

MINNESOTA

# DANCER

March 2017



Rosemary Rocha and  
Teacher Scott Anderson at the  
DanceLife Ballroom Winter Showcase.  
Photo by Scot Gore.





# Stardust Dance

P R O D U C T I O N S

WEEKEND GETAWAYS, LUXURY DANCE CRUISES, DANCE DESTINATIONS

## BALLROOM DANCE EVENTS

### 109<sup>th</sup> Ballroom Dance Weekend

**FRIDAY APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

Honor's Haven Resort & Spa  
1195 Arrowhead Road • Ellenville, NY 12428

**Rates starting at \$419pp**

Includes: Lodging • 7 Meals • Cocktail Party/Open Bar • Wine/Champagne Party  
Over 50 Hours of Workshops • Entertainment Nightly • Dancing in 4 Venues  
Top Nite Club Entertainment Each Evening

### 2017 Future Ballroom Dance Weekends

June 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> • September 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> • November 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

### Stardust Dance Cruise XIV

January 13 - January 23, 2018

### Costa Deliziosa

10 Nights

Departs from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

*Itinerary*

Ports: Key West, Cozumel,  
Costa Maya, Belize, Honduras,  
Playa Del Carmen

2018 ALL INCLUSIVE BALLROOM DANCE DESTINATION

7 Night Cruise followed by 3 Day/2 Night Land

### Dubai

Costa Mediterranean

March 1st - March 11th, 2018

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

**EMAIL US: INFO@STARDUSTDANCE.COM • VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.STARDUSTDANCE.COM**

Stardust Dance Productions, LTD is registered with the State of Florida as a Seller of Travel. FLA Seller of Travel Reference # ST37320

### Argentine



**mntango.org**

*Dedicated to  
Fostering and  
Supporting  
Argentine Tango  
in Minnesota*

**Argentine tango** music first emerged as a distinct genre in Buenos Aires, Argentina around 1890. Over the years tango has been influenced by many other musical idioms, including African, Cuban, Italian, German, French, Jewish, and American music.

### MORE INFORMATION AT THE TSOM WEB SITE

Teachers, Practice Workshops, Dances (called *Milongas*), the Tango Calendar, Special Events, and Much More

# DANCER

An Official Publication of  
USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



## USA Dance: Who Are We?

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

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

Executive Editor: Bonnie Burton  
Layout Editor: Tom Crable  
Assistant Editor: Leland Whitney  
Advertising: Paul Stachour

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

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## USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

March  
Saturday, March 18

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

7-8 lesson - West Coast Swing  
Instructor: Troy Lerum  
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

April  
Saturday, April 15

Cinema Ballroom  
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul

7-8 pm lesson - Quickstep  
Instructor: TBD  
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

May  
Saturday, May 20

n'Motion Dance Center  
7988 University Ave, Fridley

7-8 pm lesson - Night Club 2 Step  
Instructor: Jennelle Donnay  
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

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



# Beginner West Coast Swing

Sunday, March 5th — 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 12th — 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 19th — 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 26th — 2:00 pm

Classes with Troy Lerum at

dancers studio  
*Live. Love. Dance.*

415 Pascal Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651.641.0777

[www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)  
[info@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:info@usadance-minnesota.org)  
Follow us @USADanceMN



**USA Dance offers dance instruction to members for \$3. Non-members pay \$8.** Become a member of USA Dance at [membership.usadance.org](http://membership.usadance.org) or fill out a membership form available at a class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

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# USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, January 3, 2017  
Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Lee Whitney, Leslie Whitney, Joyce Thompson and Carol Post.

Guests: Bonnie Burton, Jane Phipps, Tom Crable, Stephanie Clausen and Bonny Snell.

Location: Washburn Public Library, 5244 Lyndale Avenue South, Mpls., MN 55419.

Call Session to order:

1. Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the January agenda.
2. Confidentiality – Meeting discussions are confidential. Chapter minutes are posted in the Minnesota Dancer.
3. Board Appointments – Joyce will assume the responsibility for scheduling interviews for the open board positions.
4. Chapter Officer Selections – These positions will be filled when board positions are finalized.
5. Chapter Coordinator Selections – These positions will be filled when board positions are finalized.
6. 2017 Board Meeting Schedule and Annual Meeting Schedule – We will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to hold the annual meeting at the November monthly dance.
7. Minutes – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the December minutes.
8. Treasurer's Report – A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the treasurer's report which is current as of December 31, 2016.
9. Social Dance, Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Reports.
  - a. Monthly Dances.
    - i. February – DanceLife Ballroom, Samba.
    - ii. March – Dancers Studio, West Coast Swing.
  - b. Project Dance.
    - i. February – 'nMotion Dance Center, Cha-cha.
    - ii. March – Dancers Studio, West Coast Swing.
  - c. Special Events – Carol is meeting later this month with Lafayette Club staff.

