

MINNESOTA DANCING TIMES



A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

May 2007

The Tea Dance - A Formal Affair



*Russ Scott & Kathy Rippberger
having a ball at the Tea Dance
at the Lafayette Club!*

More photos on page 14-15

Photography by Tom & Anne LaTourelle



WE'VE MOVED!
Check out our new web address at
www.usadance-mn.org

Inside this month's issue...
Dancing Away from Home, new board members and more!



Dancers Nite Out



- Thur-Sun, 5/3-6 "Spinning Wheel" sponsored by the Twin Cities finest Beyond Ballroom Dance Company, at the Southern Theatre on Washington Avenue, Minneapolis; FMI: 612.340.1725.
- Sun 5/6 Sunday Night Dance Party with Jerry O'Hagen and his Orchestra, Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul; Dance from 7-10pm; \$12 adults; (EVERY SUNDAY IN MAY!) FMI: 651.699.5910.
- Sat 5/19 **USA Dance sponsors its 8th DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA!** at Summit Dance Shoppe (f/k/a The Dance Shoppe), 2800 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth; Dance: 7-11pm; Mini-Dance Lessons every 30 minutes; 4 large studios! Free food! \$8.
- Fri 5/25 "Ballroom Magic" at the Harding High School, St. Paul from 7-10pm; Fundraiser/dinner/showcase by a fantastic Harding High School's 20-person Formation Team! Volunteer or enjoy the show! FMI: jamie.thompson@spps.org or call 651.387.2206.
- Thur-Sat, 7/12-14 Twin Cities Open DanceSport Competition, Bloomington Sheraton South; FMI: 612.816.4446.

Arthur Murray Dance Studio (651) 227-3200
534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN. Salsa for beginners and advanced on Wednesday 8:15 pm/\$15. Date Night variety class for beginners on Friday 6:45 pm/\$25/couple.

Babalu (612) 240-9053
800 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis. Monday Salsa Caliente Night; dance from 9pm-1am; cover \$5. Saturday Salsa Live Music Night; free salsa lesson at 9:30pm, dance to live latin music from 9pm-2am; cover \$10.

Black Dog Cafe & Wine Bar (651) 228-9274
308 Prince Street, St. Paul Argentine Tango night every 3rd Saturday. Lesson at 7:30 pm, dance from 8-11 pm/\$3.

Blue Moon Ballroom (507) 288-0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.net 2030 Hwy 14, East Rochester, MN; Fridays: Latin Night, 7:30 pm - 12:30 am; Saturdays: Live Bands!

Cafe Bailar Dance Club (612) 600-5129
2nd Fridays and 4th Saturdays of every month at On Your Toes school of dance. 5810 W. 36th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. Lesson 7:30-8:30 pm. Dance 8:30-midnight.

Cheek to Cheek Ballroom (763) 755.3644
www.cheektocheekdancesstudio.com 11415 Foley Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN, Dance every Friday night. Lesson 8-8:30; dance 8:30-10:30. \$8 Gen. adm.; \$5, if also attending the 7 pm group class.

Cinema Ballroom (651) 699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, MN, Friday Night Dancing at the Cinema! Every Friday evening. Lesson 8-9 pm; Dance 9-12 am; \$10/general admission; \$6/with student ID.

Dancers Studio (651) 641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 99 Snelling Ave. N. St. Paul, MN. Every Friday night, Beginning and Advanced lesson at 8 pm, Dance 9-10 pm. \$15-25/non-members.

Foster DanceSport Studio (612) 720-1587/(651) 278-4434
www.fosterdancesport.com 1st Saturday (7-11:30 pm) and 4th Friday (8 am - 12:00 am) Variety Ballroom, Latin and Salsa Party at Foster DanceSport Studio, 816 Main Street, Hopkins, MN. \$8 or \$5 student.

Hidden Haven Country Club (763) 434-4626
20520 NE Polk St., Cedar, MN Every Sunday from 6-10 pm. Classic country and rock-and-roll, the band is Ringer.

DNO continued on page 27

USA Dance Hosts the 8th Dance Extravaganza

*Enjoy a great night of all styles
of dancing in 4 large studios!*



Saturday, May 19th

7-11 pm Dance

Mini Dance Lessons every 30 minutes!

Free food and dance demonstrations!

\$8 Admission

Summit Dance Shoppe

2800 Fernbrook, Plymouth, MN

From 494, West on 55, Left on Fernbrook

USA Dance MN HOTLINE
(651) 483-5467

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

Theme of the Month...

Dancing Away From Home...



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From the Board

Minutes of the Monthly USA Dance MN #2011 Board Meeting – April 3, 2007. Submitted by Debbie Thornquist

Members present: Mike Jones, Debbie Thornquist, Erik Pratt, Jeff Skaalrud, Steve Vespested, Julie Elholm, Donna Gates, Becky Stibbe, Tricia Wood, Frank Kohlasch, Jannelle Huff, Gary Stroick

Location: The home of Elaine Boergerhoff, (Tricia Wood's mother) in Bloomington.

Call to order: A quorum was established. Agenda was approved.

Minutes from March approved. Steve requested that minutes be e-mailed to members before the meeting to allow time to review them. Debbie will e-mail them to the board when they are finalized.

Reports:

Treasurer: March was the Volunteer Appreciation Dance at the Dancers Studio.

Star of the North figures are not yet finalized. Dance demo budget was submitted by Dan & Yvonne Viehman and approved.

Chapter Calendar listing events and deadlines submitted and reviewed by Erik.

Tea Dance will be held Sun, April 22. We are promoting a "Weekend of Dance". The monthly dance is the night before at Hopkins Dancesport Studio.

Volunteer Committee: The Volunteer Appreciation Dance was a great success. The dance included catered food and free admission to volunteers from 2006 and early 2007. Thanks to Sharon, Adriana, and all the others who helped organize and run this event!

Membership: Lois Donnay will be taking over the membership list from Gary and Carol Stroick.

Old Business:

Board meeting locations: May 1st will be at Julie Elholm's house in Shoreview. We will try to pick a few locations and rotate between them.

Formation Team report: The Gold Formation Team withdrew their request from last month to use USA Dance in the team name. Discussion took place about the value of these teams and general criteria the board would use for teams that carry the name USA Dance.

These criteria were selected and unanimously approved for a Formation Team to carry the USA Dance name:

- 1) All team members are members of USA Dance.
- 2) The team provides updates of their activities through the website and/or newsletter.
- 3) The team provides contact information for the Captain(s).
- 4) The team exists and performs at their own risk.
- 5) Team members conduct themselves appropriately.
- 6) The team promotes USA Dance.

A motion was made to offer the Gold Formation Team that approached us last month to use the name "USA Dance Gold Formation Team" - the motion was approved unanimously.

Logos: The official national logo has been added to the website and the Dancing Times.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 1, 2007
Location TBA

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a non-profit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance MN, 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 MN 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 MN HOTLINE:** 651-483-5467.

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

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Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity and content. Photos will be returned. Please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope or send high quality jpgs to Anne LaTourelle.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Anne LaTourelle, 6130 Ives Lane, Plymouth, MN 55442.

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (**high quality pdf or jpeg format ONLY**) or camera-ready artwork to **Cathy Dessert (651-415-0375 or cathydessert@comcast.net)** along with payment to **USA Dance MN**. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Ads can be typeset or designed for a small fee, contact Janie or Eileen. Payment to accompany ad.

Full page	7.5" wide x 10" high	\$130
Half page	7.5" wide x 4.75" high OR 3.5" wide x 9.5" high	\$80
Qtr. page	3.5" wide x 4.75" high	\$60
Business Card	3 consecutive months	\$50

CLASSIFIED ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only).

