

# MINNESOTA

# DANCER

An official publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

March 2014



BEYOND BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY  
PERFORMED AT THE COWLES CENTER FOR  
PERFORMING ARTS

—PHOTOS BY KARIN LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY



***SAVE  
THE  
DATE!***

***2014 Tea Dance & Brunch***

**Sunday, May 4, 2014 11 AM — 4 PM**

**Lafayette Country Club,**

**2800 Northview Road, Wayzata, MN 55361**



***BRUNCH & DANCING***

***11 AM-4 PM***

**ADULTS \$35**

**STUDENTS \$30**

***DANCING ONLY 1-4 PM***

**ADULTS \$20**

**STUDENTS \$15**

**For brunch reservations, send a check by April 30 to:**

***USA Dance Minnesota #2011  
Tea Dance c/o Sharon Kennedy  
4347 Abbott Ave. So.  
Mpls., MN 55410***

***For information: 612-308-9022 or sk.dance8@gmail.com***



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## UPCOMING DANCES

**BECOME A USA DANCE MINNESOTA MEMBER  
AT OUR DANCE AND GET IN FREE!**

Web: [www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)

### MARCH

**Saturday, March 15th**

**7-8 pm lesson: Cha Cha**

**Instructor: Eliecer Ramirez Vargas**

**8-11 pm Variety dance music**

**\$7 USA Dance members**

**\$10 non-members**

### COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS

816 Mainstreet, Hopkins

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# DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

*Want to dance? Dancer's Night Out lists social dance events in Minnesota. Want to see your dance listed here? Email the details to [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).*

- Sat 3/1 DanceLife Ballroom Dance Party, 7-10, Bolero/Hustle Lesson, 6015 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)
- Social Dance Studio First Saturday Swing Dance, 7:30-12:30, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Sun 3/2 First Sunday Dance at Tapestry, 6-10, \$7-\$10, Cumbia lesson, Kristina Lee, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, 612-722-2914, [www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)
- Social Dance Studio TC Rebels Swing Dance, 7-10:30, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Mon 3/3 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Wed 3/5 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1650 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)
- Thu 3/6 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8pm, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)
- Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Fri 3/7 Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance, 7-11, 1650 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)
- DanceLife Ballroom Dance Party, 7-9:30, \$10, 6015 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)
- The Blue Moon Ballroom Club Salsa Dance, 7:30-11, \$6-\$8, 2030 Hwy 14 East, Rochester, 507-288-0556, [www.bluemoonballroom.com](http://www.bluemoonballroom.com)
- Sat 3/8 Linden Hills Dancing Club, a social club for dancing couples, 6:30-10:30, Dinner/Dance-\$140/couple, RSVP needed, Lake Harriet United Meth. Church, 4901 Chowen Ave. S, Minneapolis, 612-285-7894, [www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org](http://www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org)
- Café Bailar Dance Party, 7:30-11:30, \$10, Balance Pointe Studio, 5808 R W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, 952.922.8612. [www.balancepointestudios.com](http://www.balancepointestudios.com)
- Sun 3/9 USA Dance Minnesota Beginner American Waltz Class with Paul Botes; 2:00 PM; Free! AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM, 550 Market Street, Chanhassen, [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)
- Mon 3/10 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Wed 3/12 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1650 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)
- Thu 3/13 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8pm, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)
- Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Fri 3/14 DanceLife Ballroom Dance Party, 7-9:30, \$10, 6015 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)
- Sat 3/15 USA Dance Minnesota, 7-11; \$7-\$10; Costa Rica Ballroom Dance Studio, 816 Mainstreet, Hopkins, [www.costaricaballroom.com](http://www.costaricaballroom.com)
- Sun 3/16 USA Dance Minnesota Beginner American Waltz Class with Paul Botes; 2:00 PM; Free! AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM, 550 Market Street, Chanhassen, [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)
- Social Dance Studio TC Rebels Swing Dance, 7-10:30, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Mon 3/17 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Wed 3/19 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1650 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)
- Thu 3/20 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8pm, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)
- Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Fri 3/21 Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance, 7-11, 1650 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)
- DanceLife Ballroom Dance Party, 7-9:30, \$10, 6015 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)
- The Blue Moon Ballroom Club Spring Formal, 7:30-11, \$8-\$12, 2030 Hwy 14 East, Rochester, 507-288-0556, [www.bluemoonballroom.com](http://www.bluemoonballroom.com)
- Sat 3/22 Café Bailar Dance Party, 7:30-11:30, \$10, Costa Rica Ballroom Dance Studio, 816 Mainstreet, Hopkins, 952-303-3339, [www.costaricaballroom.com](http://www.costaricaballroom.com)
- Sun 3/23 USA Dance Minnesota Beginner American Waltz Class with Paul Botes; 2:00 PM; Free! AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM, 550 Market Street, Chanhassen, [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)
- Mon 3/24 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Wed 3/26 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1650 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, [www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)
- Thu 3/27 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8pm, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, [www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)
- Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)
- Fri 3/28 DanceLife Ballroom Dance Party, 7-9:30, \$10, 6015 Lyndale Ave S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)
- Sun 3/30 USA Dance Minnesota Beginner American Waltz Class with Paul Botes; 2:00 PM; Free! AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM, 550 Market Street, Chanhassen, [www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)
- Mon 3/31 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, 612-353-4445, [www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Leland Whitney, Chapter President USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011

In the January MINNESOTA DANCER, I discussed our vision to Strengthen the Foundation of our USA Dance Minnesota Chapter.

Dancing is something people like to do with other people. This is what binds our community between different sets of dancers, for example, college student and the regulars at our monthly USA Dance hosted dances. At the February dance, the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club held a Dollar Dance fundraiser. Encouraging interaction like this makes us stronger as a community. Please see the note below from Taylor Wall, President of the U O MN Ballroom Dance Club.

Cooperation hosting other USA Dance Minnesota sponsored events also builds community strength and well being. Our Chapter #2011 board has extended an invitation to the Southern MN USA Dance Chapter #2017 to co-host the **2015 Star of the North Dance-sport Competition**. Discussions are just beginning. This is an exciting opportunity to increase the volunteer base that will support the competition, to increase the participation of broader and deeper sets of competitors across Minnesota and nearby states, and to foster long term stability in hosting the Star of the North. Greater stability is a major component of Strengthening the Foundations of our dance community.

*My wife Leslie and I were all set to compete at the Mid-Atlantic Championships, a National Qualifying Event, in Bethesda, MD this past month. We tried to minimize the risk of weather related travel problems by planning to arrive two days early. This back-fired on us! Our flight into Bethesda on Thursday was cancelled and the next available flight would be well after we were scheduled to dance on Saturday. The flights scheduled on Friday were not cancelled! The upshot is that we missed the competition..*

From the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Dollar Dance fundraiser at the February monthly dance. We were excited to have such a great turnout and wish to send sincere appreciation to everyone who donated. Proceeds from the fundraiser will help lower dues for new members and fund our trip to the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor's competition in April.

We are also excited to take up the Board's offer of a collegiate liaison to the USADance Board meetings. It is our hope that this liaison will help to balance various interests in our ballroom dance community. Karen Maldonado has agreed to serve as our representative at the March meeting until elections can be held for another officer.