- 
- d. Dancing Classrooms – There is a continued need for Classroom Assistants.
  - e. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Support – The UMR Scrimmage event is well organized. It will be held on February 15, 2017 in Rochester.
10. Communications Coordinator Report.
- a. Minnesota Dancer Committee – A committee will be formed to explore opportunities to expand the viewership of Minnesota Dancer.
  - b. Website, Facebook, Constant Contact, Twitter Account – Website calendar is up to date. Twitter account - @USADanceMN.
  - c. Carol in finalizing the trifold brochure which will be displayed in the studios.
11. Membership Coordinator Report:
- a. January 31, 2016 – 316.
  - b. January 3rd, 2017 – 232.

Next Meeting:

February 7, 2017, 6:00 pm.

Washburn Library, 5244 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls, MN 55419

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# DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

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## USA DANCE

**USA Dance – Monthly** - 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, March 18, at Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal Street N, St Paul MN. Lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - West Coast Swing. Instructor: Troy Lerum.

**Project Dance** - March 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 2 pm, at Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal Street N, St Paul MN. Lesson - Beginner West Coast Swing. Instructor: Troy Lerum.

## WEEKLY DANCES

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

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

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

**Costa Rica Ballroom** – Fridays, lesson 7:30 - 8:15 pm and dance 8:15 - 10:00 pm.

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

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

## OTHER WEEKLY DANCES

**Argentine Tango Milonga** - Second Saturday of each month, March 11, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See [mntango.org](http://mntango.org) for more information.

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

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

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

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

## OTHER DANCES

### **2017 Spring Tea Dance - Sunday April 30, an Annual Event**

For the past 25 years, USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 has been proud to sponsor the Annual Tea Dance at the historic Lafayette Country Club. On Sunday April 30th, the beautiful Grand Ballroom will once again open its doors for a delicious brunch, live entertainment and an afternoon of fabulous music and dancing. Over the years, dancers of every age and background return to enjoy this elegant event.

Brunch reservations are required and close on Tuesday, April 25th. Dance only tickets are available at the door.

Student sponsorships are also available for brunch and dance or dance only.

For reservations and for more information contact: Sharon Kennedy at [sk.dance8@gmail.com](mailto:sk.dance8@gmail.com) or 612-308-9022.

## ***25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tea Dance Sunday April 30, 2017***

***USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 invites you to enjoy an elegant afternoon of Brunch, Dancing and Live Entertainment at the historic Lafayette Country Club located at 2800 Northview Rd, Wayzata, MN.***



### ***Brunch and Dancing 11:00AM-4:00PM***

***Early Bird reservations through April 15, 2017  
Brunch (11:00AM -12:15PM) and Dance (1:00-4:00PM)***

***Adult \$37  
Student \$32***

***Reservations April 16-April 25, 2017***

***Adult \$42  
Student \$37***

***Dance Only 1PM -4PM  
Adult \$26  
Student \$21***

***For Brunch Reservations, send a check by April 25<sup>th</sup> with phone number and email to:***

***USA Dance Chapter #2011  
Tea Dance c/o Sharon Kennedy  
4347 Abbott Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410  
For information: 612-308-9022 or [sk.dance8@gmail.com](mailto:sk.dance8@gmail.com)***

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# DANCE CONTACTS

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to [tcrable3s@gmail.com](mailto:tcrable3s@gmail.com)

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## STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM  
550 Market Street, Chanhassen  
952.934.0900  
[www.acballroom.com](http://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](http://www.awakeneddance.com)

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB  
1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville  
952.292.0524  
[www.ballroom-club.com](http://www.ballroom-club.com)

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)

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE  
STUDIOS  
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins  
952.303.3339  
[www.costaricaballroom.com](http://www.costaricaballroom.com)

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)

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY  
3142 1st Ave S, Minneapolis  
612.822.8436  
[www.mndance.com](http://www.mndance.com)

DANCE WITH US AMERICA  
10 Southdale Center, Edina  
612.564.5483  
[www.dancewithusamerica.com](http://www.dancewithusamerica.com)

DANCELIFE BALLROOM  
6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis  
612.345.4219, [www.dancelifeballroom.com](http://www.dancelifeballroom.com)