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH
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Dancing Away From Home! from Anne LaTourelle

The skills that we learn by becoming dancers are easy to take with us when we leave home because they are part of us! No packing required! There are many ways to enjoy your dancing skills when you are out of town. Some people go out of town specifically for coaching, others for competitions, some social dance while on vacation, and still others go great distances (like Italy and Argentina) in the pursuit of their dancing passions. Read all about "Dancing Away From Home" this month and then get out there and try it yourself. ■



Minnesota Dancing Times Announces New Team Member!

By Anne LaTourelle

Good volunteers never go away they just find a new passion to get involved with. That is certainly the case with Mike Youngdahl, who after all his hard work with the board and SOTN, has now volunteered to help with the newsletter.

Mike will be sharing the copy editor duties with Betsy Phillips. This allows the newsletter team to flex during the rush of materials each month and helps us when people are out of town or have competing commitments!

Welcome to the newsletter team Mike! ■

Star of the North – A View from the Podium

By Ellen Ardery

I got a call a few days before SOTN: "Entries are up 30%!" This is wonderful, I thought, but it certainly will zoom the difficulty level of the emcee job into the "open level category". Little did I know that we would also have some lengthy technical problems that would cause serious delays. We were in for a wild ride!

Amid all this frenzy, what did I notice? I was amazed at the significant improvement in the dancing, especially at the college level. I noticed cleaner technique, better posture, much better performance skills, more partner interaction, and even more smiles. The costumes were more tasteful and the grooming was improved.

Most of all, I saw more joy of dancing and less worry. The exuberance and energy of the dancers and spectators were really fun. I have never heard so much spontaneous cheering without me having to prompt it. I appreciated that the dancers were, for the most part, ready to come

onto the floor quickly in spite of the many changes in schedule. This cooperation was the best ever. The deck captains were fantastic. The judges were great; they cheerfully put in extra hours, always focusing 100% of their attention on the dancing, even though they were at times very tired.

Due to the technical problems, there were times we all had different schedule revisions, but everyone rose to the challenge – especially Pete and Joyce, Gary, runners, deck captains, Cathy Dessert, award givers, all the volunteers, and my co-emcees Shari and Yvonne. I think it was the most exciting SOTN competition yet. Just think how good it will be next year, when we have NO problems! ■



Welcome new USA Dance board members!

USA Dance-Minnesota welcomes our newest board members. These are among the hard working people who contribute many hours and much energy towards this organization and dancing in the Cities. Please join us in thanking these dedicated volunteers the next time you share a waltz or cha cha with them!

Becky Stibbe

Hello! My name is Becky Stibbe, and as a past event volunteer for USA Dance, I'm so pleased to have been chosen now as a board member. I became a social ballroom dancer at UW-Madison, and I've enjoyed dancing ever since. When I'm not dancing, I'm generally raising funds for the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota, practicing home repair, or playing with my adorable baby nephew.

Donna Gates

I grew up on a farm near a small town in North Dakota next to Saskatchewan, Canada. For activities on the weekends my father would run dance parties for the community and all of the parents would bring their children to the dances. This is where I was first introduced and fell in love with dancing.

After I graduated from high school I came to Minnesota to attend the University of Minnesota and graduated with a B.S in residential and commercial design with a minor in psychology. Over the years I worked many long hours and did a lot of traveling. Presently I do residential design consulting and faux painting. It really didn't give me an opportunity to do much dancing other than occasionally at a wedding dance. In the year 2003 my life changed when a girlfriend asked if I wanted to go to a dance – that's all it took – I have been dancing ever since. Since then I have taken many private lessons, workshops, and joined three performance teams. I dance seven days a week, along with lessons. I like all kinds of dancing and usually dance where I know there is a variety band playing.

One night after one of our team performance practices, Janie Nordberg asked if I would be interested in joining the USA Board. After attending the first meeting in February I thought it was an excellent opportunity to be able to be a part of an organization that is such a passion of mine.

Julie Elholm

Hi! My name is Julie Elholm, and I am one of the new board members. Janie Nordberg – my Formation Team Coach - asked me to join the Board. I thought it sounded like a great way to get more involved, and to meet some great people!

In 1999, I realized that I was not getting any younger, so if I was going to pursue dancing; it was now or never. I had

been seeing an ad in the community paper about Dean Constantine's classes for months. There was one starting up at the college right across the street from my apartment, so I signed up to become a student/helper – and I was hooked! Later on I went to the Tapestry Folk Dance Center for their Thursday night east coast swing and lindy's lesson dance, and I fell in love with that also! I got into east coast swing pretty heavy, then Cheek to Cheek Studio opened not 10 minutes from where I was living. I started frequenting that, and have been involved there ever since. I am currently on the couples formation teams, and also am team captain of the all women's team. The groups have performed at the Snowball, Star of the North and TCO, along with demos at the Mall of America, Northtown, and Brookdale Shopping Centers.

2006 was a busy year. My Fiancé (Jim Tomlin, who is the team captain of the Cheek to Cheek Couples Formation Team) and I bought a house in Shoreview, and were married June 2006. I am also the secretary of the Minnesota West Coast Swing Dance Club. My other hobbies include racing, music, football & basketball.

Rob Eliasoff

All it takes is one seemingly insignificant event to change our lives, and that's what a trip to the mailbox one day did for me. How it happened is this; collect the mail, open the community-ed schedule, attend a beginner's ballroom class and suddenly my social life was forever changed for the better. My name is Rob Eliasoff and now my dance experience has landed me a position on the USA Dance board. I look forward to representing all members in a dedicated and professional manner and will do my best to continue to learn and reduce the number of incidents of stepping on my partner's feet.

Tricia Wood

Hello Dancers! I am Tricia Wood and have recently joined the USA Dance-MN Board. I am the administrator at On Your Toes School of Dance in St. Louis Park. I am also the president of Cafe Bailar Dance Club. My favorite dance is cha-cha. I like the moves and the music. It's not my strongest dance, but cha-cha is the one I get the most excited about when the music comes on! I do very little competition, but being just married (Dec. 2nd) to James Wood, a professional ballroom instructor at On Your Toes, I know my future is leaning that way. He is very excited to compete with me, as well as his students. We will see...!

Mike Jones roped me into being on the Board for USA Dance. After many phone calls over probably a year and run-ins at dances, I finally accepted. It was funny because I had told my husband, James, that I was a "behind the scenes" board member, always volunteering for events

WELCOME BOARD MEMBERS continued on page 23

B B D C
Beyond Ballroom Dance Company

AND THE SOUTHERN THEATER PRESENTS



Photo: Eric Saul
Design: Ellen McCalla

SPINNING WHEEL

“an eye opening look at what ballroom dance in the 21st century can be”

Camille LeFevre, Star Tribune

APRIL 26-29, MAY 3-6, 2007

SHOWTIMES: THURSDAY-SATURDAY, 8PM

SATURDAY, 5 PM, SUNDAY 7 PM

TICKETS: \$25 (OPENING NIGHT PAY-AS-ABLE)

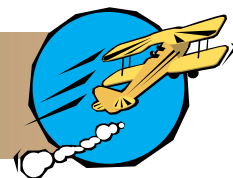
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Dancing Away From Home...



Working With Coaches Here & Away *By Christine Jauregui*

I was fortunate to work with some very good out-of-town coaches while I was dancing. The coach who made the biggest impression on me was Benoit Papineau. He has a unique sensibility and style of teaching, and I learned a lot from him. I worked with him, both on my own and with my former partner, whenever Paul and Donna brought him here to coach them.

