



MINNESOTA

June 2018

DANCER

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



*USA Dance Minnesota #2011
Vice President Joyce Thompson
and Dennis Yelkin at the
Annual 2018 Tea Dance*

Photo by David Chin

**Critiquing my 'Dancing with
the Stars' Costume Critiques!**

**2018 Wisconsin State
DanceSport Championships**

Annual Tea Dance

**USA Dance-Minnesota Hosts
New Friday Monthly Dances**

**The Three Worlds of
Ballroom Dance**

Minnesota Dancer



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USA Dance-Minnesota
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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.

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Photo by Linda Irgens

USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

June

Saturday, June 16
DanceLife Ballroom
4444 W 76th Street, Suite 200,
Edina
7-8 lesson - Quickstep
Instructor: Shinya McHenry
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

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

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



USA Dance –MN Chapter #2011 Board Meeting Minutes-3 April, 2018

Submitted by Carol Post/Joyce Thompson

Due to dangerous driving conditions a conference was conducted in lieu of an onsite meeting.

Conference call attendees: Lee Whitney (President), Joyce Thompson (Vice President) Carol Post (Secretary-attended 6-6:30 pm), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Bonnie Burton, Gary Stroick (attended 6-6:30 pm), Stephanie Clausen, Marla Heisterkamp and Leslie Whitney.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

1. Agenda: Approved 9/0/0
2. Guest Maura Studer. Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota. Maura gave overview of AAMN mission. Discussed partnership with USA Dance MN for AAMN fundraiser: The Longest Day. Carol Post, Joyce Thompson and Leslie Whitney will form committee to discuss ideas prior to next board meeting.
3. Board Minutes March 6, 2018: Approved 9/0/0
4. Treasurer Report: Approved 9/0/0
5. 2018 Budget Development: tabled until May
6. Special Projects:
 - a. Dance Camp: Successful event.
 - b. Tea Dance: Reservations are open. Event advertised.
7. Communications: Julie Johnston to serve as layout editor for newsletter.
 - c. Minnesota Dancer: Website: Advertising ongoing for webmaster support.
8. Social Dance:
 - a. Chapter Social Dance-April 21 Cinema Ballroom-Samba, May 19-American Classic Ballroom-Waltz, June 16, DanceLife Ballroom-Quickstep, July 21 Dancers Studio-Bolero. (Bonnie will bring a cake to April dance to celebrate several April birthdays.)
 - b. Project Dance: April-DanceLife Ballroom, Bolero by Shinya McHenry, May-Bloomington Ballroom, Waltz by Charlie Drenth, June-'nMotion Dance Center-Samba by Jennelle Donnay, July-No project Dance
 - i. Motion: Students age of 18 or under to have a new fee schedule.
 - a. If a parent is a member of USA Dance and attends Project Dance there will be no charge for the student/students.
 - b. Social Dance member under the age of 19 \$10 annually pay \$3 per class.
 - c. Non-member under the age of 19 pay \$5 per class
9. K-12 Report/ Dancing Classrooms: Dancing Classrooms annual benefit luncheon scheduled Tuesday May 8 Midpoint Event Center. Registration 11:30 am-12 presentation, 12-1pm. Contact Joyce Thompson for more info. Colors of the Rainbow Team Match scheduled May 20th: River Front Continental Hotel, St. Paul.
10. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Report: None
11. Membership Report: Update will be provided at May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Next Meeting: 6 pm Tuesday May 1, 2018 Southdale Library, Edina Minnesota (Second Floor Conference Room).

Dancer's Night Out

USA DANCE

USA Dance-Monthly-3rd Saturday Variety Dance, June 16, DanceLife Ballroom, 4444 W 76th St, Suite 200, Edina. Lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson-Quickstep. Instructor: Shinya McHenry.

Tapestry-Social Dance with USA Dance, 2nd Friday, June 8, DJ is Leland Whitney, lesson is Foxtrot, instructor is Shinya McHenry, lesson from 7-8 pm and dance from 8 to 11 pm.

Project Dance-June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 'nMotion Dance Center, 7988 University Ave NE, Fridley. Lesson at 2 pm. Lesson: Samba. Instructor: Jennelle Donnay.

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, June 9, 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, June 9 and 23, at Costa 7:30-8:30 pm and dance 8:30-11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom- 8-9 pm June 6 or 9-10 pm June 13, 20 and 27.

