson on how to put yourself out there in front of the crowd, while still within the safety of a group.



KSTP Twin Cities Live, Rachel in black and taupe dress.

My daughter and three other classmates also had the opportunity to perform on Twin Cities Live on KSTP. It was an opportunity to promote the benefits and successes the program is having as it sweeps across the country. We went shopping for new shoes and a new dress to wear.

The together time was special as we talked about the dances and which dress would work the best. At the TV station the children were nervous, scared, and excited. They got to wait in the green room and take pictures with the hosts of the show. The ladies wore

a turquoise scarf and the gentlemen a turquoise handkerchief, handmade gifts from Miss Gabriel, their fifth grade teacher. They performed the Swing in front of the cameras. It was an exhilarating experience that we will remember always.



KSTP Twin Cities Live Studio, Couples to dance swing.

Finally it was the day of the big competition we had been working towards from the start. This team match event would be the last step of a journey that I hadn't realized we had been on until that moment. Thinking back to the beginning, I could see that my child had been transformed from a somewhat sulky, can't take my headphones off preteen, to a vibrant and engaged young adult.

The atmosphere in the ballroom was fascinating as the children from the eight different schools came together. Everyone was polite and smiling. The children were dressed in their best feeling elegant and sophisticated, and everyone was so well behaved! Our team came in third place, but everyone was so excited, you would have thought we won first. The entire experience and afternoon was unforgettable.

I have to give much of the credit to the teachers and assistants involved. Without their diligence, patience, talents, and abilities, things may not have gone as well as they did. There are people looking everywhere for some way to reach our youth and instill within them a sense of pride and well being. Teaching young people how to treat others with respect seems to be hard won in today's world. Dancing Classrooms has proven itself to be successful in these endeavors.



Rachel and Jordan dancing at the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match.



Full Turquoise Team from Harambee Elementary School in Maplewood MN at the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match.

Q:

I love to dance and have been a ballroom social dancer for years. Some of my friends compete and I think I would like to try this too. Do I need a special teacher? What should I do to get started!

Donna says:

Congratulations on your decision to compete. How exciting!

Competition dancing is different than social dancing in that you are on the floor with a group of competitors in your age group and proficiency level.

You can compete as an amateur couple with your partner, as part of a pro-am couple with your teacher - or both ways.

Teachers and coaches that have had a competitive career themselves, or are currently competing will be able to provide the proper guidance in technique, choreography and performance.

One way to find a coach or teacher is to attend local competitions and see who is on the floor and judging.

It would be wise to attend or participate in local competitions like

the Twin Cities Open, Minnesota Star Ball and Snow Ball.



Donna Edelstein is a coach, judge and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition.

www.donnawrites@msn.com or 763-557-6006

Paul says:

You do not need a special teacher, although a teacher with pro-am experience is recommended. Talk to your friends who compete, research all of the local professionals to see who might be available or has room in their cadre of dancers for an additional competitor. If you try to compete in a specific age/division and the pro already has a few competitors vying for a spot, chances are it will not suit your needs.

Ask about costs, including hid-

den costs and whether some costs are shared between competitors. Perhaps a smaller event like a local showcase or an event like Twin City Open or Minnesota Madness will serve to get your feet wet before you commit to an out of town competition.

Competition dancing is a different experience and it will serve to improve your dancing while opening your eyes to a whole different world that is exciting to be a part of. Good luck!



Paul Botes is a dance instructor, coach, choreographer and judge. He is an owner of American Classic Ballroom, located in Chanhassen, MN.

www.acballroom.com

Photos From Project Dance - 22 May 2016

Cinema Ballroom
Instructor: Grace Peterson

Photographer: Steve Lee







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

Trends

by Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

Let's talk about TRENDS! According to online dictionaries, a trend is what's popular at a certain point in time. It reflects whatever seems to be going on in the world at any given time with fashion. Fashion is meant to change. Trends may last a long time, or a very short time, but always, an old trend will be replaced with a new trend. Fads are generally considered to be trends that are very short-lived.

In the dance world, trends are great to follow (if you aren't already leading them) and can keep your wardrobe looking fresh and can possibly keep you looking great for several seasons. If you succumb to fads, however, you may find that you will need to replace your dance wardrobe much quicker.

Everyone can watch and determine the trends in their competitive dance neighborhood by simply being observant at dance showcases and competitions. Be aware of the fact that, even with

the fast paced photo sharing of today's internet, trends in one geographic local could still be different in another. Just because everyone at your dance studio is wearing neon colored fringe, for example, doesn't mean that 'everyone' across the country or the world is keen on neon colored fringe.

If you're in need of stretching your dance costume wardrobe dollars as far as possible, you should consider the trends that you see at your studio, your competitive region and across the country. In the ballroom world, it also depends on your level of competitive dancing. With 'less is more' being more appropriate for beginners and nearly 'anything goes' for the elite professional or amateur dancers.

In thinking about trends, I'm recalling some very unfortunate ones that have happened in the past. Remember that just because something is trendy, this doesn't automatically confirm that this

is the best choice for you. Didn't our Moms always tell us "just because everyone is jumping off the bridge, doesn't mean you should", right?

I am a firm believer in observing the trends at any given season, but then considering your own persona, body shape, pocketbook, as well as your personal likes and dislikes of certain colors, textures and silhouettes. Unless you have unlimited funds, you should strive for buying or making costumes that will remain 'in style' for as long as possible, in order to get the most for your money. This is important even if you only plan to wear your costume for one season. If you plan to sell your costume to someone else, in order to fund new costumes for your closet, your costume will resell much easier and for more money, if it remains 'in style'.