Some years back I also had the opportunity to work with Rouno Ilo. Uwe and Dagmar Korthshagen brought him in from Indiana to coach them at the Twin Cities Ballroom, and made lessons available to local amateur dancers. He gave me some new perspectives on my dancing, some of which I wasn't able to appreciate right away but came to understand in time.

Most recently, I worked quite steadily with Yulia Kornilova and Peter Minkov. I heard about them through the grapevine, when they were teaching at Foster's Dancesport. They are based in Chicago, but spend considerable time in the Twin Cities. Eventually they began teaching at The Dancer's Studio. I would work with them there whenever they came to town.

When they first started coming to Minnesota they were competing in both the Latin and the international standard events, but now they are focusing only on standard. Because they were competing and taking coaching themselves, they were able to share trends and developments in choreography and technique. It was a lot of fun working with them, and hearing about the things they were working on in their own dancing.

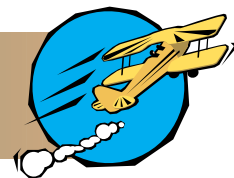
Wendy Davies is another out-of-town coach that I worked with on a regular basis. She had a way of explaining technique that I found very helpful. She was also a great resource for me, recommending good teachers in cities that I would visit when I traveled for work. After finding out what city I was going to, I'd email Wendi and ask her if there were any teachers she recommended in the area. She connected me with Suzanne Hamby and Dan Radler in Massachusetts, and with Ian Gillette in Washington, DC.

I got in touch with all of them via email, and then by phone, after learning about them through Wendi.

Though I didn't work with the Masons when they were teaching out of the old Twin Cities Ballroom on West Seventh Street, I did have a chance to work with Timothy Mason at his studio in Tampa, FL. I had heard that Timothy and Michelle had moved to Florida after retiring from competition, and opened a studio. Once I learned I would be in Tampa for a work conference, I "Googled" the masons and found their studio's website. I called for a lesson and was fortunate to get some time with Timothy while I was in town. ■



Dancing Away From Home...



A Beginners' Guide to Out-of-Town Competitions *By Andrea Johnson*

Out-of-town competitions can be intimidating, exciting, nerve wracking and fun all at the same time. Dancers who are thinking of competing away from home have many questions, so I assembled 10 helpful questions to ask before going... and the answers! As a competitor who has traveled to several competitions (both as an am/am couple and pro/am student), these are the things I wish I had known.

10 Helpful Questions to Ask Before Competing Out of Town:

How do I find out about out-of-town competitions?

There are many ways to find out about competitions. You can discover them on the Internet, at local dance studios, at other competitions, or from fellow dancers and instructors. There are so many competitions; you could compete at a different one nearly every weekend!

How do I plan for an out-of-town competition?

There are many aspects to planning. The main things you want to address are: travel arrangements and what you'll need while you are there. Your level of planning will depend on whether you are going as an amateur couple or as an amateur student dancing pro/am. If you are an amateur couple, you have to plan everything, unless you have a very proactive, organized partner. If you are traveling as a pro/am student, the studio or your instructor will generally offer more guidance.

How do I get there?

There are instances when travel time is limited, the cost of flying is worth the cost. I have driven with other competitors to share costs, which turned out to be more economical than flying. You will want to decide what is best for you and plan enough time to get the best deals. If you are competing pro/am, ask your studio/instructor if they are planning your travel arrangements. If not, ask if they have any tips to give for planning your trip.

What should I take and how should I carry everything?

While you are out of town, you will be there as both a spectator and a competitor. As a spectator, I suggest wearing casual clothes. Some competitions have a dressy night session, so be prepared to wear more formal attire. When you are not at the ballroom, make sure you have the proper clothing for those times as well.

What to wear as competitor will require the greatest amount

of planning. I have compiled a list of everything I need to do and have before competing. My list includes thinking about my shoes, makeup, hair care, and dresses for each session. Make your own list and update it each time you compete. Don't be afraid to ask a fellow dancer or instructor if you could see their list and ask them how they pack.

Everyone has their own style of packing and you should definitely stick to yours. Pack as you normally would when going out of town (the usual toiletries, material for the plane or car, emergency phone numbers, pajamas, etc.)

When traveling by air, be aware of airline regulations regarding baggage weight and carry-on restrictions. I always take my gowns on the plane with me. They are expensive and it gives me piece of mind knowing I have them.

Should I stay at the hotel where the competition is held?

You will want to be as close to the competition as possible. I have tried to save money by staying with friends or at a cheaper hotel, but ended up wishing I had stayed at the same hotel as the competition. It's a convenience factor.

What should I do once I get there?

Competitions will have specific times when you can check in. When convenient, pick up your competitor packet. If you are traveling as a pro/am student, your instructor may be required to pick up the packet from the organizer. The packet can include information such as heat sheets, competitor number, workshop times, vendor information, meal and reception times, and programs. Do not hesitate to ask the organizer any questions you might have.

How do I find out when I dance?

This information will be on your heat sheets. But beware that these times can change and that competitions often run ahead or behind schedule! Once you are there, stay on top of where they are in the schedule. Listen for announcements about changes in the program and make sure you are in the ballroom and prepared to dance. Don't be afraid to ask the on-deck captain or emcee if there are any changes that would affect you.

What else will be at the competition besides dancing?

There are usually many things happening during competitions. There may be dance workshops (usually taught by the best of the best), vendors (you can generally find a wide variety of vendors and items), often a professional show, and social dancing.

A BEGINNERS' GUIDE continued on page 9

The Retro Ballroom

By Tricia Wood

On Your Toes School of Dance in St. Louis Park opened the Retro Ballroom the first week of April. Over 230 dancers visited this new hot spot on the first weekend! The ballroom features a 3,000 square foot, cushioned hardwood maple floor. The art deco theme features six chandeliers and two, nine foot glass French doors, which connect the two studios. Four hidden ceiling fans provide comfort while dancing. The new parking lot in the back is lit for safety.

With a few final touches the Retro Ballroom will be one of the largest, most accommodating, and personable dance studios in the Twin Cities. We are happy to announce weekly dance parties hosted by different organizations, as well as themed parties hosted by the staff of the Retro Ballroom. Look for our emails, website, and new glossy newsletter for the upcoming group classes, dance parties, and themed events.

See before, during, and after pictures! ■



Retro Ballroom – During



Retro Ballroom – Before



Retro Ballroom – After

A BEGINNERS' GUIDE continued from page 8

Be sure to read your program/booklet to find out about everything that is going on.

Eating is an important issue at a competition. If you are "on-package" your meals may be provided as part of your entry fee. If not, you will need to fend for yourself. You will need to inquire if you should take your own food or beverages to the ballroom.

Are out-of-town competitions worth the headache?

YES! There is a special feeling you get from competing out of town and stepping out into the rest of the world of dance. It takes a lot of preparation, but if you are anything like me, you will have a ball and want to do more. It is a very fun experience, and it sounds pretty cool to say that you compete on a national level!

What should I do once I get home?

While it is still fresh in your mind, update your list of things to take. Review your performance (if you purchased a video) and reflect on what you experienced. Think of things to work on between now and your next competition. Finally, pat yourself on the back and smile at the fact that you are now a national competitor! ■

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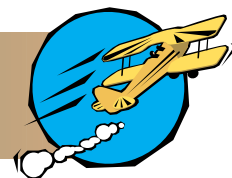
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Dancing Away From Home...