Taylor Wall

President

University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club

# USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Submitted by Leslie Whitney

**In attendance:** Lee Whitney (President), Bonnie Burton (Vice President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Marty Faeh, Tracy Frazee, Donna Francisco, Bob Anholt, Amy Anderson, Gary Stroick

**Location:** DanceLife Ballroom Studio, 6015 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419

**Call to Order Open Session:**

**1 Introductions**

**2 Quorum established. Agenda of the open meeting agenda approved**

**3 Guest statements:**

- Tapestry/USA Dance Partnership Initiative – Donna Francisco, a representative of the Tapestry Programming Committee, proposed a partnership with Chapter #2011 to schedule a monthly dance on the first Sunday of each month. She presented a handout outlining details. Discussion followed with a recommendation to table this until the February meeting, when dance coordinator Zhuojing Liu would be present to comment.
- Professional Advisor - Amy Anderson – Amy voiced her perspective which is to help focus the chapter's initiatives to capitalize on a cooperative effort to serve the entire dance community.
- Star of the North - Nels Peterson was invited, but did not attend.

**4 Adjourn and move to closed session**

**Call to order closed session:**

**ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

**5 Agenda for the closed meeting approved. Quorum established. Minutes from the December Board Meeting approved.**

**6 Treasurer's Report**

Jane submitted a financial report as of December 31, 2013. Report was reviewed and approved.

**7 Schedule Board Meetings for 2014**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to move the meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

The annual meeting will be on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**8 "Chapter Annual Report"**

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Jane to prepare and submit this report.

**9 Schedule General Election 2014**

This will take place on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**10 Directors-At-Large** – Discussion and action taken resulted in the following appointments:

- **Communications Coordinator** - Bonnie Burton
- **Membership Coordinator** – Marty Faeh
- **Social Dance Coordinator** – Zhuojing Liu
- **Special Events Coordinator** – Tracy Frazee, Karen Maldonado
- **Volunteer Coordinator** – Leslie Whitney

**11 Board Member Replacement Appointment**

Two candidates submitted biographies. We discussed their candidacy and will vote in the February meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PROJECTS**

**12 Committees – Reports and Action**

Note item #10.

**Website and Facebook page:** Bonnie Burton, Ed Soltis.

- The Chapter's new website address is: [www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)
- **Facebook/usadancemn**

**Minnesota Dancer:** Bonnie, Leland, Jane

**Star of the North DanceSport Competition 2014:**

The board agreed by motion and resolution that Star of the North will not be held and the contract with the hosting hotel be cancelled.

**13 Tea Dance**

Zhuojing will co-chair this event with a person to be decided.

**14 Tapestry Monthly Dance Partnership Opportunity**

Decision will be made at the next board meeting.

**15 Reelection Petition, Discussion and Action**

The board reviewed the election petition. The Board discussed and established new chapter policies regarding board membership eligibility and reelection timing.

A motion was made, seconded and the following policies were approved:

- A person who is removed from the board may not be a board member candidate for a period of 5 years.
- A person who resigns from the board may not be a board member candidate for a period of 3 years.
- A person must be a member of Chapter 2011 for 2 years immediately preceding their nomination to be a board member candidate.
- The nominating committee shall consider docu-

mented unethical behavior and adherence to Dancesport by-laws, rules and policies when considering an applicant's request for a board position.

Set election date: TBD

Call for nominations to Nominations and Election (N&E) Committee

A motion was made, seconded and approved to invite Gary Stroick, Mike Jones, and Yen Chou if they would be willing to serve on the N & E Committee.

Call for initial meeting of N&E Committee – TBD

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
DanceLife Ballroom Studio  
6015 Lyndale Avenue South  
Mpls, MN 55419

## USA Dance

## Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011, was formed in 1991.

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

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members are entitled to discounts on admission to the monthly dances, as well as access to a great network for meeting other dancers.

As a member, you'll have fun dancing and meeting many new friends. For more information, call the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 HOTLINE: 651-483-5467.

The Minnesota DANCER is published monthly by the members of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance, providing information and news of ballroom dancing to members and friends.

Editor/Design/Layout: Leland Whitney, Bonnie Burton

Advertising/Editing: Bonnie Burton 952-454-4620

Mailing: Committee member

Contributors: Suzi Blumberg, Paul Botes, Kate Bratt, Elizabeth Dickinson, Donna Edelstein, Marty Faeh, Dan Fitzgerald, Jack Munday, Deborah J. Nelson, Taylor Wall, Greg Warner, Leland Whitney

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, and content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to: [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 and send to Jane Phipps, 9650 Waterstone Pl., #402, Minnetonka, MN 55305

Leland Whitney, Chapter President, 651-690-9367, [lrwhitney@msn.com](mailto:lrwhitney@msn.com)

Bonnie Burton, Chapter Vice-President, 952-454-4620, [bonnieburton@comcast.net](mailto:bonnieburton@comcast.net)

Jane Phipps, Chapter Treasurer, 612-859-5245, [janepl951@gmail.com](mailto:janepl951@gmail.com)

Leslie Whitney, Chapter Secretary, 651-690-9367, [lrwhitney@msn.com](mailto:lrwhitney@msn.com)

**USA DANCE MINNESOTA  
HOTLINE**

**651-483-5467**

[www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)

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

## Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (300 dpi pdf or jpeg format ONLY!) or camera-ready artwork to [bonnieburton@comcast.net](mailto:bonnieburton@comcast.net) (952-454-4620), along with payment to USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Payment to accompany ad.

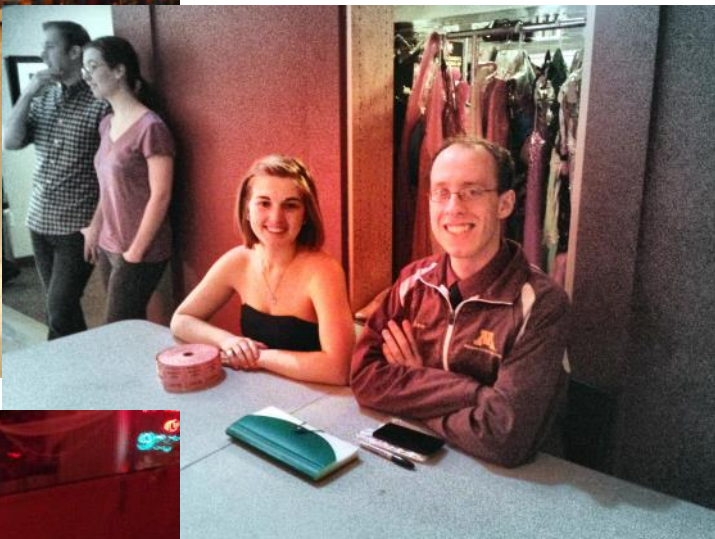
Full page	7.5" wide x 10" high
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" high OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high
Qtr. Page	3.5" wide x 4.75" high
Business Card	3 consecutive months

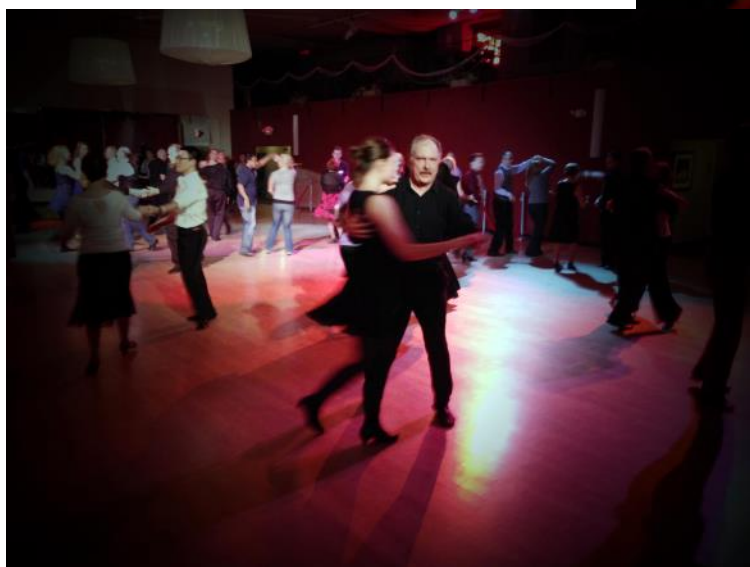
**DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:**

**10TH OF EACH MONTH**

# FEBRUARY MONTHLY DANCE & DOLLAR DANCE SUPPORTING U OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB AT CINEMA BALLROOM

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## Save the Date!