And, do consider a 'classic' look. Classics are given the name for a reason – clothing that is deemed 'classic' doesn't generally follow

trends, but rather, they transcend them to remain stylish for many years or seasons. And, with classics, you can update and follow trends minimally, with your accessories or the addition of embellishment.

Remember that a trend may not be universal – it may just be in your immediate circle of dancers. Keep up on what an expanded circle of dancers, choreographers and professional competitors wear. If you like a particular design feature, incorporate it into your newest look – without blatantly copying it. You want your influence to be flattered, not annoyed with you for ‘stealing’ their unique look.

Also, remember that nearly every fashion design element has been used or seen somewhere else. A truly ‘new’ design detail is very rare. All you need to do is look at the history of dance costumes (or even regular fashion, for that matter), to see the cycles of silhouettes, colors and textures resurface time and time again. Styles are influenced by historical costumes from centuries and decades ago. The ‘new’ may have been ‘new’ back in the 1920’s or 1970’s or maybe in the 1880’s! That is one of the things I find so fascinating with historical costuming. I love to see how particular ‘trends’ have come and gone, and come back again – generally with just a little twist.

Be aware that some trends may be trends, but are not good trends.

One recent example: a few years ago EVERY ballroom costume had a drape or many drapes that attached to the dancer’s wrists or back or wherever. To me, you could no longer see the dancer’s silhouette – with so much excessive and redundant pieces of fabric tacked onto the dresses. I am so glad that this trend finally is over.

Another unfortunate trend has been for extremely low-cut skirts, shorts, pants, or briefs. When you are embarrassed to watch, the costumes are cut too low. Of course it goes without saying that only extremely well-toned bodies (no matter what size) could even think of wearing this style of costume. Moving forward, for those who love the low-rise, there are costumes with the same low-rise cut, but then paired with a belt at the wearer’s natural waistline. I’m seeing less of this design detail, and I’m happy with that. After many decades, the natural waistline has found a renewed home with dance costumes. Thank goodness!

Where should you look for finding possible trends (besides your own dance neighborhood)? Watch for trends in ready-to-wear and in with all the red carpet reporting at awards shows. Many red carpet looks are derived from the big name fashion designers’ most recent runway shows. Stars may see a particular look and they (or their stylist) request an exact gown, or they may have one made that is a takeoff of

a runway garment. Reporters for these shows generally add ‘color’ commentary that include discussions on the latest trends in silhouettes, colors and fabrics.

Reading or looking at various online or printed magazines that feature celebrities, will showcase new trends and how they are being worn. These high fashion trends influence the dance costume world. Another area to look for inspiration for being ahead of or at least with the beginnings of fashion trends, would be to take note of ‘trend setting’ period movies and/or stage productions. I saw many articles about the new trend for 1970’s influenced styles because of the movie “American Hustle” a couple of years ago, which featured updated 1970’s styling.

Other examples of films influencing fashion would be “Barbarella” futuristic 1960’s fashions, “Saturday Night Fever” with disco outfits in 1977, and who can forget the 1977 “Annie Hall” menswear on women? “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” in 1961 gave us the little black dress for evening events, even now. “Desperately Seeking Susan” showcased very quirky 1980’s outfits, and more recently “The Great Gatsby” gave us another reason to love 1920’s silhouettes.

So, keeping your dance costumes ‘trendy’ is a good thing, but only if you can afford to buy new when you feel the need to keep very current on new trends. Oth-

erwise, you will never go wrong
with classic looks!



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USA Dance Members

Notice of Upcoming Election for National USA Dance Governing Council Members

USA Dance Inc. will conduct an election this fall for the following Governing Council positions:

National President

National Senior Vice President

National Secretary

National Treasurer

Vice President for DanceSport

Vice President for Social Dance
DanceSport Delegate (four positions)

Any member of USA Dance in good standing who has been a member for at least one year preceding January 1, 2017, may run for any of the above positions with the exception of an additional qualification for the DanceSport Delegate positions.

Those who run for a DanceSport Delegate position also must have placed in the top fifty percent (50%) of Championship Athletes in any style or age category at the

USA Dance National Championships within the previous ten (10) years or have been a WDSF World Representative within the previous ten (10) years preceding their election.

Candidate election packets are available exclusively from: the election web page at elections.usadance.org; the USA Dance Central Office at central-office@usadance.org; or by calling 800-447-9047.

Nominations for all positions will be accepted through Thursday, June 30, 2016.

All completed election materials (including any forms, resume of qualifications, photograph and written confirmation of willingness to serve) must be mailed to the National Nominations and Elections Committee Chairperson to arrive no later than June 30, 2016.

Any election materials received by the National Nominations and Elections Committee Chairper-

son after June 30, 2016, will not be considered. Any Candidate whose completed set of election materials has not been received by June 30, 2016, shall not have their names placed on the ballot. For more information on nominating instructions, candidate resumes and statements, and voting instructions, go to:

<http://elections.usadance.org>

Mail all completed election materials to:

Leland Whitney
National Nominations and
Elections Committee
Chairperson
1835 Jefferson Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Questions?

Phone: 800-447-9047

Email: NationalElections-Dir@usadance.org



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