If you travel, or want to travel, learn to dance. *By Lois Donnay*

OK, so that is a little simplistic, but the advantages of being able to dance when you are away from home are numerous. Undaunted, I am going to try to address some of them by relating some of my favorite dance anecdotes.

Last year, my fiancé decided it would be a great idea to spend 4th of July in Duluth. I agreed, but he came up with this idea only a week in advance. By then, most hotels in Duluth were already booked. But being the resourceful type, I thought there must be a dancer or two in Duluth who could accommodate a couple of houseguests. I emailed some Duluth dance websites, and found a dancer who ran the Immigrant Inn. It is a beautiful Bed and Breakfast overlooking Lake Superior. Not only did we find a place to stay, I taught a tango class in the courtyard of the Inn. Afterward, we all went out dancing. What a great weekend!

One of my favorite emails was one I recently received from one of my tango students: "Hi. I am in Rome, Italy. Danced with 15 beautiful Italian women. It was kind of scary, but went very well. Thanks!" My students have danced all over the U.S, plus Munich, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, and, of course Argentina.

Years ago, I was at a West Coast Swing convention and saw a couple dancing Argentine Tango. I had been dancing tango here in the Twin Cities for many years, but when I saw them dance I realized – we were doing a lot of things wrong. (Just shows you that learning from videos is not ideal). I came home with renewed vigor to bring better tango dancing to the folks in Minnesota.

I have a student who travels out of Minnesota for his job. At times, he will get a name from me or the internet and call them after he arrives in their city. Quite often someone will

arrange to pick him up and take him to the dance. Some places even let him in for free and even buy him dinner!

A big group of dancers were going on a dancer's cruise. They were all stuck in an airport when a flight was cancelled. They spent some of the time dancing in one of the airports open areas.

Every year I take a group of tango students to Buenos Aires. We dance, take lessons, shop, sightsee, meet the natives, and have an incredible time in one of the most affordable vacation spots in the world. Being able to dance gives you immediate access to your vacation destination's culture.

OK, class, so what have we learned about travel and dancing? You can learn new things. You can save money on travel. You never spend a lonely evening in your hotel room. You meet interesting real people at your destination.

One word of warning... A dancing vacation can be murder on your feet. Dancing 12 hours a day, while lots of fun, may require a vacation to recover from your vacation. ■



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Demo by Top USA Dance Couples

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dance 8-11:00pm. (Ballroom and Latin)

Friday, May 11th: Café Bailar Dance, lesson 7:30-8:30pm,
dance 8:30pm-12:00am. (Ballroom and Latin)

Friday, May 18th: Country and Swing Dance, lesson 7:30-8:00pm,
dance 8pm-12:00am.

Saturday, May 26th: Café Bailar's 50's-themed Sock Hop Dance,
lesson 7:30-8:30pm, dance 8:30pm-12:00am.

Saturday, June 9th: The Retro Ballroom of On Your Toes
Ballroom showcase with dinner and post-show dance party.



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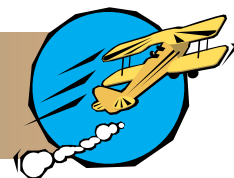
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Dancing Away From Home...



How Far Should You Go For Dance Lessons? Miles!

By Theresa Kimler



For a lot of dancers in the Twin Cities Area, the training is adequate around home. However, if you hope to perform at a national or world-class level, you and your partner, whether pro-am or amateur, are going to need additional help. For my partner, Nels, and me this means traveling halfway around the world to Milan, Italy 3-4 times per year. Here are some pointers on why and how to get time with top ballroom coaches:

To understand why you seek outside coaching, you first must know and establish your dance goals. Nels and I have always looked at the champions and, without being bashful, called to ask them how they did it. We have also asked master coaches how the champions got to where they are. Modeling yourself after others who already achieved what you seek is a great method to help anyone achieve their goals.

In Minnesota we do not see the breadth of coaches that London or New York see, yet several studios and private instructors are bringing in good coaches from around the country and world. Try them out when they are in town. We will try any coach once and believe every coach can provide something of value.

If, in your dance program, you are missing something and feel a specific coach can fill it in for you, go to www.dancedirectory.com and email or call the coach. When you make contact, be specific in why you would like to work with him or her. Sincere compliments and flattery can work wonders in getting you a timeslot. Ask about availability and be prepared to pay whatever they ask as a lesson rate. If you have not worked with them previously, you have nothing to negotiate against. Using the best and most brilliant coaches available and being taught with precision and exactness can lend huge economic profit to the learning process. The \$100+ spent on 1 lesson from a top 6 pro is often worth 4 or more times that of a lesser-trained professional. This is due to their ability to recognize, articulate, and demonstrate areas for improvement.

Don't get emotional about the issue... there are certain coaches that won't work with you as an unknown person. Another approach is to have a professional or other amateur you trust make the contact for you. This might be the only way for you to get time with some of the top coaches.

Best of all, out-of-town dance lessons give the added benefit of taking a mini vacation. Be sure to take time to enjoy new sights and cultures!

Theresa Kimler and her partner, Nels Petersen, hold numerous national championship titles in American rhythm, smooth, and 9-dance. ■



Theresa and Nels with their coaches, Roberto Colagreco and Roberto Villa, in Milan Italy. They travel there 3 to 4 times per year for a super boost to their technique and to get the latest dress, makeup and hair styles for Theresa.



A chance for a relaxing dinner at their coaches' home. One of the benefits of being away from home and focusing on the whole experience.

The Annual Tea Dance – A Sign of Spring

By Yvonne Viehman



Well, it's the morning after... another wonderful Tea Dance hosted by USA Dance. The balls of my feet are aching, but what great dancing memories were made yesterday, Sunday, April 22, 2007, as over 100 people gathered at the Lafayette Country Club on Lake Minnetonka. The brunch started at 11 am and what a brunch it was with a variety of fruit, eggs, French toast, hash browns, bacon and sweet rolls to tempt your tastebuds. It was a gorgeous, sunny morning – the perfect setting to dance the afternoon away!

Pete Maki and Joyce Thompson provided a plethora of new music to spark our dancing addiction! Ladies twirled in floral dresses and the men were decked out in sharp suits and ties. The floor quickly filled as everyone's spirits soared. Two highlights to the afternoon's events included performances by four-time Amateur American Smooth National Champions (age 35 & older), Jeanne & David Schmit, and the Twin Cities DanceSport Formation Team! Jeanne and David first dazzled us with their foxtrot to the song, "The Business of Love." They definitely brought out the flirtatious side of us all!

Next, the former On Your Toes Gold Formation Team, now known as the Twin Cities DanceSport Formation Team entertained us all with their debut performance of "Fever." It was a sultry, sexy west coast swing and foxtrot routine with intricate footwork, superb partner dancing and eye-catching choreography. The team included: Ellen Arderly and Doug Lusher, Karen and Lance Boole, Bernie and Scott Osborn, and Lori Goldstein danced with Art Rolnick (as both Cheri Rolnick and Jeff Goldstein had other commitments that day). The original team has been together for 12 years. They currently dance under the direction of Scott Anderson and Deanne Michael.

Jeanne and David then returned with a whimsical Viennese Waltz routine to a song from "Practical Magic." Ever-constant movement with spins and twirls galore! They are masterful at this craft called ballroom dancing and truly an inspiration for us all.

We danced and danced to quickstep, foxtrot, waltz, tango, merangue, bolero, samba, salsa, rumba, cha cha, swing, Viennese waltz, and even jive! What a fantastic form of indulgence. Many thanks to Pete and Joyce, David and Jeanne, the Twin Cities DanceSport Formation Team, and especially to Dede Ouren and Melanie Helvig for their efforts in putting together this grand event. I'm already looking forward to next year! ■



David & Jeanne Schmit
dazzling the crowd!