DANCERS STUDIO  
415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul  
651.641.0777  
[www.dancersstudio.com](http://www.dancersstudio.com)

DE Studios  
3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington  
952.392.9631  
[www.de-studios.com](http://www.de-studios.com)

FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO  
1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis  
612.342.0902  
[www.fourseasonsdance.com](http://www.fourseasonsdance.com)

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO  
1975 Seneca Road, Eagan, MN  
651.451.6300  
[www.FredAstaireMN.com](http://www.FredAstaireMN.com)

MILL CITY BALLROOM  
[www.millcityballroom.com](http://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](http://www.theplacetodance.com)

STUDIOJEFF  
701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201,  
St. Cloud  
320.266.4137  
[www.studiojeff.com](http://www.studiojeff.com)

## CLUBS

Café BAILAR  
[www.cafebailar.com](http://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](mailto:danceclub@lakesideballroom.org)  
[www.lakesideballroom.org](http://www.lakesideballroom.org)

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN  
Email: [latindc@umn.edu](mailto:latindc@umn.edu)  
[sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/](http://sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/)

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB  
[www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org](http://www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org)

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB  
763.442.1618  
[www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com](http://www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com)

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB  
952.941.0906  
[www.tcrebels.com](http://www.tcrebels.com)

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB  
952.475.0586  
[billcarlson@usinternet.com](mailto:billcarlson@usinternet.com)

STARDUST DANCE CLUB  
[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  
[bdc@umn.edu](mailto:bdc@umn.edu)  
[ls.gd/umnbdcc](http://ls.gd/umnbdcc)

USA DANCE, MINNESOTA  
CHAPTER 2011  
[info@usadance-minnesota.org](mailto:info@usadance-minnesota.org)  
[www.usadance-minnesota.org](http://www.usadance-minnesota.org)

## DANCE INSTRUCTORS

Meghan Anderson and	
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Rachel Damiani	612.718.6823
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Michael Dinsmore	763.218.3096
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Loisa Donnay	612.822.8436
Julie Delene	612.598.5355
Donna Edelstein	612.910.2690
Jennifer Foster	952.922.8316
Robert Foster	952.922.8316
Esther Granbois	612.872.1562
Lindsey Rebecca Hall	612.940.9546
Bonnie Inveen	612.978.9371
Julie Jacobson	651.261.6442
Lukas Klotzsche	561.502.2822
Jay Larson	651.387.3886
Kristina Lee	715.821.9039
Deanne Michael	612.508.9255
Monica Mohn	612.874.0747
Mariusz Olszewski	612.242.5159
Mary Rosenstiel	612.720.2584
Char Torkelson	612.709.6399
Lisa Vogel	651.208.0818
James Wood	651.242.2421

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# COMPETITION CALENDAR

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March 31 - April 2, 2017

**USA Dance 2017 National DanceSport Championships**

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD

June 10 - 11, 2017

**NJ DanceSport Classic - Summer Sizzler - 2018 NQE**

Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies

Rogers DanceSport Center - Hackensack NJ

June 23 - 25, 2017

**Gumbo DanceSport Championship - 2018 NQE**

Hosted by Louisiana Chapter #5031

July 5 - 9, 2017

**Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships**

Organized by Scott and Amy Anderson

Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis MN

September 29 - October 1, 2017

**Carolina Fall Classic - 2018 NQE**

Organized by Wayne and Marie Crowder

Charlotte, NC

October 28 - 30, 2017

**Chicago DanceSport Challenge - 2018 NQE**

Hosted by Chicagoland Chapter #2001

**LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS**

Dance events for every day of the week.  
Updated daily.

[www.lynnesdancenews.com](http://www.lynnesdancenews.com)

**Southeastern DanceSport Championships  
2017 NQE**

**Birmingham, AL, February 3-5**

John Burns & Andrea Dunaif

4th (of 5) Amateur Senior II Bronze Smooth  
1st (of 1) Amateur Senior II Newcomer Am. Foxtrot  
1st (of 1) Amateur Senior II Newcomer Am. Waltz  
1st (of 1) Amateur Senior III Newcomer Am. Foxtrot  
1st (of 1) Amateur Senior III Newcomer Am. Waltz  
1st (of 4) Amateur Senior III Bronze Smooth

Gregory Prasch & Susan Prasch

2nd (of 7) Amateur Senior III Pre-Champ Smooth  
1st (of 6) Amateur Senior III Pre-Champ Standard  
1st (of 4) Amateur Senior II Pre-Champ Smooth  
2nd (of 4) Amateur Senior II Pre-Champ Standard  
1st (of 5) Amateur Senior III Novice Smooth  
1st (of 4) Amateur Senior III Novice Standard  
1st (of 3) Amateur Senior II Novice Smooth  
2nd (of 3) Amateur Senior II Novice Standard