- **April 12, 2014:** Swing into Spring with **Joy Davina** and **Todd Paulus**
- **June 21-22, 2014:** Rebels Anniversary Weekend featuring the incomparable **Michael Kiehm**!
- **October 18-19, 2014:** Rebels Masquerade Ball featuring **Jessica Cox** and **John Lindo** (2 fabulous pros for 1 reasonable price!)

Dances and events held at Social Dance Studio, 3742-23rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.

www.tcrebels.com



# MEET GREG WARNER: USA DANCE NATIONAL SECRETARY, DANCER, VOLUNTEER

*Greg and Jill Warner*

Upon receiving an invitation to attend a Ronald McDonald House Dinner Dance fund raiser, I looked at Jill and asked, "I don't know how to dance do you?" Jill, "No." "Should we take a lesson?" Jill, "Sure, why not."

Thus, began my journey into social dancing, competitive dancing, involvement in our local chapter board, appointment as district coordinator and now, USA Dance National Secretary.

But, let's not get ahead of ourselves. Like most guys, I would always say things like, I don't know how to dance, thinking that it comes naturally. I have learned that "naturally" takes hours and hours of lessons, coaching and

most importantly, practice. For the first few months (unfortunately probably longer) we took the same dance lesson every week. Then it dawned on us, if we practice between lessons maybe we could go on to something different.

The "we" is my lovely wife and dance partner, Jill Smith. She always provides the perfect picture to my more than often, awkward frame. Yet, she stays with me and we continue dancing.

We enjoy social dancing. This is the reason we started but like many other couples, we find preparing for competitions is not about trying to achieve a high placement, but is all about improving our dancing. That is the journey we are on:

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952-928-6444

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improving our dancing but most importantly having fun. Life is way too short not to have fun and being at the stage in our lives we are, if it isn't fun, we move on to something that is. For us, dancing is fun!

Our most recent competition was at the Manhattan Amateur Classic. We only dance syllabus silver smooth and rhythm, Senior 2 and 3. At the MAC there were only two couples in Senior 2 and we were the only couple in Senior 3. So, as far as placing, we placed our best!


Like many USA Dance members, we became members to attend our local dances and quickly learned that these dances do not happen automatically! So, we got involved in our chapter board (Southern MN USA Dance #2017) and that led to me becoming president. About 5 years ago Jill and I attended the first National Chapter Conference held in Las Vegas. This provided an opportunity to meet many national officers and in particular, the Chapter Liaison at that time, Bobbi Jo Gamche. She was looking for

someone to assist with the newly revised structure of USA Dance that resulted in Districts. I volunteered, and with no other takers, I was appointed Area Coordinator for District 10 that includes the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Minnesota.

Then, I found myself volunteering for other things that resulted in my interacting with more of the leadership and I expressed interest in running for national office at some time. But, I knew I could not find the time to do anymore in USA Dance while I was working full time. So, shortly after I retired, I was appointed National Secretary when Stan Andrews asked to step down from this position, as he needed more time for other activities. I was elected to complete a three-year term as National Secretary during the recent national election.

The USA Dance organization has many challenges and opportunities. We need to grow membership in both our social dancers and com-

petitive dancers groups, and the national office needs to do better connecting with local chapters. All USA Dance chapters are under the National tax-exempt status. Local boards represent USA Dance National in all that they do. This requires us to have bylaws and policies that at times may seem like too much bureaucracy, but it is all to protect our 501(c)(3) status. This is also why local boards need to oversee and be responsible for all activities that use the USA Dance name, logo, insurance, and so forth.

I don't know where our dance journey will take us next. I do know we have had the opportunity to meet some very nice people and make many new friends because of dance. But, wherever it takes us, we'll be thankful we didn't know how to dance when we were invited to the Ronald McDonald House Dinner Dance, and we took that first lesson. See you on the dance floor! 

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## DANCE PARTNER WANTED ADS

*Looking for a practice partner? Compose an ad letting potential partners know what you're looking for and how to contact you. Submit ads of a maximum of three lines to [newletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newletter@usadance-minnesota.org). Please include area code with any phone number.*

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► Vee Hammond 651-206-9890 vee.hammond@comcast.net

Follow, 5' 2", seeks practice partner for bronze/some silver-level Latin and smooth styles. Takes private lessons periodically. Loves to perform. Possible lesson sharing, showcases, or competitions.

► Jane Phipps 612-859-5245 janep1951@gmail.com

Follow, 5' 5", seeks practice partner for bronze/silver competition-level smooth and rhythm. 3 years' dance experience. Takes lessons regularly. Any practice location okay.

► Justin Sundberg 612-964-1741 justin@jdsundberg.com

Lead, 5' 10", 28, seeks practice partner for smooth, rhythm, and WCS. Open to all styles and possible lessons or competition. 3 years' experience. Will provide floor time at a major studio.

# MILL CITY BALLROOM WALTZ CHALLENGE

*By Marty Faeh, USA Dance Minnesota board member*

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I just love new ideas and approaches to dance. Gordon and Kate Bratt hosted a Waltz Challenge a few weeks back and I had so much fun it was priceless! Actual cost, \$2, that's right \$2 for an evening of fun! It doesn't get any better than that. There was so much laughter and fun, it brings us back and reminds us of what dance is all about at the end of the day.

The premise is that you demon-

strate frame at some point, maintain timing but be as creative as possible, no other rules, do a tango pattern to Waltz timing, and so on. The energy by the crowd shocked me, we all had a blast. It was an opportunity to well, show off, strut your stuff, lead and follow. My partner Stephanie Riley and I have social danced a few times in the past; we made a couple rounds before the challenge started and we went for it, unrehearsed, no plan,

unpredictable, well you get the idea. Fun Times, be sure to check the next Mill City Challenge, which rumor says will be Cha Cha. Express yourself: dance from your heart!

1<sup>st</sup> Place Dan & Patty Fitzgerald

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Marty Faeh & Stephanie Riley

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tom Cleland & Chris Garklavs

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*Elizabeth Dickinson is a life/executive coach and amateur ballroom dancer. If you enjoy her writing and would like to receive her weekly emailed coaching newsletter, please send an email to [elizabeth@pursueyourpath.com](mailto:elizabeth@pursueyourpath.com).*

# THE DANCING LIFE

## What the Body Says

*By Elizabeth Dickinson*

The famous dancer/choreographer Martha Graham said “The body says what words cannot”.