The Twin Cities DanceSport
Formation Team!



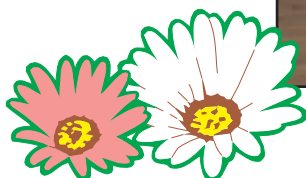
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Pete & Joyce spinning
the tunes!



Tea Dance Photo Album...



Photography by Tom & Anne LaTourelle



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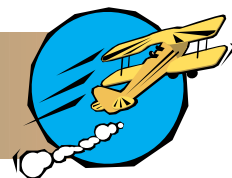
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Dancing Away From Home...



Social Dancing on Vacation *By Arlen & Sandy Harvilla*

When we travel out of town on vacation we go to Google and search with the connected words of ballroom dance and the city or dance club or dance lessons and the city. There are often social dances or even beginner or intermediate lessons we can join. There may also be community centers that have social dances. We have found possibilities in Las Vegas, Orlando, and Branson. Sometimes there are also nightclubs that will have Latin or ballroom as well.

Once you have identified several possible sites, check Mapquest and prepare yourself for an adventure. We have had wonderful times and excellent teachers, but we have also found web sites that had not been updated and therefore did not have accurate information. Overall we have enjoyed finding places to practice dance while on vacation and have always learned something from a variety of instructors. ■

News from USA Dance National Office:

2008 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships will be held April 3-5, 2008 in Baltimore MD.

Please pass the word that the date for USA Dance Nationals 2008 will not be in August as in prior years. The event will be held April 3-5, 2008 in Baltimore MD. It is anticipated future USA Dance National DanceSport Championships will be held in April as well. It is important that competitors are aware of this change so they can be certain they participate in appropriate regional competitions to qualify for the 2008 Nationals.

Angela Prince Appointed Director Public Relations

Esther Freeman, USA Dance president, has announced the appointment of Angela F. Prince, as the new Director of Public Relations, effective March 1, 2007. Ms. Prince replaces Ken Richards, who served is now serving as the Vice President of DanceSport. Angela will be responsible for the USA Dance organization's overall communications program, media relations and publicity and development of promotional opportunities. Email Angela at Public-Relations@UsaDance.org

As resident of Matthews, NC near Charlotte, Ms. Prince has been president of her own marketing, public relations and advertising firm since 1981. Over the years, her firm has won numerous marketing achievement awards and has developed successful communications strategies and promotional campaigns for more than 125 different companies, whose fields have ranged from sports and entertainment to product manufacturing and professional services. In more recent years, she has focused on providing marketing communications services for regional clients in the commercial and residential real estate development, construction and design industries.

In 2005, Angela was named one of the top Women in Business by the Charlotte Business Journal, and participates in the organization's mentoring and community programs. She is an active member of several industry associations, the USA Dance local chapter and various national wildlife and conservancy organizations. Angela graduated from Clemson University and holds a masters degree in English.

Ms. Prince became involved in ballroom dancing and its promotion in 2000, and served as president of the Queen City Chapter of USA Dance in 2001. She has organized several pivotal ballroom dance events in the Charlotte area, including the chapter's participation in Charlotte Shout, the city's annual cultural and performing arts celebration month which coincides with National Ballroom Week. Along with a local radio station and retail shopping center sponsor, she has also co-organized an annual Dancing Under The Stars event, that in 2006 attracted 2,500 people to watch local ballroom dance exhibitions.

During the past five years, she has also found time to train and compete in both amateur and pro-am ballroom competitions in Open American Smooth, Open International Standard, American Rhythm and West Coast Swing.

USA Dance has grown and thrived for over 40 years because of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers like Angela. The Governing Council extends a warm welcome to the newest member. ■



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**All Styles...
All Night Long!**

You're invited to a one-of-a-kind dance with four huge dance studios — each with a different style of dancing. Choose any style at any time.

Enjoy four hours of non-stop dancing, free mini-lessons all night, free food and dance demonstrations, too! Try out new dances and learn what's happening at every club in town. It's a dancer's dream! Come on let's dance.

Saturday, May 19, 2007

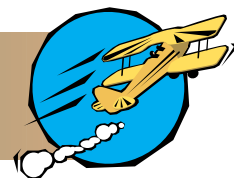
at the Dance Shoppe in Plymouth at 2800 Fernbrook Ln. N.

• 7:00 - 11:00 Dance • \$8 admission • Great music • All styles

All are welcome. USA Dance welcomes everyone -- beginners to advanced. This event is facilitated by USA Dance, Cafe Bailar, TC Rebels Swing Club, MN West Coast Swing Club, the Tango Society of MN and the Social Dance Studio.

The Dance Shoppe is located at 2800 Fernbrook Lane in Plymouth. Please DO NOT CALL the Dance Shoppe for dance details. Call our hotline at 651-483-5467 instead. Directions: The Dance Shoppe is located one block west of Hwy. 494 and Hwy. 55. Go left (or south) at Fernbrook from 55, go one block and the Dance Shoppe is on the left. For more info call 651-483-5467. Carpooling is recommended. Free parking. Don't miss out!

Dancing Away From Home...



Dancin' the Night Away... From Home By Mike Jones, USADance Minnesota Chapter President

Unfortunately the title of this article, "Dancin' the Night Away" isn't referring to news of the return of USA Dance-MN's fantastic dance show extraordinaire. But rather it's a play on words for the May newsletter theme.

Being a member of USA Dance has a veritable plethora of benefits and not too long ago, while traveling, I discovered an additional one.

I had to go to Dallas for a couple of weeks to do some class work and training. I thought that it would be fun to check out the local dance scene while I was down there. I prepared for this by going to the (at that time) USABDA.org web site and looked to see if there was a Dallas USABDA chapter. Sure enough, there was. I called the contact person and we had an excellent talk.

The timing of my visit was good because they were about to have one of their monthly dances. It was well-attended and fun, although quite hot since it was July and their air conditioning wasn't working very well. But everybody was really friendly and they got a kick out of my Minnesota accent. (I'm sure that I don't know what they were referring to).

I met one couple that told me about some other local upcoming dance events. For the rest of my time in Dallas, they picked me up at my hotel, took me out dancing, sometimes they fed me, and they insisted on picking up the tab for almost everything. I felt as though I was practically adopted.

When it was time for me to leave, I told them to come to the Twin Cities so that I could return some Yankee hospitality. I don't know if they will ever actually make it here. But I think by extending a warm reception to any other visiting USA Dancers (or non USA Dancers), I'll be inadvertently thanking my Dallas hosts. I'll also be passing on the tradition of "taking good care of those dance visitors".

There's a new studio in town. It's called the Retro Ballroom and it's attached to the On Your Toes Dance Studio. They just had their official grand opening dance and I had the pleasure of joining the fun. It was well-attended and, of course, Jeff Nehrbass (the owner & world ProAm smooth champion) was there meeting, greeting, and dancing.

I had a chance to talk with Randee Paster, who was the brain child for the layout and design. Being true to its namesake, the studio has an elegant retro art deco theme. In case you don't know Randee, she has an interesting past.

She's had a long career in makeup/hair for the advertising and entertainment industries including touring with Prince (or the artist formerly known as...) in 1988.

Now her professional interests are geared toward her passion of interior decorating. Tricia (studio administrator) and James Wood (ballroom director and music man) have also been working long hours to get this ready. Trish tells me that they've had an excellent response with many events already planned.