Greg Warner & Jill Smith

5th (of 5) Amateur Senior III Gold Rhythm  
4th (of 7) Amateur Senior III Gold Smooth  
2nd (of 5) Amateur Senior III Bronze Standard  
10th (of 12) Amateur Senior III Silver Rhythm  
3rd (of 12) Amateur Senior III Silver Smooth  
1st (of 1) Amateur Senior IV Gold Rhythm  
1st (of 3) Amateur Senior IV Gold Smooth  
1st (of 4) Amateur Senior IV Silver Standard  
1st (of 2) Amateur Senior IV Silver Rhythm  
1st (of 3) Amateur Senior IV Silver Smooth  
1st (of 2) Amateur Senior IV Bronze Standard

Leland Whitney & Leslie Whitney

1st (of 2) Amateur Senior IV Championship Rhythm  
2nd (of 5) Amateur Senior III Pre-Champ Rhythm  
2nd (of 3) Amateur Senior III Championship  
Rhythm  
1st (of 5) Amateur Senior III Championship Smooth  
1st (of 7) Amateur Senior III Pre-Champ Smooth  
1st (of 2) Amateur Senior IV Championship Smooth

**Mid-Atlantic Championships  
2017 NQE and  
2017 National Championships**

**Bethesda, MD, Feb. 17-19**

Joel Torgeson & Corissa Leuken

20th (of 26) Adult Novice Standard  
18th (of 20) Adult Pre-Champ Standard

Greg Warner & Jill Smith

1st (of 5) Senior IV Bronze Standard  
2nd (of 3) Senior IV Gold Rhythm  
1st (of 4) Senior IV Gold Smooth  
2nd (of 12) Senior III Bronze Standard  
1st (of 6) Senior III Silver Rhythm  
3rd (of 13) Senior III Silver Smooth  
2nd (of 4) Senior IV Silver Standard  
3rd (of 8) Senior IV Silver Smooth  
1st (of 4) Senior IV Silver Rhythm  
1st (of 2) Senior III Gold Rhythm  
2nd (of 6) Senior III Gold Smooth

Leland Whitney & Leslie Whitney

1st (of 7) Senior III Pre-Champ Smooth  
1st (of 2) Senior III Championship Rhythm  
1st (of 6) Senior III Championship Smooth  
2nd (of 2) Senior IV Championship  
Rhythm  
1st (of 6) Senior IV Championship Smooth  
1st (of 2) Senior IV Championship Nine  
Dance



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Leland and Leslie Whitney are preparing for National Qualifying Events for the 2017 National Championships.*

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

This past month, February 2017, Leslie and I, an amateur dance couple, competed at:

- USA Dance SouthEastern DanceSport Championships
- USA Dance Mid-Atlantic DanceSport Championships (2017 National Championships for Senior IV)

We just had the best time:

- Wonderful music
- Good dancing
- Beautiful people and costumes
- Good friends from all over the United States
- Exciting and exhilarating
- Great venues

The purpose of this note is to encourage more of our USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 members to find a dance partner and consider competing.

We were both 58 years old when we competed in our 1st USA Dance Competition in 2008! We started as Bronze level competitors and now we are Championship level competitors.

Come dance and play with us!





*Dedicated to  
Fostering and  
Supporting  
Argentine Tango  
in Minnesota*

**Argentine tango** song lyrics cover the range of human emotions, including amorous, nostalgic, melancholy, despair, irony, cheerful and even humorous. The accomplished tango dancer (*tanguero*) tries to express the song in the dance.

**MORE INFORMATION AT THE TSOM WEB SITE**  
Teachers, Practice Workshops, Dances (called *Milongas*),  
the Tango Calendar, Special Events, and Much More

## Share Your Talents

Share your talents and experience with the team of USA  
Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 by:

- Writing articles for the Minnesota Dancer.
- Interviewing members of the dance community on topics of interest.
- Graphic Designer.
- Illustrator.
- Publication Distribution.

For more information, email Tom Crable at [tcrable3s@gmail.com](mailto:tcrable3s@gmail.com).

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# DanceLife Ballroom Winter Showcase on February 11, 2017

Photos by Scot Gore





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# OUR EXPERIENCE WITH DANCING CLASSROOMS

By Julie Jacobson Kendle

Photos by C.J. Hurst

Photo subjects are Olivia and her partner Patric

Years ago (pre-marriage, pre-children) I watched the award winning documentary "Mad Hot Ballroom". Little did I know that someday I would volunteer in that very program with my yet unborn daughter, both of us enthusiastic participants.