As a young actor, I was well aware that there were certain emotions in my family and in society that were valued and welcomed, and others that were not. On stage, all emotions (if sincerely and artfully expressed) were honored and applauded.

One reason I appreciate art in all its forms is because space is created for those orphaned and unclaimed emotions.

I believe that is also why so many of us love to dance. We can express those emotions that don’t have a place in our daily lives. Additionally, we don’t

need to come up with fancy phrases, or explanations of why we feel a certain way. We just need to move.

Neuroscientists have found emotions like grief in real life are experienced in a different part of the brain than are the feelings of sorrow we experience listening to a sad song.

In a sense, those real feelings of grief or joy are transformed by artful expression into something we can own and cherish.

What do you allow your body to express through ballroom dance? Is there more in your life that ballroom dance can hold--or release? ■



## Swing into Spring!

**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

At Social Dance Studio

West Coast Swing Workshops with Joy Davina and Todd Paulus

### SCHEDULE

**2:00 - 3:00 pm: Musical Footwork**

**3:00 - 3:15 pm: Break**

**3:15 - 4:15 pm: Making Simple Moves Look Advanced**

**4:15 - 4:30 pm: Break**

**4:30 - 5:30 pm: Energetic and Poetic Patterns**

**Prerequisites:** All participants must have completed foundation level classes with the Rebels, Social Dance Studio, MNWCSDC, or another studio. All workshops are held at the Social Dance Studio.

### Joy Davina & Todd Paulus

Joy has a degree in dance and over 10 years of professional teaching experience. She continues to study in LA and NY to bring the latest styles and dances to MN. Over the course of 13 years, Todd has competed in ProAms with his students and professionally in Ballroom, Latin, Swing, and Country. Both currently compete on the national West Coast Swing circuit and hold an advanced national ranking.

**WORKSHOP PRICING:** \$10 each for Rebels members & students w/ ID and \$15 each for guests.

Annual memberships are \$25 and can be purchased at the door.

**PAYMENT METHODS:** Cash, Check (payable to *TC Rebels*), Credit Card, or pre-pay on the Rebels website.

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Event sponsored by the TC Rebels



# ANOTHER FABULOUS STARDUST DANCE CRUISE

By Suzi Blumberg



Anna and I just returned from another fabulous Stardust Dance Cruise. This year, 220 dancers from all over the US joined the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Stardust Cruise on the Costa Luminosa for 11 days and 10 nights.

Mornings were filled with an array of workshops from Argentine Tango to International and Standard Rumba and Waltz taught by nation-

ally known and respected dance instructors. Each morning had a list of classes for the beginner to the advanced. There was a total of 75 hours of workshops offered. Private lessons were also available.

Social dancing in the afternoon started anywhere between 2 and 4 pm. We were given a weekly schedule and checked each morning at the hospitality desk to see if any

changes or additions had been made.

After dinner, social dancing began. Our DJ's were the same wonderful couple as before, Bob and Michelle Friedman. Their music was absolutely delightful! Dance hosts, who were there to dance with the single ladies, wore lighted name tags and were easy to spot!

We made stops in six different ports and Anna and I took advantage of every one of them. We checked online before we left to get an idea of what we wanted to do on each island. Our first was at Nassau, Bahamas and this was especially exciting for me as I honeymooned here 49 years ago. It has changed a lot and I really didn't recognize a thing. We enjoyed a Pirates Museum and went to see the Queen's Staircase where 600 slaves spent 16 years cutting 65 steps out of limestone to provide an escape for the soldiers. Having strong dancer legs, we climbed the stairs to the top—and back down again! Day two was one of three days at sea. More workshops were scheduled in the afternoon for these days.

Day three landed at Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Islands where we walked the beach and shopped.

The next stop was Ocho Rios, Jamaica, and this was my favorite! We went to the beautiful Dunn's River Falls and then visited

Coyoba Gardens where we toured the lush gardens and walked on the beach.

Our next port was Grand Cayman where we went to Hell, a town on the Island. There we sampled rum and rum cake and now can say we've been to Hell and back! We also visited a Turtle Farm that was very interesting.

Roatan, Honduras, was beautiful. We walked the beach and shopped. Our last port was Cozumel, Mexico, where we rented a glass bottomed boat, snorkeled, and saw colorful tropical fish and coral. Before we got back on the ship, we shopped the shops. Every evening we took in fabulous Broadway-type shows that had really great entertainment. There was an Italian tenor who was mag-

nificent, a magic show, a talent show, and several musical shows with different themes. The talent was excellent and we were well entertained! The ship had a huge stage and the lighting and sound was incredible.

Our last day at sea had a dance contest where winners competed in Cha Cha, East Coast Swing, and Foxtrot for anyone who wasn't a professional, instructor, or competitor. Instructors were the judges and the winners won beautiful trophies to take home!

Anna and I felt this cruise was every bit as good as last year's. We loved how everything was organized, everything ran on time, and it was fun to see many of the same people we saw last year. The food was very delicious and

our room was so nice. My feet still hurt days after we got home from so much dancing. But it's a good hurt and I'm excited to know where next year's cruise will be going.

I hope you will join us in 2015! In the meantime, Stardust holds Ballroom Dance Resort Weekends in Ellenville, New York, each quarter and the next one is April 4-6. The events include over 50 dance workshops, dancing day and night, including during lunch and dinner, top night-club entertainment each evening, a talent show, and fabulous meals on the beautiful grounds at the Honor 's Haven Resort and Spa. Future dates in 2014 are June 20-22, September 12-14 and November 21-23. Contact Suzi for more information at [sjblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:sjblumberg@gmail.com).



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# MILL CITY BALLROOM CRUISER WINS 'DANCING WITH THE STARS AT SEA!'

*By Dan Fitzgerald*



It all began while wife Patty and I were dreaming of going somewhere warm. We saw on 'Lynne's Dance News' that Kate and Gordon Bratt were taking a group cruise in January, and said; "We like Kate and Gordon's enthusiasm in the dance community, lets go with them." So we signed up and began to dream and plan about our warm getaway in the midst of this difficult winter. We took off from Minneapolis 1-½ hours late due to four inches of snow and de-icing. By the time we got to Fort Lauderdale, our transfer was nowhere to be found, so we jumped in a taxi, and made it onboard with 10 minutes to spare. Sometimes you just have to go through challenges to get to the good stuff and we did.

We found our room, our luggage was there; we changed and went to dinner with twelve of our new friends. The Bratt's were very gracious hosts and their three little girls were not only charming, but very well behaved. Everyone seemed to gel right from the start, which makes for a pleasant trip.

Kate and Gordon Bratt, of Mill City Ballroom, were very organized with all that was planned to do on the ship. We attended two hours of lessons each day. These lessons were great bread and butter, fundamentally strong that you could just sink your teeth into,



emphasizing timing, balance, foot placement, arm styling, and much more. Each night after dinner we would go to the location that Kate and Gordon had set up for dancing. One night we danced under the stars on the top deck that had a retractable roof, and we had a ball. We danced in some of the hot spots that had live music and we all got a lot of attention from the crowd that did mostly freestyle dancing. One of the dance hot spots at night was the Ocean View lounge, with a 10' x 16' dance floor. Four couples danced the Viennese waltz without injuries: all I can say is "floor craft"! The other hot spot was the Queen's lounge that had rhythm and blues music; so West Coast Swing and Cha Cha were in order.