I recently received an email that really made my day. It was from a local dancer and chapter member (Jamie Thompson) who is, by day, a teacher at Harding High School. She has set up a ballroom dance team of 20 members who practice about 8 hours per week doing various dances. Their latest project is a Tango Formation and they will be doing exhibitions at grade schools and middle schools. They are also planning a dinner/showcase/dance/fundraiser on Friday May 25th. I have a good idea of how difficult it is to organize these types of projects. Jamie's accomplishments to date are nothing short of astounding.

We, at USA Dance-MN are hoping and planning to contribute to these efforts in what ever manner we can. Supporting these young dancers is a big part of what we're all about. Personally, I can't wait to attend their upcoming event(s). For more info contact Jamie at jamie.thompson@spps.org or me at InMyOpinion@USADance-MN.org ■



Mike having fun at the new Retro Ballroom!

Move over MTV...Ballroom Fever has Swept Harding High!

By Jamie Thompson

When you think of high schools dances, what comes to mind? Shuffling feet? Guarded glances? Moves not quite fit for prime time TV? The students of Harding High are out to change that with the newly-formed Harding High School Ballroom Dance Team!

It all started when I made a bet with my advanced chemistry class. If 75% of my students signed up to take the International Baccalaureate chemistry test, I would dance for them and their friends in the school gym. My instructor, Troy Lerum, of the Dancer's Studio, and I would be in full ballroom attire. They just made it with 77% registering. Six months later after they took the IB chemistry test it was my turn. I was quick stepping, waltzing, and cha-cha-ing my heart out in the Harding gym covered in a lot of rhinestones, a little satin, and much too much make-up.

My daring demo led students to ask to learn the basics of swing and salsa in my homeroom. This grew into the Harding Ballroom Dance Club which met twice a week before school at 7 AM. What dedicated students! Soon twice a week wasn't enough. On March 20, we become the Harding Ballroom Dance Team with up to 20 students practicing 8 hours per week, including over spring break.

Bringing an unusual sport to an urban high school takes the time and dedication of many people. Because ballroom dancing is not an official sport of the Minnesota State High School league, no district funding is available for ballroom as a sport. That has not stopped our students! By the second week, they organized a fundraiser delivering Easter treats and balloons during homeroom.

We have scheduled our first demonstration at the Harding Senior Prom in May at which time the team will perform their tango formation. They also aspire to compete at Twin Cities Open, Star of the North, and The Snowball.

For this energetic group, practicing, fundraising, and competing are not enough. They are determined to share what they have learned with other middle and elementary school. We hope to inspire other high schools to form ballroom dance teams. Our goal

is to visit at least 10 schools per year with a program that includes a demonstration of the various dances, our tango formation, and a mini-lesson for the students.

Our first showcase and mini-competition, "Ballroom Magic" and is scheduled for Friday, May 25, at 7 PM, at Harding High School. The evening will include demonstrations, our tango formation, a mini-competition for youth, general dancing, and a silent auction. Any student currently enrolled in a junior or senior high school or youth ballroom team is welcome to participate in the competition. Contact us for registration information.

Our ballroom dance team would love to partner with members of USA Dance to help us achieve our vision of

MOVE OVER MTV...HARDING HIGH cont. on page 21

The Harding High School Ballroom Dance Team
proudly presents:

Ballroom Magic



An evening of...

- * Demonstrations
- * Youth Competitions
- * General Dancing
- * Silent Auction

Friday, May 25, 2007
7 - 10 PM

Harding High School
1540 E. 6th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

Suggested Donation:

\$15 adults
\$10 students

For tickets, call
651-387-2206.

MOVE OVER MTV...HARDING HIGH

cont. from page 20

ballroom dance in every school. If you would like to help us achieve that goal, consider one of the following:

- Donate your retired ballroom attire (shoes, skirts, dresses, men's shirts, etc.) to the team for their uniforms and/or for their ballroom clothing re-sale fundraising event in June.
- Donate an item (maybe a gorgeous gown you no longer wear or a gift certificate from your business) for our silent auction on May 25.
- Volunteer to judge or compile scores at our showcase/competition on May 25.
- Sponsor a visit by our team to a local school.
- Attend "Ballroom Magic" and cheer on our students!

Ballroom clothing donations can be dropped off at the Dancers Studio at 99 Snelling Ave. N. in St. Paul, or contact me and I will arrange to pick up your donation. Attach a note with your name, address, phone number, and the estimated value of your donation so that we can prepare a receipt for your records. All donations are tax-deductible!

To reserve seats at "Ballroom Magic", register for the mini-competition or make a donation in support of our Ballroom Dance Team, contact jamie.thompson@spps.org or 651-387-2206. To learn more about our team, visit the Harding website at www.harding.spps.org and click on "Ballroom Dance Team."

Thank you for keeping the "Magic of Ballroom" alive in our schools! ■

Harding High School Ballroom Dance Team Fundraiser

Closets crammed with ballroom gowns that have not been worn in years??!!



Donate your wonderful but no longer worn ballroom attire...

- to help outfit our team
- for our ballroom clothing "re-sale" event



Donations can be dropped off at:
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or call Jamie @ 651-387-2206
to arrange for a pick-up.

All donations are tax deductible!
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ASK DR. DANCE

Paul and Donna are popular coaches and adjudicators. They own Time To Dance in Plymouth and organize The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition. They can be reached at 763 557-6004.

Q I know some people who've had bad experiences at dance studios. How do I find one that is reputable?

He Said:

Beware of high-pressure sales. You are buying dance lessons not a time-share. Talk to some of your friends who take lessons. Go to the local dances and talk to people. Ask how the teachers treat their students. Ask how they charge. Are they on time for lessons? Do they show up for lessons? Will they refund your money? Do their students stick with them over a period of years – or are they constantly mining for new students.

Attend a local dance competition like the upcoming Twin Cities Open in July or the Snow Ball in January, and notice which teachers are who consistently do well with their students. Beware of teachers who claim that they will make you a champion if you will take a lesson from them or make other big promises. Ultimately, try different teachers, see who teaches you the best lesson, and let your common sense guide you.

She Said:

Beware of teachers who tell you their personal problems and ask for money. Beware of teachers who sell large discounted packages. That means the business is in

trouble and you might not receive either your lessons or a refund.

Beware of teachers who have a reputation for not delivering what students have paid for. Ask around. No matter how charming your teacher may seem, if they have taken advantage of other students, they will take advantage of you.

Beware of teachers who solicit your business if you are dancing with another teacher, coach, or at another studio. It is considered unethical to solicit other peoples' students.

If you feel you have been wronged by a teacher report him or her to The NDCA, National Dance Council of America. You can find this professional organization on-line at www.ndca.org. You will also find a list of NDCA registered pro-am teachers and NDCA judges on this site.

In order for a professional to compete with students – or judge they must be registered with the NDCA. You can look them up by name or by state to see if they are actually registered with the National Dance Council of America. ■



WELCOME BOARD MEMBERS cont. from page 5

our house and read "Tricia Parker." He said, "You obviously didn't put your name on here; it's not even spelled right!" – Meaning that my last name had changed a month prior! He knew Mike had finally convinced me to add one more thing onto my schedule! After all of this, I am happy to join USA Dance's Board. With my connections and positions with dance clubs and dance studios, I feel I can contribute a lot of help and feedback that can benefit the club, and the whole dance community.

Consider how you, too, can help participate in creating our exciting Twin Cities dance scene. Contact the USA Dance-MN volunteer committee to learn more about volunteering. Last year we had over 150 volunteers! There are plenty of needs and the work is very rewarding!