Cinema Ballroom-June 15-Masquerade Ball, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom-Sunday Night Dancing with Jerry O'Hagen and His Orchestra, June 10 and 24, 6:15 -10 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club-2nd and 4th Fridays, June 8 and 22, B-Dale Club, Roseville. 7:30 pm lesson free with admission and 8:30 pm dance.

Tapestry-Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, June 3 and 17, dance 6-9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels-WCS and Variety Dance, June 3 and 17, at DanceLife Ballroom, new location at 4444 West 76th Street, Suite 250, Edina, dance from 7-10:30 pm.

SHOWCASES/EVENTS

American Classic Showcase, Saturday, June 9, 6-10 pm.

Cinema-Havana Nights Summer Showcase, Saturday, June 2, 5-10 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom-Grand Opening, Saturday, June 2, 1-10 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom-Summer Showcase, Saturday, June 23, 6-10 pm.

Dancers Studio-Beach Bash Summer Showcase, Friday, June 8, 7-10 pm.

East
Foxtrot West
Tango Hustle
Rumba
Cha Viennese
Swing Coast
Waltz

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 & 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

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](https://www.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
CAFÉ BAILAR
www.cafebailar.com

LA DANZA DANCE CLUB
Stillwater, MN
651.439.3152
[Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub](https://www.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

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/umnbdc

USA DANCE, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011
info@usadance-minnesota.org
www.usadance-minnesota.org

Dance Contacts (cont.)

DANCE INSTRUCTORS

Meghan Anderson and	Donna Edelstein.....612.910.2690	Deanne Michael.....612.508.9255
Igor Afonkin.....612.816.5904	Jennifer Foster.....952.922.8316	Monica Mohn.....612.874.0747
Scott Anderson.....612.816.4446	Robert Foster.....952.922.8316	Mariusz Olszewski.....612.242.5159
Nathan Daniels.....763.464.1021	Esther Granbois.....612.872.1562	Neli Petkova.....347.602.3913
Michael Dinsmore.....763.218.3096	Lindsey Rebecca Hall.....612.940.9546	Mary Rosenstiel.....612.720.2584
Jennelle Donnay.....651.357.2060	Bonnie Inveen.....612.978.9371	Char Torkelson.....612.709.6399
Loisa Donnay.....612.822.8436	Julie Jacobson.....651.261.6442	Lisa Vogel.....651.208.0818
Julie Delene.....612.598.5355	Jay Larson.....651.387.3886	James Wood.....651.242.2421



Stardust Dance

PRODUCTIONS

WEEKEND GETAWAYS, LUXURY DANCE CRUISES, DANCE DESTINATIONS

Ballroom Events

114th Weekend Getaway

Friday June 15th - Sunday June 17th • 2018

Friday
Casual Hawaiian Luau



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Entertainment Nightly • Dancing in 4 Venues
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Appearing on Our Stage:
*Andy Moss &
The Night Owls Band*

**2018 Future Ballroom
Dance Camp Weekends**
September 7th - 9th
November 16th - 18th



*Saturday
Black Tie*

Stardust Dance Cruise XVI
February 1st - February 11th, 2019



Costa Deliziosa
10 Nights
Departs from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Itinerary

Ports: Nassau, Bahamas • Turks & Caicos
Ocho Rios, Jamaica • Georgetown, Cayman
Roatan, Honduras • Cozumel, Mexico

Call for a Complete Brochure (800) 537-2797 Outside of the US and Canada (845) 794-4707

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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^h

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 13th

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
megamarc@frontiernet.net
By June 15th!

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





Beginner Samba

Sunday, June 3 — 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 10 — 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 17 — 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 24 — 2:00 pm

Classes with Jennelle Donnay at



7988 University Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
763.571.6180

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



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.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

JUNE

9-10

**NJ DanceSport Classic - Summer
Sizzler NQE**
Hackensack, NJ

JUNE/JULY

29/1

**Gumbo DanceSport
Championships NQE**
Baton Rouge, LA

JULY

11-15

**Twin Cities Open Ballroom
Championships**
Hosted by Scott and Amy Anderson-Mpls., MN

AUGUST

10-12

**OKC Dreamcatcher
Championships NQE**
Oklahoma City, OK

SEPTEMBER

8-9

Kansas City Classic
Kansas City, KS

OCTOBER

5-7

Carolina Fall Classic NQE
Charlotte, NC

OCTOBER

26-28

**Chicago DanceSport Challenge
NQE**
Chicago, IL

DECEMBER

1

**California State DanceSport
Championships NQE**
Oakland, CA

Critiquing my 'Dancing with the Stars' Costume Critiques!

© Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

Why do I post my costume critiques from 'Dancing with the Stars'? Well, I love watching dance performances, especially when the performers are all decked out in fabulous, custom designed costumes! Don't you?

“One of my missions in life, is to make the world a more beautiful place – with appropriately designed and fitting costumes!”

I have been creating clothing and costumes professionally (if getting paid by a friend counts!) for 5 decades now (with 4 decades as the head designer for my company, Satin Stitches Ltd. and several years in 'the business' after my college years with my Fashion Design classes). With a profound interest in fashion design since my youth, I have continued to critique clothing on those around me, what's in the movies and on television, in Broadway shows and Miss America pageants, AND on 'Dancing with the Stars'.

Back in the day when I rode our metro transit system to my downtown Minneapolis job, I would note the

seaming and darts (patternmaking and construction techniques) used on my fellow passengers' apparel, along with noting color combinations, fit details and of course styling choices. I've always preferred shiny and glitzy, so of course it's even better to critique shiny and glitzy costumes over our 'plain Jane' every day, street apparel. (Yes, I personally wear 'plain Jane, every day, street apparel, too! – It just generally doesn't excite me like fancy costumes.)

So yes, I have 'stars in my eyes' when I'm watching all the dancers (and hosts and judges and audience members) on DWTS. Yes, I love the dance performances, but I love the costuming more! And if I get to share some of my observations, whether they are 'personal opinions' or design/artistic 'rules' that everyone should be aware of, then even better. If I am able to dissuade even one person from buying and wearing an outfit that they just wouldn't look good in, I will rejoice. One of my missions in life, is to make the world a more beautiful place – with appropriately designed and fitting costumes!

I also try to educate and to note when a particular costume would be flattering for nearly all, or only 'work' on that perfectly proportioned dancer that is wearing it. I mention when a costume would be a good 'basic' costume for an amateur dancer (and therefore cost effective) or if it would be only for those with deep pockets



where money spent on one specifically themed costume may not be the best idea as an investment, even though it was a spectacular costume.

With my knowledge and expertise, I understand how garments can easily be altered to fit, or to realize when a custom fitted costume would be difficult to alter, when selling this costume to another, or if the wearer loses or gains weight. All things to consider when you are buying or creating a new (or 'previously worn') dance costume.

And sometimes I just like to admire a dancer/costume combo because it warms my heart with its beauty. One of my 'mantras' is that ANY costume or garment will look classier and more expensive and pleasing, if it FITS properly. And vice versa, ANY costume or garment, no matter how expensive, can look dumpy, if it doesn't fit right. The moral of this story...invest in professional alterations to class up your wardrobe, whether with a simple, inexpensive garment or something extravagant. And if you would like my professional advice, call me!

I also enjoy writing and sharing my thoughts and knowledge. I hope that at least some of my 'Dancing with the Stars' Costume Critique fans enjoy my musings! And just be calm...it is only a popularity contest after all. The best dancer does NOT always win the mirror ball!





David Chin
PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITS | HEADSHOTS | EVENTS

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@DCHINPHOTO

2018 Wisconsin State DanceSport Championships

By Bonnie Burton

“And placing first in all dances”

Well, let me just say right up front, it wasn't us. Ed and I placed 4th of four couples in the Open Amateur Smooth Championship at the Wisconsin State DanceSport Championships, April 24-28. But in my mind, we were still winners for dancing in front of a big crowd on a Friday night. We danced well and so we felt like champions.

The level of skill at this competition was incredible! For example, we saw an amateur couple we know who usually dance at the Championship (top) level at Amateur competitions, competing at a *pre-silver* level (a much more basic level) in the Pro/Am heats. They didn't do nearly as well as we would have expected. This is not to diminish the skill level of our amateur dancers, but rather to emphasize the talent at this particular competition.

The WSDC is a Pro/Am ballroom dance competition, which means that amateur students dance with their professional teachers. They compete against one another in varying age groups, dance styles, and difficulty levels. Many Pro/Am competitions also have Am/Am events, where two amateurs can dance together, competing against other

amateurs. That's how Ed and I ended up in the Open Smooth Championship: two amateurs dancing with each other.