The second day of the cruise we entered the 'Dancing with the Stars at Sea' contest. Patty was chosen to go to the finals. The three dances that were selected were Jive, Samba and Cha Cha. Patty was a finalist in the Cha Cha, and six contestants were paired up with a pro dance partner from the ship. The contestants followed their choreographed skits. Patty, with her big smile and fancy arm styling (coached by Kate), got three "10s" from the judges. She stole the show and everyone there with our group were hooting and hollering. It was really fun and Patty was very humble about her victory, so I had to 'blow the trumpet!' Ask her to show you her gold star.

Each day was filled with fun, sun, friends, and great food. It's hard to find anything to complain about when each day is 85 degrees, the sun is shining, and all your needs are taken care of. Each port visit was interesting and our self appointed tour guide Jim Skonnard, would get us on a tour bus and

show us where to go. We became good friends in a short time. The week went by quickly and too soon it was over. It was a great cruise and our new friends a great blessing. We look forward to our next dance cruise. Won't you consider coming along? You won't be disappointed. Bon Voyage!!



*The Mill City Ballroom Cruisers*

# EXCITING DANCING!

## BEYOND BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

By Kate Bratt

I watch a lot of dancing. And more than that, I watch a lot of Really Good Dancing. I watch so much Really Good Dancing, that while I enjoy watching all levels of dancing, I'm rarely Excited watching dancing.

I was Excited to watch Beyond Ballroom Dance Company this year.

Taking on a slew of new dancers (shout-outs to Gary and April Dahl, Justin Carlson, Nicole Greibrock, Bonnie Inveen, Lisa Vogel, Tsha Marie, and Andrew Winett joining veterans Christine Hallberg, Chris Kempainen, Julie Jacobson-Kendall, Deanne Michael, Jay Larson, and Shane Haggerty) and new choreography, the group performed three pieces, showing a huge range of ballroom styles from dark and emo Waltz to campy and silly Cha Cha.

My favorite piece happened to be the longest, so lucky me. "Waltzing Over Moon River" (choreographed by Lisa Vogel and Deanne Michael) started out slow, with a couple doing very basic figures to, you guessed it, "Moon River". A lady behind me said, "I can do that". . . . lady, just wait.

Next, Bonnie Inveen and Chris Kempainen performed a gorgeous

duet that reminded me of the athletic, yet beautiful dancing that one would see at a ballroom dance competition: She twirls! He looks studly! They dance!

Then waltz got funky. April Dahl stomped on stage in her combat boots to drive Gary Dahl "Crazy" (dancing to the Aerosmith song; see what I did there?). Besides her ability to dance like a bad-ass in boots, I have to say one of the highlights of the show for me was watching April throw herself sideways at Chris and then LATCH ONTO HIM in one of the group numbers. Awesome.

I often tell people there should be more aggression in their waltz: more drive, more impulse, more "HOO-AHH", less *pretty*. That's where The Lisa Show came in. Taking the stage for "I Put a Spell on You", a very dark, large ensemble number about death; and the foreboding "Que Sera Sera"; Lisa Vogel's work both on stage and choreographically was spooky, aggressive, and fun. Lisa's hard not to watch as she's a great dancer and has the accolades to prove it. Her effortless movement was distracting and Exciting.

Next were guest artists Tsha Marie and Andrew Winett from California's "He Said... She Said" piece,

where I went going back and forth from thinking "Oh no, this is going to get un-Minnesotan real fast" to "MORE BURLESQUE". The whole piece hovered somewhere between the two and in the end, I wanted it to cross the line from Minnesota Nice to Too Sexy, especially when all the ladies came up with chairs. In the meantime, I loved Tsha's amazing red dress, the attractive cast numbers dancing the ensemble numbers, and Andrew's just-woke-up messy hair and shirt and well, just about everything about him.

Rounding out the show was the campy, over-the-top, and completely entertaining, "Red Riding Hood" starring Deanne Michael as Little Red, Jay Larson as the naughty Wolf, and Julie Jacobson-Kendall as the boozy Grandma. Dancing to thoroughly modern music from Jack White, the lady protagonists attract the attention of, woo, and then defeat, the debauchously saucy Jay Larson. It was funny, cute, and it completed the wide arc of dancing the company showcased. Bravo!

*Kate Bratt is co-owner of Mill City Ballroom in the Twin Cities, a professional ballroom dancer and instructor, and writer at [www.riotandfrolic.typepad.com](http://www.riotandfrolic.typepad.com)*

# Beyond Ballroom Dance Company



Photos by Karin Lynn Photography



*Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, president, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd. See more costuming tips at [www.satinstitches.com](http://www.satinstitches.com)*

# TO LEND OR NOT TO LEND YOUR DANCE COSTUMES

*By Deborah J. Nelson*

Sometimes it might be advantageous to borrow a dance costume from a friend. You may really like a costume that your friend has, and maybe they don't use it often. Or you may have budgetary issues, so that you can't afford a new costume at the present time. Borrowing a costume may seem to be an inexpensive option.

Friends may be happy to accommodate your request. But there are some things you should consider when lending out your expensive costume, or to consider, if you are asking for this favor. Things could happen, causing this seemingly inexpensive option to become really expensive.

Even if you are nearly the same size as your friend, you may not have the same shape, causing the costume to not look 'quite right' on you. If you need to make alterations or adjustments so that it fits, you need to know if this is OK with the owner. Sometimes alterations can harm a costume, unintentionally of course. Some adjustments are NOT easily reversed.

If you lend out a costume, you should have every expectation that it is returned to you in perfect condition. You would not be happy if suddenly the straps were shorter, or it was 'snugged up' in the hips (or neck, or wherever).

Any performance dance costume is somewhat delicate, especially if it has rhinestones, beads, or feathers attached. A hot sweaty performance could possibly dislodge these delicate embellishments. Most performance costumes are generally not laundered, but are spot-cleaned, when necessary. Any sweat and odor could remain in the costume. You don't want to wear a dirty or smelly costume, and you certainly don't want someone else's sweat or odor to attach itself to your costume. Don't even think about the odor of cigarette smoke! And a pet-peeve of mine – don't wear fragrances. They also linger and remain in garments.

You won't want a stain on your friendship, caused by a stain on your friend's dance costume that you borrowed, so always be extra careful. Don't drink anything, don't eat anything and don't sit on anything that could damage the costume.

Costumes made of spandex or chiffon can easily snag, by rubbing up against a rough wall or chair, from your hangnails or less-than-perfect fingernails, or from all types of jewelry settings. We all know that dancers can sometimes cake on makeup and spray tan, and it can easily make its way onto your costumes. Not to mention, lipstick from yourself or your best friend. Hair spray or gel? Don't let it near



# ASK DR. DANCE

Submit your questions to Dr. Dance newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org.

Q:

When practicing, my partner will sometimes say, "That's not the way it feels when our coach leads that move!" What's a good way for me to respond, or not!

## Donna says:

Ouch! That comment stings.

Maybe a gentle reminder that the coach is a professional who spends all day dancing, and will therefore have a different skill level than someone who is learning would do the trick.

All of us who coach have different points of view, but I believe that we can get the best out of our partners when we build them up to have confidence, and not tear them down to have self-doubt.