Two years ago, Dancing Classrooms came to Minnesota under the direction of Andrea Mirenda and Ember Reichgott Junge, co-presidents of the affiliated non-profit Heart of Dance. Rebecca and Bruce Abas, owners of Four Seasons Dance Studio, and I both have children at Linwood Monroe Arts Plus, a St. Paul arts magnet school. We talked about how we'd love to see this program at our kids' school. Fast forward, and with the support of Principal Bryan Bass and the incredible team of teachers, our dreams became a reality just in time for my daughter Olivia, who is a 5th grader this year.

Despite my career in the ballroom dance world for the past 25 years (the rumors are true, I started

teaching when I was just 12) my kids are not trained in ballroom dance. They've enjoyed some community-ed ballet classes and they love skiing, swimming, acting, and the arts. They would not have been able to show you a rumba box or tango basic, so this program was going to be a great introduction to ballroom dance for my daughter.

To share this experience with Olivia, I became an official Classroom Assistant, and every Tuesday and Thursday morning, I helped Linwood Monroe's Dancing Classrooms teacher, Djenane Saint Juste. "Ms. Djenane" is originally from Haiti, has lived in Cuba, South America and now Minnesota, and is one of the most positive whirlwinds of energy I have ever met. She is fun and funny, and she respects the kids and knows how to connect with them. I interviewed my daughter to get her perspective on her experience in Dancing Classrooms, and she lit up when I asked about Ms. Djenane. In Olivia's words, "She's fun and she makes things

so much easier to think about instead of difficult. She really likes kids, and that's awesome, and she respects kids."

As a professional dancer and teacher, it was fascinating for me to observe the method that is universally used by Dancing Classrooms to teach children to dance. It is a scripted approach that teaches Merengue, Foxtrot, Rumba, Waltz, Tango, Swing and Polka patterns in a clear-cut order. However, the program is much more than about teaching kids to dance. It is a program designed to teach them respect for one another, build confidence and self-esteem, and teach them the origins, history, and characteristics of each dance. The teachers can then connect the information to subjects they are studying in the classroom. I thought that the formulaic approach to teaching might be stifling, but I can see how its universality makes it possible for teachers across the world to deliver the information consistently. Plus, with verbal teaching cues like: "Step onto the



cheese, back onto the crust" (we were a human pizza!) how can you not have a good time?!

Certainly the most powerful part of the program was watching the transformation amongst the kids. On the first day of class the kids learned the Merengue independently, but soon it was time to hold hands and try their new steps. Ugh! The horror! The disgust! The giggles! Things only escalated when they had to try the very same steps in dance frame. Under the calm positive tutelage of Ms. Djenane they grudgingly danced in dance hold with one another, some excitedly while others seemed to think this was a new form of 5th grade torture. Interestingly, by the second class, the uncomfortable giggles decreased by about half, and in the ensuing lessons dancing in partnership became the new normal.

I asked Olivia if she liked dancing with everyone in the class. She said, "It was fun and it feels like I know everyone better". This was something that intrigued me, wondering if the class felt more bonded at the end of this intense 10-week residency than they might otherwise feel, especially in 5th grade when kids start to be more clannish and start the great migration toward puberty. I recently asked the 5th grade teachers for their feedback, particularly on that topic, and this is what they had to say:

"I think one of the most powerful pieces was the student-teacher connection created right away. I was not the expert for once, but as much a learner as they were. I was forced to come out of my comfort zone and be vulnerable with students who hardly knew

me. I think there was a quick bond. We were able to laugh at ourselves and each other. I made mistakes in front of them. I think that must be powerful for students, especially those who don't speak English. It was a level playing field." - Nicola Turner.

[Author's note: There are a large number of English language learners at Linwood Monroe].

"Overall, we agreed that we certainly came together as a class community faster than normal due to the fact that kids had to share such close personal space with one another from day five of school! They certainly developed a sense of trust that would otherwise take several weeks to gain. We also learned how to have fun with each other and understand that it is okay to make mistakes and that everyone does makes mistakes, even the teachers! We had to show our vulnerability with each other. There is power in that." - Sarah Norby

By the end of 10 weeks, these kids had worked amazingly hard and were gearing up to perform for the rest of the school and their parents. Just like many of us participating in a dance competition, all it takes is the pressure of extra eyes watching to get everyone to stand up a little taller and smile a bit bigger. They had drilled the dances, practiced walking into the auditorium and onto the stage, and "twirling" their partners at the end of each dance, and now they were ready to rock and roll. And they did! These kids had so much fun, and you could see by the faces in the crowd and

by their hoots, hollers and cheers that the crowd was completely impressed and dazzled by how much these children had learned in such a short period of time.