One of our dance goals this year is to compete in a ballroom dance competition each month. WSDC fit the April timeframe nicely. We've been competing at amateur competitions for several years and we hadn't danced at a pro/am competition in a long time. It was so much fun, watching and cheering our ballroom friends and co-competitors - and dancing dozens of heats over a three-day period, with each other and with our professional teachers, Scott Anderson and Natalie Botes.

We've learned that dancing well at a ballroom competition is different than just dancing well. In our case, competition dancing helps us to improve floor-craft, practice warming-up properly for that all important first heat, and learning ways to calm performance nerves. The only way to get better at something is to practice, thus the decision to 'practice' competing monthly. Previously, we competed once or twice per year and we felt it wasn't enough.

The Wisconsin State Dance Competition draws many Minnesota competitors. At one point, during a

Gentlemen's International Standard multi-dance, Minnesota dominated the floor with Michelle Hudson (Cinema Ballroom) and Scott Skinner; Neli Petkova (Dancers Studio) and John Burns; and Natalie Botes (American Classic Ballroom) and Ed Soltis.

The WSDC was held at the elegant Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee; first-time organizers Martin Cawston and Justin Deehr were gracious hosts from start to finish. We loved the hospitality and ease with which they helped minimize the confusion of registration and check-in. Every detail was noticed and appreciated.

The professional heats were incredible to watch; it was particularly fun to see Scott's daughter Meghan Anderson and her fiancée Igor Afonkin win the American Professional Smooth Rising Star category and place 3rd in the Open Professional Smooth heats.

Lastly, our pros Scott Anderson and Natalie Botes were a delight to work with. Congratulations, Scott, on winning a Top Teacher Award and the Top Small Studio Award, for your studio Twin City DanceSport!



Rosemary Rocha, Scott Anderson, Natalie Botes, Bonnie Burton, Ed Soltis, Ed Kadletz, Cathy Casey, SuzAnne Weston-Kirkegaard.

Photo submitted by Bonnie Burton



Michelle Hudson and Dan Browning

Photo by Linda Irgens

Igor Afonkin and Meghan Anderson

Photo submitted by Bonnie Burton



American Classic Ballroom - Bonnie Burton, Ed Soltis, Connie Knipp, Barb Szmanda, Mike Szmanda, Paul Botes, Natalie Botes

Photo submitted by Bonnie Burton



Scott Anderson and Cathy Casey

Photo by Dan Browning



Michelle Hudson and student Scott Skinner,

Photo by Dan Browning

Tear Drop Moments - D. Arthur Tsang

Tear drop rains in this windy moment,
Whether sorrow, joy, or love,
For what will be tomorrow's dream.

Hopes and fears are thoughts in the wind,
But in this moment the rain is mine,
So I dance in the rain to the rhythm of my life.

Annual Tea Dance, April 29, 2018

Lafayette Country Club, Wayzata, MN
Hosted by USA Dance-Minnesota #2011

Photos by David Chin









USA Dance-Minnesota Hosts New Friday Monthly Dances

By Suzi Blumberg

Have you been to the USA Dance-Minnesota Friday night Tapestry dance yet? If you haven't, you're missing out because it's a great time, held on the second Friday of each month. June's dance will be June 8th so mark your calendars.

It all started when Donna Francisco asked our USA Dance-Minnesota President Lee Whitney to deejay her first and third Sunday night ballroom dances at Tapestry. He did so in January and again in July. These Sunday nights were very well attended.

The Tapestry Board and Dana, their Executive Director, wanted to add another ballroom event to their monthly calendar. They approached Donna, their contact person in the ballroom world, who asked Lee to co-host this event. Lee discussed this with USA Dance-Minnesota Board and everyone agreed to give this a try. USA Dance-Minnesota signed a six-month contract with Tapestry in January 2018.

“Have you been to a USA Dance-Minnesota Friday dance? If you haven't, you're missing out”

The dances are held the second Friday of each month, the lesson is 7-8 pm and the dance is from 8-11 pm. I think I've been to every one of them and they are wonderful! I've always had such a great time and I love dancing on the the large Tapestry floor.

Lee provides the music and different instructors provide the lesson. Each month they have the same dance style that is taught at Project Dance, and they



Photo by David Chin

feature this same dance style at the third Saturday monthly dance as well.


They wanted to keep the costs reasonable because there are other events going on at that time, so Tapestry and USA Dance members can attend for \$8 and non-members are \$10. There have been a consistent 40-50 people attending and Lee is getting strong feedback from the dancers that they like the event. The dances are co-hosted by two non-profit organizations and after paying the dance instructor, the entry fee is split between Tapestry and USA Dance-Minnesota. The chapter has been averaging \$150 a month and this money is used to pay for other events like the Sunday afternoon Project Dance.