Good luck.

## Paul says:

No two people will lead the same step in exactly the same way. Length of stride, connection and power immediately comes to mind. In a way, it belittles the partner in a way that is indefensible. I would think that the instructor, having more experience, is probably a little more qualified. It also presumes that the student, with a lot less experience, should be equal to the task of the teacher after just a few lessons.

I think that a remark like that is an argument waiting to happen. The person to whom it is directed is immediately on the defense and it is not going to get better from that moment on! A better statement could be: "I'm still having trouble picking up that lead. Could we try it again?"



*Donna Edelstein is a coach, judge, and organizer of the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition.  
www.donnawrites@msn.com 763-557-6006*



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



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Career

- Earned CPA in 2008
- 2 Years at Deloitte
- Started SundbergTC in 2010

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*John S. Munday is a writer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife, Fran. Together, they found ballroom dancing at Cheek to Cheek Studio. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn, and his book, *Beauty in Partnership, A Memoir of Ballroom Dancing*, is available at [www.Johnsmunday.com](http://www.Johnsmunday.com) and several dance studios.*

# GENTLEMEN LEAD

By Jack Munday

‘Compensate’ is the word that came into my mind when I saw a Facebook photo of Scott Anderson with his 91 year old student, Virginia Dietz. I have seen this couple dance at competition events and she does quite well. She has a truly lovely smile and is a tribute to everyone who refuses to stop dancing. I don’t know her story, and don’t need to. I simply see her as a champion of staying with dancing.

I thought of compensate because Fran’s and my dancing has been complicated by various events such as health issues and we each had to compensate. A few years ago Fran had knee surgery and has, of course, completely recovered. But she had to stay off the dance floor until she recovered strength in her knee. She went to dances anyway, to watch and to learn. I had neck surgery in 2012 and have had balance issues. In both cases, I had to compensate, finding other ways get on the dance floor. To help with my balance, Monica gave me some exercises to use. They did help.

Other events where compensate is useful include simple things like postponing a lesson because of bad weather. A few weeks ago when I did that, the next day Monica thanked me, saying that she didn’t leave her home at all that day. And of course Fran and I danced at home.

When I first joined the Cheek To Cheek smooth formation team, I

compensated for my newness by devoting some of my private lessons to learning the routines. I remember one day when I forgot my dance shoes for a formation rehearsal, I compensated by dancing in my socks. Viennese waltz patterns are quite challenging without dance shoes. Both Fran and Monica, and most other lovely ladies, have to compensate because I am taller than most gentlemen. They figured it out.

When we danced in Paris as I wrote a few months ago, we compensated for our zero knowledge of French by ignoring the lead singer; we just went with the rhythm. The same happened in Sorrento, Italy, when we danced at the Foreigner’s Club. Actually, we knew the songs in English, so lead/follow was easy. No, we did not sing.

After I retired, I also compensated for not going into Minneapolis and no longer having our cottage in the city as a home away from home. I was able to find dancing venues close to home. At one such dance, we saw a lovely lady dancing, who was 100 years old. And since then I found a dance only six miles away, by car, unless we drive across the lake to the resort only two miles from home.

As my regular readers know, I really enjoy dancing. I/we have compensated for my obsession every time we can. As I said last month, I now have a balanced obsession. ■

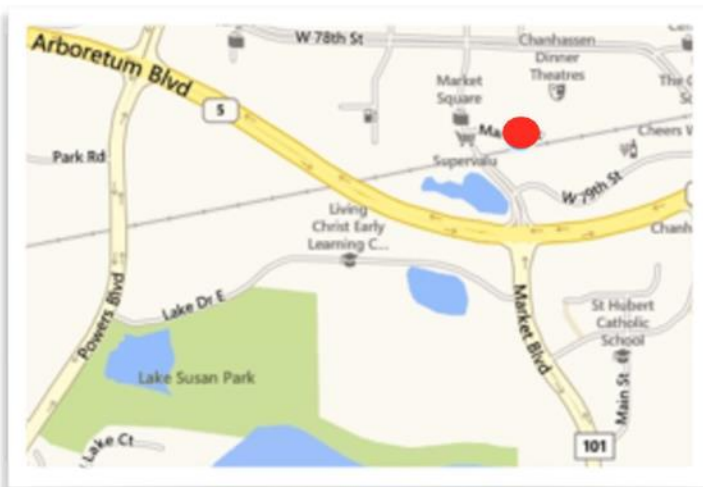


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# NO TWO SNOW BALLS ARE ALIKE: AN AMATEUR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Marty Faeh, USA Dance Minnesota Board Member



Marty and Kate 2013

It's the middle of October 2013. I'm sitting on the couch with my leg propped up and my ankle has doubled in size overnight. Perplexed, I ended up at a sports specialist's door and discovered that I had a severe stress fracture of the fibula from repetitive use. The doc said keep dancing and you might break it entirely or delay healing for a year, so STAY OFF OF IT for six weeks and use lots of ice. That is like tying a race horse to a tree. Needless to say, I accepted that injuries sometimes come with the territory of any sports-related activity, and perhaps it was an opportunity for me to take some time and evaluate my dance.

I started going through my pages and pages of dance notes. Rhythm, smooth, standard. Okay, now what? Ah, YouTube videos:

rhythm, smooth, standard. By the third day, I was going absolutely stir crazy. I needed my dance fix and now. I was down to my last shelf of dance stuff and came across a DVD with no description on it. I popped it in the player and saw it was my scholarship final rhythm rounds with professional dance instructor Kate Bratt, at the Snow Ball DanceSport Competition, January 2013. Instantly, a huge smile came over me and I was overwhelmed with a flood of memories from that day a year ago. It was exactly a year ago that Kate and I started dancing together as Pro-Am partners. With my first Snow Ball competition coming up very quickly, and the two of us having never danced before, we focused on rhythm and patterns I was familiar with. It takes time and practice to find one's dance with another. We trained hard, and with lots of laughing, sweating, and guidance from the wonderful Mr. Nathan Daniels, I was trying to find confidence in my dance but my rhythm had been on the back burner for about a year. I was feeling like the tin man trying to do Latin motion.

Snow Ball 2013. The hotel, the décor, the dance floor, the dancers, the WOW. Donna Edelstein amazed and dazzled me with her well planned and organized competition. I was so nervous, but it was time to apply what I was taught and practiced so hard for. Kate walked

up to me in a beautiful orange dance gown and I could not believe it was me going out there dancing with her. My heart was racing. Kate was smiling and giving me those silent cues, you know, stand tall, smile, relax, and have fun. My mind was racing through my routines over and over. Finally, the music started and we were up. Round after round, I felt my confidence increase and my stress decrease each time we returned to the dance floor. During the Scholarship round, Kate came over jumping up and down, "We're in the finals, Mr. Faeh, we are in the finals!" What an awesome time we had that day.

Snow Ball 2014. So, back to October, I give Kate a call and said I'm injured and out of commission for a while but what do you think about Snow Ball in January? Kate said, listen to your doctor, get better, and see you on the dance floor in a few weeks. I was so excited when that day arrived. As individuals committed to the study of dance, we progress year after year. I started from scratch, new patterns, new technique. I pushed myself hard to take my dance to a new level and was having a blast during the process. Kate pushed me to really think about why and what I was doing out there. I had a new confidence, my learning was like reading a good book and not putting it down until the last page was

finished. We found our dance to be a night and day difference from the prior year. Such a fulfilling feeling to feel grounded, settled, and confident.