Two weeks after the school performance, a smaller group of Linwood Monroe children attended the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match, along with kids from nine other participating metro schools. The diversity of backgrounds that the kids represent is well reflected in the name "Colors of the Rainbow", an inspiration to see in the otherwise predominately Caucasian ballroom world. Despite a heavy snowfall outside, all of our team members made it and looked dazzling in their competition finery. A unique aspect of this team match is the full pre-competition rehearsal that allows the students to practice all of the dances to music on the dance floor in front of the audience, and then the whole thing happens again, this time with judges giving their marks.

The house was packed with family, friends, and teachers, and the kids enthusiastically reprised their performances and cheered for their teams. It was a wonderfully deafening experience, and at the end of the day the Linwood Monroe team took third place out of ten schools. I've been thrilled and proud at competitions in my past, but nothing is quite like watching your own child and her fabulous teammates do so well and feel so much pride in themselves.

I asked Olivia how she felt about



the team match and she said: "It was really fun! It was fun showing people what we can do, and it was fun showing people that kids can dance in case they think we can't. It was a lot of work but I would do it again!" As for me, I had a marvelous time all fall semester getting to know and

dance with these wonderful boys and girls, watching my daughter practice her dance moves around the house, and seeing them grow as a whole grade closer together. I don't think we should ever assume there's anything these kids can't do!

<p>Argentine <b>TANGO</b> TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA <b>mntango.org</b></p>	<p><b>Argentine tango</b> can be danced in either an open embrace, a very close embrace, or a combination of open and close. The close embrace is often described by Argentine tango dancers (<i>milongueros</i> &amp; <i>milongueras</i>) as a three-minute hug.</p>
<p><i>Dedicated to Fostering and Supporting Argentine Tango in Minnesota</i></p>	<p><b>MORE INFORMATION AT THE TSOM WEB SITE</b> Teachers, Practice Workshops, Dances (called <i>Milongas</i>), the Tango Calendar, Special Events, and Much More</p>



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

# My Passion for Inspirations for Costuming

By Deborah J. Nelson/  
Satin Stitches Ltd.

I recently returned from a quick (literally 24-hour) trip to New York City – the Time Square/Broadway area to get my ‘fix’ of the bright lights of Broadway! I had the opportunity to see two Broadway musicals during my stay.

I am passionate about costumes. And I am passionate about viewing singing/dancing performances of all types, especially when these performances involve fabulous costumes! Nothing is more exciting to me! Even though “Waitress” didn’t feature fabulous costumes, it did feature a wonderful story and was thoroughly entertaining. I wanted to see this show mainly because my company costumed a segment for an all-girl High School show choir recently, who sang songs from “Waitress” and tasked Satin Stitches to design and create “Waitress” costumes for their performance.

The second musical that I attended was “Cirque du Soleil

Paramour” which was an incredible visual treat: the costumes were truly inspiring! My favorite costume exhibit museums were not open during my 24-hours in mid-town, but in January I did view the costume exhibit of historical costumes from “Downton Abbey”, a traveling exhibit at Mall of America. I also attended the “White Christmas” production at The Ordway over the holidays. All of these events were inspiring.

Recent movies where I’ve enjoyed the period costuming include “Hidden Figures” (1960’s fashions) and “The Dressmaker” (early 1950’s fashions). And of course I love all the awards shows, specifically tuning in to see the Runway fashions – the good and the bad, as rehashed by the cable television show “Fashion Police”. This year’s Oscars included many, many inspiring Runway looks! What were your favorites?

When I visit art museums, I also

seek out costume designs, even if they aren’t being featured. I was delighted to view an exhibit at the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis. (I was there to see the Faberge items on display) and happened upon an exhibit of set and costume designs by Vera Mednikova. Even our tiny Anoka County Historical Society features exhibits that include some costuming. Inspiration and exposing oneself to additional knowledge can be anywhere and everywhere!

My company costumes High School, College and Professional dance teams with many state tournaments showcasing High School teams this month and last, where many teams have incorporated ‘themed’ costumes into their performances. And high school show choirs are also in full competition mode, right now. Besides those “Waitress” costumes, we also created NASCAR inspired costumes for To-

tino-Grace High School's show choirs.