Lee plans to encourage the USA Dance-Minnesota Board to renew a new contract for the remainder of the year. He's been very pleased with the first five months and likes the mix between the USA Dance and Tapestry members. He thinks these dances are an opportunity to bring new members into the USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter. Currently, the chapter has 260

members, which is more than double since 2013 when the club averaged 120-130 members. Lee is hoping for good steady growth to eventually have around 300-350 members.

There are a lot of reasons to be a member of USA Dance-Minnesota: Sunday Project Dance, the third Saturday monthly dance, and now the Friday night dance. There are also special events like the annual Tea Dance and the Dance Camp held this year in February.

The mission of USA Dance-Minnesota is to increase the quantity and quality of ballroom dance.



**National Ballroom
Dance Week**

Watch for upcoming
details on how you
can participate!

The Three Worlds of Ballroom Dance

Originally posted by Richard Powers, Stanford University

Social



Competition



Exhibition



Social, competition, and exhibition ballroom dance are all united by a love of partnered dance. All three forms are enjoyed by their fans for good reasons. They share similar steps, vocabulary, and music. But it's helpful to know how they differ from each other.

The essential difference between the three is that they have different audiences.

Social Ballroom
Your Partner

Competitive Ballroom
(DanceSport)
The Judges

Exhibition Ballroom
An Audience

Then looking closer at the differences: What are your audience's expectations?

Your partners want to interact with you spontaneously, for fun, doing steps that are also enjoyable for them.

Judges want to see that the steps and styles are done precisely and correctly, with great flair.

Audiences want to be entertained, often with a preference for beautiful and impressive moves.

What is your attitude?

- Sociable, i.e., friendly, and kind.
- Flexibly adaptive. You value and accommodate to styles that are different from your own.

- Rigorously correct, expansive.
- The many styles outside of the official syllabus are usually considered to be incorrect.

- Performance attitude varies widely, depending on the dance form.

What is the attitude concerning mistakes?

- Mistakes are accepted as inevitable. Social dancers laugh them off and move on.
- When a follow does something different from what the lead intended, he knows it's a valid alternative interpretation of his lead.
- Social dancers are happy if things work out 80% of the time. The other 20% is when most learning happens.

- Judges deduct points for every mistake, so competitive dance culture is aligned against making mistakes from day one.
- When a follow does something different from what the lead intended, he considers it a mistake, which is to be eliminated.
- Competitive dancers work hard to achieve 100%.

- For professional performances, audiences expect perfection, so dance companies rehearse extensively to avoid any mistakes onstage.
- For amateur performances, the audience mostly wants to see that the dancers are enjoying themselves, so mistakes are generally accepted.

Social

Competition

Exhibition

What is your reward?

- The spontaneous enjoyment of dancing with a partner.
- The satisfaction of becoming proficient in a dance form.
- Self confidence.

- Competing. Winning.
- The satisfaction of becoming proficient in a dance form.
- Self confidence.

- Entertaining or impressing others. Enthusiastic applause.
- The satisfaction of becoming proficient in a dance form.
- Self confidence.

Are there standardized steps and techniques?

No, standardization doesn't function because each partner is different. You must modify your steps to adapt to each partner.

Yes, rigorously standardized, because competitors need to know exactly what technical details the judges want to see.

Sometimes, but in today's sampling culture ("been there, seen that") audiences prefer something they've never seen before.

Is there a standardized style?

Absolutely not. You develop your own personal style, different from others. Some social forms like swing, tango and salsa especially discourage copying other's styles.

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Yes, absolutely. You are trained to copy the style of champions before you, working hard to imitate every nuance of that standardized style. Styles may be unique to the choreographer, thus not standardized. But the performing group usually works on copying and mastering that one style.

Is there a fixed choreography?

No. You make it up as you go along, often based on what the follow is doing at the moment, and what occurs to the lead spontaneously. Both lead and follow engage in a highly active attention to possibilities.

Yes. Competitors usually perform choreographed routines that they have rehearsed. An exception is Jack and Jill competitions, usually in WCS and Lindy hop, with a partner one has not danced with before.

Yes. Exhibitions are usually choreographed and rehearsed. Furthermore, group routines often have everyone dancing in unison. But improvised exhibitions do exist, especially in swing, tango and blues.

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