This year I was blown away from the minute I walked into the hotel for Snow Ball 2014, all the way to the end when it was time for the good-byes. The energy was buzzing in the lobby, familiar and new faces all around. I walked in as a more mature dancer this year. Start to finish was a blast and what was an all-day event flew by like it was mere seconds. The competition was fierce, so many ladies on the floor, the music was spot on for me, I felt it, I moved to it, I told Kate

”try to keep up.” In East Coast Swing I got so caught up in the moment I did about a dozen continuous turns, not remembering I was only allowed four. Kate did a forced spin bringing me back to reality. I was laughing so hard, I glanced over and saw the judge covered their eyes with the score card, shaking their head back and forth. I laughed even harder as it was so fun to be dancing free. What a day, what a day! I was the only male student to make it to the finals in my division; Kate had found a way to unleash the beast. What’s next? The 6-Dance at Wisconsin State DanceSport in April. Dance is healthy living. Good Day!



*Marty & Kate 2014*



Sunday Project Dance at Cinema



Dan Fitzgerald

# THE BOARD'S CORNER

## WELCOME DAN FITZGERALD!

Dan started ballroom dance in November 2003, when he saw a sign at his health club inviting members to learn to dance. A former marathon runner, Dan says "I always wanted to learn to do that" and said he was finally at a place in life where he had a little time and a little money to pursue this interest. He signed up for lessons. He started with American foxtrot, and never being one to do anything halfway, he continued to take lessons in all the rhythm and smooth dances offered at that time.

A year later, he met his wife Patty at a social dance at Tapestry Ballroom. He asked Patty to marry him at a Café Bailar dance at the St. Paul Civic Center the following summer; and Dan and Patty became

dance partners for life when they married in 2006 and celebrated with dancing at the Shakopee Ballroom! Their wedding waltz was choreographed by Scott Anderson.

In addition to social dancing for years, they've also participated in pro-am competitions. They hope to compete at future am-am competitions and expect to enjoy their hobby for many years to come.

When he's not dancing, Dan owns and operates Aspen Carpet Cleaning and Restoration; he has been a small-business owner for 34 years. In addition, Dan's faith is important to him; he will travel to Africa for 10 days in April on a mission trip.

At their February meeting, the USA Dance-Minnesota Board of Directors appointed Dan Fitzgerald to fill the vacancy that's existed these past few months. Dan was chosen from a field of several applicants who had expressed interest in the vacant board position.

## NEW WEBSITE!

USA Dance-Minnesota has a new official website! Check it out at: [www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org) ! You'll find a calendar showing current dance events; or you can read the Minnesota Dancer Magazine online; find information about volunteering; view photos; videos, and more!

The new website has links to join the USA Dance organization or renew your membership; there are lists and links to local studios, clubs, and dance instructors. Find out

who your board members are and ways to contact them if you have a complaint or a compliment! Beware of imitators and bookmark this link or add to your list of

favorites and check it often to stay in touch! [www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org) .

**USA DANCE**  
MINNESOTA CHAPTER #2011  
USA Dance Chapter #2011  
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

**Home**  
USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 is a local chapter of the national organization of USA Dance; a nationwide nonprofit organization of thousands of volunteers who love ballroom dancing, and appreciate the excitement and romance, as well as the social and health benefits, that ballroom dancing brings into their lives.

Our mission is to improve the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area, to promote ballroom dancing in the Twin Cities, and to help interested individuals connect with the ballroom dance community.

Some activities we engage in to fulfill our mission:

- Hold monthly social dances.
- Provide information about social dance opportunities.
- Provide information about local dance studios.
- Support local collegiate programs.
- Perform ballroom dance demonstrations.
- Sponsor youth programs.
- Host the annual *Star of the North DanceSport Classic*.

We are a non-profit volunteer organization, so for any of our activities to function, we need volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to support the organization in some way, or to join the organization, [contact us](#) for more information.

**Mission Statement:**  
Our mission is to improve the quality and the quantity of ballroom dancing in the Twin Cities.

**SAVE THE DATE!!** The annual *Tea Dance* will be held May 4, 2014, at the Lafayette Country Club, Wayzata, MN. See this event and all of our events on our [calendar](#).

**New to Access Dance Web Layout?**

**Today's Activities**  
9:30pm [Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social](#)  
Social Dance Studio

**Upcoming Activities**  
Feb 25 [Costa Rica Ballroom Variety Dance](#)  
Costa Rica Ballroom (Formerly ERV)  
Feb 26 [Cinema Ballroom Practice Party](#)  
Cinema Ballroom  
Feb 26 [Dancer's Studio West Coast Swing Dance Party](#)  
Dancers Studio  
Feb 27 [Dancer's Studio Dance Party](#)  
Dancers Studio

**Latest News**  
February 2014 Minnesota Dancer  
The State of Amateur Ballroom in America  
Election Ruling from USA Dance National  
January 2014 Minnesota Dancer

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February 2014 Minnesota Dancer

# COMPETITION CALENDAR

*March 2, 2014*

## **NJ DanceSport Classic "Spring Fling"**

Hosted by USA Dance in Hackensack, NJ

*Mar 28–30, 2014*

## **2014 National DanceSport Championships**

To be held in Baltimore, MD.

*Mar 9, 2014*

## **Vernal Equinox Extravaganza**

To be held in Oakland, CA.

*April 12, 2014*

## **Quest for the Best**

To be held in Lynwood, WA.

*Jun 7–8, 2014*

## **NJ DanceSport Classic – Summer Sizzler – NQE**

Organized by Mario Battista & Wendi Davies, Hackensack, NJ.

*Jun 27–29, 2014*

## **Gumbo DanceSport Championships – NQE USA Dance Senior 4 National Championships USA Dance Junior II National Championships**

Hosted by Louisiana Gumbo USA Dance Chapter #5031 in Baton Rouge, LA.

*July 26, 2014*

## **Mid–Summer Classic**

Hosted by Southern Star FL USA Dance chapter #6038, Tampa, FL

*Aug 1–3, 2014*

## **Derby City DanceSport Championships – NQE**

Sponsored by Greater Louisville USA Dance Chapter #2021 in Louisville, KY. Qualifying event for 2015 Nationals.

*Sep 6, 2014*

## **Kansas City Dance Classic**

Organized by Matt & Ellen Pansing in Overland Park, KS. This event will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

*Sep 15, 2014*

## **Northwest DanceSport Championships – NQE**

Date is tentative. Hosted by Portland, OR, USA Dance Chapter #1006. Qualifying event for 2015 Nationals.

*Sep 20, 2014*

## **New England DanceSport Championships – NQE**

Date is tentative. Hosted by MASSabda USA Dance Chapter #3002 in Waltham, MA.

*Sep 20, 2014*

## **Quest for the Best**

To be held in Lynwood, WA.

*Oct 3–5, 2014*

## **Carolina Fall Classic – NQE**

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in Charlotte, NC

*Oct 31–Nov 2, 2014*

## **Chicago DanceSport Challenge – NQE**

Hosted by Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001, Chicago, IL.

*Nov 15, 2014*

## **California State DanceSport Championships – NQE**

Hosted by NorCal USA Dance Chapter #4004, San Jose, CA.