Contact: volunteers@usadance-mn.org ■

To The Editor, Response to "Letter to Anonymous"

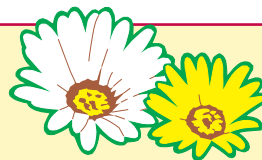


One thing that makes the newsletter real is the fact that it is not the work of professional writers. I like reading everyone's individual styles, the humor, the wit and satire. My favorite articles are those written from the sense of discovery, new insights, misconceptions revealed, etc. I don't look for grammar, run on sentences, dangling participles.

~Janis Livingston

Origin of Samba Music!

By Tom LaTourelle



The origin of samba music in Brazil can be found in Angola, Africa. The music, which can be heard today at vibrant Brazilian carnivals, was taken to Brazil with the slave trade between 1600 and 1888.

The word samba comes from Quimbundo language (the language of the area that became Angola) as “semba” and can mean several things. One meaning is to pray, or invoke the spirits of the ancestors, or the Gods of African pantheon. Samba could also be a complaint, a cry, or something like “the blues”. Still another meaning is something of a “navel bump” which depicts the intimacy and “invitation” to dance. Today the word can also be a verb in Brazil as in “sambar” which is to samba (To dance samba).

The origin of Samba music has a lot of similarities with mambo and salsa, which are undeniably linked to slavery and the religious traditions of West Africa.

Though the people of Africa, samba evolved by singing, dancing, and rhythms which had ties to rituals, culture, and religion. You also find the samba rhythms in capoeira (Brazilian martial arts/dance) and the candomble (religion from Africa), which today are a part of Brazilian culture and Brazil religion.

West Africans were forced into slavery in Brazil. The governing forces demanded Christianity of their slaves and prohibited executions of worship to their orixá (their god/saint, protector and helper). To the African, dance and song is worship. So the slaves camouflaged the ceremonies as parties with dancing.

The authorities weren't fooled that easily and even up until the early twentieth century, police often raided suspicious parties. The need for secrecy made it necessary to conceal the meaning of certain dances and songs from the uninitiated. At times, to the annoyance of the “tias” (Candomble priestess) musicians revealed and at the same time preserved the secret rhythms by mixing them with more accepted musical forms.

Candomble and the mixing with other music gave rise to a series of dances in the twentieth century, among them the origin of samba music. To adherents of Candomble, the word samba, means to pray, to invoke your personal orixá (god).

With the abolition of Brazil slavery in 1888, came a greater mobility for the population of Bahia (The state

in which the city of Salvador lies and which was the primary target of the slave traffic). Many fled south, using samba as a way to survive. Samba is believed to have spread to Rio some time after 1889.

Samba

The Portuguese imported many slaves from Angola and Congo into Brazil in the 16th century, who in turn brought their dances such as the Catarete, the Embolada and the Batuque. These dances were considered sinful by the Europeans as they involved the touching of navels. The Embolada is about a cow with balls on its horns for safety, and became a term meaning “foolish”. The Batuque became so popular that Manuel I passed a law forbidding it. It was described as a circle dance with steps like the Charleston done to hand clapping and percussion, and with a solo couple performing in the centre of the circle.

A composite dance evolved in the 1830's combining the plait figures from these Negro dances and the body rolls and sways of the indigenous Lundu. Later, carnival steps were added like the Copacabana (the name of a beach near Rio de Janeiro). Gradually members of the high society in Rio embraced it, although they modified it to be done in closed ballroom dancing position. The dance was then called the Zemba Queca, and was described in 1885 as “a graceful Brazilian dance”. The origin of the name “Samba” is unclear, although “Zambo” means the offspring of a Negro man and a native woman.

The dance was later combined with the Maxixe. This was also originally a Brazilian round dance, described as like a Two Step. The Maxixe was introduced into the U.S.A. at the turn of the 20th century. The Maxixe became popular in Europe after a demonstration in Paris in 1905. It was described as having the steps of the Polka done to the music of the Cuban Habanera. The present day Samba still contains a step called the Maxixe, consisting of a chasse and point.

A form of the Samba called the Carioca (meaning from Rio de Janeiro) was revived in U.K. in 1934. It was popularized by Fred Astaire in “Flying Down To Rio”, his first film with Ginger Rogers. The Carioca spread to the U.S.A. in 1938. In 1941, its popularity was boosted by performances by Carmen Miranda in her films, particularly “That Night in Rio”. ■

Etiquette of the Ballroom

Dancing has its own culture. If you want to join a group of dancers and enjoy their company, it is a good idea to follow the accepted customs of their dance group. One of the ways you get accepted into a group is by the way you're dressed.

The more formal the dance, the more formal the outfit. For example, if you are invited to a formal charity ball, anything less than a tuxedo for men or ball gown for women would be inappropriate. On the other hand, at a dance lesson at your local studio, there is usually no need to dress formally.

This is not as hard as it may seem; a little common sense goes a long way. Also, if in doubt, follow the crowd! See what others do and follow suit. If all else fails, you can always ask the dance organizers about the dress code.

Below I give a guideline and explanation for dress code, which you may see on invitations and announcements, as well as a general idea of what to wear at different dance venues.

- **White tie:** White tie is the most formal category of dress. For the gentleman, it means a black tailcoat with matching trousers trimmed by ribbon of braid or satin on the outside of each trouser leg, a white pique' tie, white pique' single or double-breasted vest, and a wing-collar shirt with a stiff pique' front. White gloves are nice optional accessories for gentlemen. The lady appears in a ball gown, which is an evening dress with a full skirt, possibly with open back and low neck line. Elbow-length gloves are a nice addition for the lady.
- **Black tie:** Gentlemen in black tuxedo coat, trousers trimmed with satin ribbon along the outside of the legs, cummerbund and bow tie. The phrase "black tie" does not refer to the color of the tie. In fact colorful ties (with matching cummerbunds) are very popular. Ladies appear in ball gowns.
- **Black tie optional:** Same as above, except gentlemen have the option of wearing a regular suit with a tie (bow tie preferred), and ladies wear a cocktail gown or dinner dress. Long to full-length skirts are preferred; short skirts are not recommended.
- **Formal:** Gentlemen in suit and tie (nowadays a sport coat is often an acceptable replacement for a full suit), ladies in cocktail gown or evening dress.
- **Semi-formal:** Gentlemen in dress slacks with dress shirt and tie, jacket is optional. Other options include a vest or a sweater that shows the tie. At the lower end of formality, these events can be attended without a tie, e.g. with a turtleneck and jacket. Ladies in evening dress or dinner dress, but other chic outfits are also acceptable (like flowing pants, etc.)
- **Dressy Casual:** Applies to most practice dances, workshops, and dance lessons. Gentlemen can wear cotton

slacks with solid color T-shirt, turtleneck, mock turtleneck, or polo shirt. Ladies have a much wider set of clothing options. Use your imagination and sense of fashion. In general this is a conservative and toned-down appearance that has grown increasingly popular on the dance floors. Don't forget your dance shoes!