But involving the most historically inspired costumes for any show choir that we worked on this past season, was nearly 350 costumes for the Indianapolis, Indiana show choirs of Zionsville HS! It involved knowledge of 1970's disco looks, early 1900's Suffragette era costuming and then Huckleberry Finn-inspired looks and Show Boat era costumes from the late 1800's.

With historical, inspirational photos from the show choir directors and a discussion of what color palettes they wanted to use, my

historical knowledge was very helpful in creating the final designs that were used for this monumental endeavor. Historical costume knowledge needs to be married to the functionality of their performance. When can stretch fabrics be used, and when do the patterns need to reflect correct fit so that the performers can properly sing and dance, on stage?

I own nearly 200 fashion and historical costume design books, numerous videos of historic costuming and scores of 4-color picture programs from all the costumed Broadway musicals that I've attended. My latest ac-

quisition was a fabulous book on the fashion designer, Alexander McQueen given to me by my son and daughter-in-law for Christmas!

Obviously costume design in all performance genres is my passion. What is your passion? If you dance, how do you feed your passion? Do you LOVE to watch all types of dance performances? Do you love to DANCE all genres of dance? Are you passionate about designing and dancing in fabulous dance costumes? Being passionate about your activities adds an additional layer to your enjoyment.

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# *Twin Cities DanceSport's Winter Showcase on February 3, 2017*

*Photos by Kathy Kaufmann*

*This showcase was organized by Scott Anderson, Meghan Anderson and Igor Afonkin. It was held at the Ballroom & Latin Dance Club in Burnsville.*







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

# Stardust Dance Cruise 2017 – Another Fabulous Experience

By Suzi Blumberg

One of my favorite parts of winter is leaving Minnesota in January or March for a Stardust Ballroom Dance Cruise! Stardust just had their 13th Ballroom Dance Cruise in the Caribbean and it was the best! We took off from Fort Lauderdale on Friday, January 27. Our ship was the Cost Deliziosa and it was beautiful! Like a little city on water!

This year two new couples from Minneapolis joined the group—Jeff and Barb Sowder and Marlene and Danny Aviles. There were over 300 dancers in the Stardust group! We all dined close by in the evening, took lots of lessons together and had fun getting to know one another! Jeff really liked their first-time cruise.

He said the instructors were terrific and they even had a private lesson with Wingo Hom. He felt the music was excellent and that the DJ team were experts in their field! He also felt they got a lot for their money—classes, instructors, hosts, music and the venue were an excellent value.



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Our first stop was Nassau. I honeymooned there many decades ago and it's so fun to see the changes! I had fun watching as our huge ship maneuvered into the little slip right next to a Disney Cruise ship with the Mickey Mouse ears on top of it! It was very fun seeing the sights and doing some shopping in Nassau.

Other stops included Amber Cove, Dominican Republic, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Grand Cayman Islands, Roatan, Honduras and Cozumel, Mexico. We stopped at 6 ports and had 3 days at sea.

Guests could take advantage of a special catamaran ride in Ocho Rios, Jamaica that toured the island for three hours with much drinking and dancing to the reggae music that was playing. We ended up at Dunn's River Falls, one of Jamaica's national treasures and made the 600-foot climb with the help of skilled guides from the base of the falls, hand-in-hand like a human daisy chain.

There were 50 hours of dance instruction offered and 35 hours of planned social dancing. Lessons were every morning from 8 to noon for beginners to advanced, and then private lessons were available from the instructors in the afternoon. All instructors were from the New York area – Wingo Hom, Cameron Johnson, Leon Harris and Ola Kozłowska. Social dancing was every afternoon for two hours and each evening for three to four hours. Gotta say my feet were a bit sore when I got off the boat, but it was a good sore! DJ's were the wonderful Michelle and Bob Friedman (who are the DJ's for USA Dance National DanceSport

Championships in Baltimore on March 21 – April 2). Philip Spinka also shared DJ duties and the music was wonderful!

Linda Gilberg runs the whole show and I'm always impressed at how organized this event is. The hospitality table is open every morning until noon to alert guests of any class or social dance changes and to answer any questions. When we arrived, we received a schedule for the entire nine days for both lessons and social dance times. She chooses the Costa line because they have the most number of dance floors of any ship.

Each night there was wonderful entertainment on the ship in the beautiful Duse Theatre. Musical shows, magic and illusion, a fabulous tenor and an acrobatic display were the types of shows we enjoyed.

Meal times are very special on a cruise ship and the food was very good! Most mornings, I slept in and enjoyed the late breakfast which was full of wonderful choices of egg preparations, sausage, bacon, pastries, juice and coffee. Sometimes I would get up early and eat breakfast in the elegant main dining room, sometimes at the buffet on the 9th deck.