*Nov 22–23, 2014*

## **National Collegiate DanceSport Championships**

Hosted by USA Dance National, Columbus, OH

*Feb 14–15, 2015*

## **Mid–Atlantic Championships – NQE**

Hosted by Mid-Eastern USA Dance Chapter #6001, Bethesda, MD.

*Mar 27–29, 2015*

## **2015 National DanceSport Championships**

To be held in Baltimore, MD.

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# DANCE CONTACTS

*A collection of businesses and clubs of interest to Minnesota dancers. If you'd like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to [newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org).*

## STUDIOS

**AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM**  
550 Market Street, Chanhassen  
952-934-0900  
[www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)

*Instructors:*  
Natalie Palmer Botes, Paul Botes  
Whitney Irene, Benjamin D. Wagner

**ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO**  
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul  
651-227-3200

**BALANCE POINTE STUDIOS**  
5808 W 36th Street, St. Louis Park  
952-922-8612  
[www.balancepointestudios.com](http://www.balancepointestudios.com)

*Instructors:*  
Cindy Nehrbass, Jeff Nehrbass

**BALLROOM & WEDDING DANCE STUDIO**  
1717 42nd St E, Minneapolis

*Instructor:*  
Tom Larson

**BLUE MOON BALLROOM**  
2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester  
507-288-0556  
[www.BlueMoonBallroom.com](http://www.BlueMoonBallroom.com)

**CINEMA BALLROOM**  
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul  
651-699-5910  
[www.cinemaballroom.com](http://www.cinemaballroom.com)

*Instructors:*  
Jonathan Chen, Dustin Donelan,  
Eric Hudson, Michelle Hudson,  
Kirsten McCloskey, Nadine  
Messenger, Shane Meuwissen,  
Martin Pickering, Dipendra Thakur,  
Douglas Wallock

**COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS**  
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins  
952-303-3339  
[www.costaricaballroom.com](http://www.costaricaballroom.com)

*Instructors:*  
Rachelika Baruch, Sayoni Haldar,  
Tchad Herderson, Aiden Mamedov,  
Eliecer Ramirez, Rebecca Rae  
Ramirez, Alex Spencer

**DAHL DANCE CENTER**  
4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester  
507-252-1848  
[www.dahldance.com](http://www.dahldance.com)

**DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT**  
651-605-5784  
[tricia@danceandentertainment.com](mailto:tricia@danceandentertainment.com)  
[www.danceandentertainment.com](http://www.danceandentertainment.com)

*Instructors:*  
James Wood, Tricia Wood

**DANCE WITH US AMERICA**  
10 Southdale Center, Edina  
612-564-5483  
[www.dancewithusamerica.com](http://www.dancewithusamerica.com)

*Instructors:*  
Elena Bersten, Gene Bersten

**DANCELIFE BALLROOM**  
6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-345-4219

*Instructors:*  
Shinya McHenry, Laia Oliver

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415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul  
651-641-0777  
[www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

*Instructors:*  
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Bonnie Inveen, Chris Kempainen,  
Troy Lerum, Marcy McHenry

**FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO**  
1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-342-0902  
[www.fourseasonsdance.com](http://www.fourseasonsdance.com)

*Instructors:*  
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**FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO**  
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651-451-6300  
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**MILL CITY BALLROOM**  
2382 Hampden Ave, St. Paul 612-562-2733  
[www.millcityballroom.com](http://www.millcityballroom.com)

*Instructors:*  
Kate Bratt, Gordon Bratt

**NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO**  
Bloomington, MN  
612-799-4147  
[Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio](https://www.facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio)

*Instructor:*  
Michael D. Bang

**RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO**  
711 W Lake Street, Suite B,  
Minneapolis  
612-872-1562  
[www.theplacetodance.com](http://www.theplacetodance.com)

**SOCIAL DANCE STUDIO**  
3742 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-353-4445  
[www.socialdancestudio.com](http://www.socialdancestudio.com)

*Instructors:*  
Joy Davina, Todd Paulus

**STUDIOJEFF**  
701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201,  
St. Cloud  
320-266-4137  
[www.studiojeff.com](http://www.studiojeff.com)

*Instructor:* Jeffrey Ringer

## CLUBS

**AQUA GLIDERS DANCE CLUB**  
612-869-3062

**CAFÉ BAILAR**  
[www.cafebailar.com](http://www.cafebailar.com)

**COTILLION DANCE CLUB OF STILLWATER**  
P.O. Box 102, Stillwater, MN 55082  
651-388-1231  
[paynter@charter.net](mailto:paynter@charter.net)  
*Contacts:*  
Scott and Maggie Paynter

**LADANZA DANCE CLUB**  
Stillwater, MN  
651-439-3152  
[Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub](https://Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub)  
*Contacts:*  
Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

**LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB**  
320-763-6432  
[danceclub@lakesideballroom.org](mailto:danceclub@lakesideballroom.org)  
[www.lakesideballroom.org](http://www.lakesideballroom.org)  
*Contacts:*  
Barbara Benson

**LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB**  
Lake Harriet United Methodist  
Church,  
4901 Chowen Ave S, Minneapolis  
612-285-7894  
[www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org](http://www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org)

**MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB**  
B-Dale Club, 2100 N Dale St.,  
Roseville  
651-487-6821  
[mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com](http://mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com)

**REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB**  
952-941-0906  
[www.tcrebels.com](http://www.tcrebels.com)

**STARDUST DANCE CLUB**  
Dine and Dance  
[stardustdanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:stardustdanceclub@gmail.com)

**SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB**  
Woman's Club of Minneapolis,  
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis  
952-894-1412  
[www.suburbanwinterset.com](http://www.suburbanwinterset.com)

**TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA**  
612-224-2905  
[www.mntango.org](http://www.mntango.org)

**TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER**  
3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis  
612-722-2914  
[www.tapestryfolkdance.org](http://www.tapestryfolkdance.org)

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB**  
[bbc@umn.edu](mailto:bbc@umn.edu)  
[ls.gd@umn.edu](mailto:ls.gd@umn.edu)

**USA DANCE, MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011**  
651-483-5467  
[www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)

## SERVICES

**MADE FOR MOVEMENT**  
952-595-0003  
[www.made4movement.com](http://www.made4movement.com)

*Contact:* Marsha West Hines

*Services:*  
Costume design, production and  
tailoring.

**OH SEW SPECIAL**  
7300 South France Avenue, Suite  
323, Edina  
952-746-5539  
[www.ohsewspecial.net](http://www.ohsewspecial.net)

*Contact:* Susan Richardson

*Services:*  
Tailoring, alterations, and redesign

**SATIN STICHES LTD.**  
11894 Round Lake Blvd NW,  
Minneapolis  
763-323-9507  
1-800-48SATIN  
[www.satinstiches.com](http://www.satinstiches.com)

*Contact:* Deborah J. Nelson

*Services:*  
Custom-designed dancewear

## INSTRUCTORS

Scott Anderson.....	612-816-4446
Rachel Damiani .....	612-718-6823
Nathan Daniels .....	763-545-8690
Jennelle Donnay.....	651-357-2060
Julie Delene.....	612-598-5355
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Lindsey Rebecca Hall.....	612-940-9546
David Hanson.....	218-722-0742
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Jay Larson.....	651-387-3886
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Deanne Michael.....	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn.....	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski.....	612-242-5159
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