Lunches were usually at the buffet, if I had lunch, and each day was a wonderful array of scrumptious food that was endless! At 4 pm there was another display of pizza, wonderful small sandwiches, cookies, bars and puddings. Yum! Our dinner time was 6:30 and I have to admit, sometimes I was hardly hungry for dinner because I enjoyed too many snacks at 4!

I'm really excited about next year. Linda has been trying to put together a cruise to Dubai for the past few years at and she finally did it! March 1-11, 2018, the Stardust Dance Cruise will be going to Dubai! Leon Harris, one of the instructors, has made 26 trips into Dubai to teach and he says it's very safe. The details aren't out yet for this cruise, but I know it's a 7-night cruise on the Costa Mediterranean followed by a three day/two-night land destination in Dubai. For those who prefer to cruise in January, there's also a Caribbean cruise January 13-23.

See if you can't join us next year on one of the two cruises! You'll really be glad you did! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [sjblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:sjblumberg@gmail.com).

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# ASK DR. DANCE

Q:

I have heard that dance can be used as an effective healing tool. Would you tell me more about it?

## Donna Said:

We are dancers, not physicians, so I do not want to mislead you with my response. People are drawn to dancing for many reasons. Some are trying to meet new friends, develop more of a social life, or learn a new skill. Others may be recovering from an illness or surgery, or even learning to dance because they were not allowed to as a child.

In the process of learning to dance there may be all kinds of healing benefits: increased confidence, better balance and flexibility, improved posture, the ability to overcome fear and achieve goals, getting more in touch with one's artistic side, or even an understanding of what it means to be an effective partner.

From your question it is hard to know if you are referring to the emotional, physical, or spiritual benefits of dancing. I can provide a more specific answer if you can

provide a more specific question.



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

## Paul Said:

That depends on what ails you. If your injury inhibits your movement, dancing might not improve your condition. As therapy to increase mobility and stamina, it is great exercise. It is also proven to slow the onset of Alzheimer's. In short, if you are able, dancing will do a body good.



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

*[www.acballroom.com](http://www.acballroom.com)*

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# USA Dance Membership Application

Please PRINT Clearly  
This form may be used by two people at the same address.



Name		Date of Birth (required for ALL Athlete members & for Social Youth members)	
1.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
2.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
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Home Phone		Work Phone	Cell Phone
1.			
2.			
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Is this a renewal application? ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, Member # \_\_\_\_\_, # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of USA Dance Chapter I wish to be affiliated with: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of College or Youth Club you are affiliated with (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Recreational: Social Ballroom Dancer	\$45	\$	Dances for enjoyment and works to improve but <b>does not compete</b> . May include retired DS Athlete.
Recreational: Social Adult Dancer	\$35	\$	Enjoys and appreciates the physical, mental, and social benefits of social dancing.
Recreational: Social Youth Dancer	\$10	\$	A social dancer under the age of 19. Often a family member or friend of adult member.
Recreational: Social Dance Teacher	\$60	\$	An individual who is engaged in the teaching of social dance.
DanceSport: Adult Athlete*	\$70	\$	A competitive dancer who is age 19 or above.
DanceSport: Student Athlete*	\$25	\$	A competitive dancer age of 19 or above but below age 35 and is enrolled in school full time.
DanceSport: Minor Athlete*	\$20	\$	A competitive dancer who is below the age of 19.
DanceSport: Professional Athlete*	\$75	\$	A competitive dancer who declares him or herself as a professional or dances as a professional in competition.
DanceSport Official*	\$80	\$	An individual who serves in an official capacity in the field of DanceSport and/or ballroom dance, i.e. judge, emcee, music director, invigilator, independent comp organizer, chairperson of judges, WDSF adjudicator etc
DanceSport: Special Olympics Athlete	\$10	\$	Qualifies for participating in Special Olympics competitions only.
DanceSport: Unified Sports ® Partner	\$25	\$	Dance Partner of Special Olympics Athlete -for participating in Special Olympics only.
DanceSport Supporter*	\$40	\$	This category of membership is designed for those who are not active competing athletes but who want to show support for the DanceSport initiatives of USA Dance. This would include former athletes, parents or other family members of athletes, and general supporters who would like their voice counted on DanceSport matters.
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We are a volunteer organization. Can we count on you? ☐ Yes If yes, where? ☐ Chapter ☐ Regional ☐ National

What is your area of expertise? How are you willing to help USA Dance?

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