- **Country/Western:** Country western attire has variations across the country, but generally it is acceptable to go in blue or black jeans (not stone-washed) and cowboy boots. Make sure that the boots will not mark the dance floor. If you wear a hat, it may be a good idea to take it off when going on the floor. Note that country western folks can be very sensitive about their hats. It is improper to touch or otherwise handle someone's hat, even if it sits on a table. For a lady to pick up and put on a gentleman's hat is considered very flirtatious.
- **Milongas:** (Argentine Tango) For both ladies and gentlemen, black or dark themes are preferred.
- **Latin:** This refers to venues that specialize in Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, etc. For gentlemen, any button-up shirt, solid T-shirt or mock turtleneck, dress slacks, and dance shoes. Jackets are nice, but a vest can be even more stylish. Unlike most other dance venues, bright and colorful outfits for gentlemen are acceptable, although dark themes are more common. Ladies can (and often do) wear sexy outfits: both short skirts and longer slit skirts are popular. Low necklines and exposed midriffs are not uncommon.
- **Swing:** There are no strict rules for swing outfits. Both the Gentleman and the Lady wear outfits that are reasonably neat and chic, although often not very formal. Many types of swing are fast-paced and athletic, so wearing suitable clothing is essential. For example, the Lady would be well advised to stay away from short, tight skirts. A cute trend, especially in Lindy Hop circles, is to wear vintage outfits from the 1930's and 40's. But this is not done everywhere and is not at all a requirement. ■

Etiquette
Corner



Designs by Anna Maria

Ballroom, Rhythm & Prom Dresses
Alterations Available
Contact: Anna Maria
2408 West 95th St
Bloomington, MN 55431

H 952-888-2442 C 612-247-2800
By appointment only

☛ Contact Lisa Wu at 651-278-4434 or lisa_wu_us@yahoo.com

Green & blue rhythm dress sz. 4-10 green body & skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 nego.

Purple & white Smooth Gown. Sz. 6-10, \$300 New Latin & Ballroom Shoes for sale, sz. 7, 8 & 9 \$40

☛ Contact Stacie at 612-251-8108 or PIER0081@umn.edu

Gorgeous one of a kind Designs to Shine Gown. Most of dress is a brilliant aqua with a portion of the skirt, bodice and one sleeve black lace. A must see, pictures available. AB Stones throughout with areas of detail pearl bead work. 1 owner. A steal at \$2,500. Size 2-6.

Beautiful Dore Standard Gown. You can't miss this one on the floor! Color is called sherbert (peach). Has one large float, 2 armbands and 1 wrist band. Fit sizes 0-6. Pictures available.

Very playful bright red latin/rhythm dress strings of beads attached to the dress. Sleeveless, open back. Dress was taken in to fit a sz. 2-6. Could easily be let out to fit 6-8. With Black gloves. Pictures available. \$2,000.

Green Latin/rhythm dress originally worn by Inna Ivanenko, this dress is ultra showy! Features very slinky shape, draped fabric heavily decorated with Swarovski stones in Chrysolite (green) color and AB accents. The left side is quite open for those who dare to bare! Pictures available. \$1,200.

Sexy and playful all in one. Has long sleeve and an open back. Dress in skin toned with orange leaves appliques through out. Heavily decorated with AB and orange stones. Skirt is full of orange floats that trail to the floor. Pictures available. \$2,500.

☛ Contact Amy at 608-835-5666 or email albishop@charter.net

Bright blue latin/Rhythm dress. Size 6-10 Designed by Julia Gorchakova and is in excellent condition! Made of beautiful blue power net and heavily decorated with Swarovski stones, this dress also features a fringed skirt with lots of movement! Bodysuit and bra cups are built in. The dress also comes with matching neckband, armbands, and earrings. Asking \$1400.

Smooth Size 8-12 black chiffon circle skirt with one layer of black chiffon lined, elastic waistband. Brand New. Originally \$100 asking \$50.

Shoes Size 7 1/2 (American) Diamant Champion round toe 2" latino heel, elastic court std shoes, flesh satin. Brand new. Originally \$110 asking \$40.

☛ Contact Chris chris_scarlett@yahoo.com

Women's Capezio pumps, black with strap and thick 2" high heel, Size 7 1/2 to 8M, hard leather sole, excellent condition, \$10.

☛ Contact Ellen @ 612-600-9726 or EllenR_77@yahoo.com

Women's Celebrity dance shoes, black, 3 in. heels, size 8 1/2 - 9.

☛ Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmypspace@yahoo.com for photos

Size 6-10 excellent condition, (stretchy) fuchsia, heavily stoned bodice. Made by Marsha Wiest-Hines. Problem solver dress, open drape chiffon sleeves, drop-waist slims and elongates, chiffon back drape. \$650.

Two unworn dresses: Black form hugging stretchy dress, deep front V held closed with leather straps. Body has multi colored shiny circles. Very hot sz. 6-8 \$75. Royal purple contemporary dress with 1 shoulder, asymmetric hemline, lots of beading. Never worn, sz. 10, \$350.

Authentic vintage disco outfit! Sleeveless 1 piece gray jumpsuit with 1 shoulder, full long legs flare when you spin, glittered top and matching belt. Right out of the 70's very good condition. Sz. Med. \$50

☛ Contact Janie @ 763-797-5230 or janienordberg@comcast.net

Sunshine yellow smooth gown Size 2-10. Unique design, bracelet style cuff on one sleeve, matching arm and wrist band, drop waist belt solidly stoned, AB color stones throughout! Made for Movement. \$875.

Black/fuschia smooth gown Size 2-8. Striking gown with black stretch lace bodice, 3 layered chiffon skirt, dynamic fuschia chiffon wrap on one sleeve, AB color stoning. \$575 or BO.

Orange flame rhythm dress Size 2-8. This "one-of-a-kind" 2-piece dress has asymmetric sleeves & skirt. Sun AB stoning, beautiful braid detail belt and straps, matching wrist bands and jewelry. \$775.

Stunning red rhythm dress Size 2-8. Feel like a champion in this showstopper! Bracelet-style cuffs on sleeves, AB stoning with matching hipster belt. Full open back and slit in asymmetric skirt. \$675.

Gold/rose-red rhythm dress Size 2-6. Beautiful Rose-Red lace overlays shimmering gold, bell sleeves and flare skirt add great movement. AB color stones add extra sparkle! Rose hair piece. Steal deal at \$475.

Fuschia rhythm dress Size 2-8. Gorgeous Rose, fuschia, and Amethyst AB stoning, bell sleeves, asymmetric skirt, low back cut. Great movement on dance floor! \$300 or BO.

☛ Contact Kate VanAlstine at 651.214.0906 or yolanda4life@yahoo.com

Asymmetrical orange & blue smooth dress size 2-6 Cool, one-of-a-kind design looks great on the floor. \$300 negotiable

Green & blue rhythm dress size 4-10 Green body and skirt with blue belt, lots of rhinestones all over, matching arm/wrist bands. Great for new competitor! \$300 negotiable

Red-belted rhythm dress size 2-6 Super low V-neck, hot-red belt design. Very sexy! \$400

Black lace rhythm dress size 4-6 Sexy see-through long-sleeved look, lots of stones and pearls on the body with cool black and pearl fringe on skirt, matching earrings. \$700

☛ Contact Theresa at 651-773-3511 or theresakimler@yahoo.com

Red Ballgown size 4-6: Inspired by Hilary Swank's Oscar dress and created by Designs to Shine. Elegant cut open back. Crisscross design with full coverage in front. Long sleeves with necklace and cuffs. Skirt accentuates movement thanks to 3-layers. Pics available. \$2,200.

☛ Contact Eileen @ 651-636-6306 or eileen@arcilla.net

Bright Blue Satin Smooth/Standard Gown. Get noticed in a bright shiny satin gown. Full skirt and cut makes you feel like you're floating! Open back with fully stoned inset and skirt hemmed with satin band. Cut is flattering for many figures. Comes with matching earrings, hair piece, neckband and arm bands. Professionally designed/created by Flair Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$1200.

Lavender Latin/Rhythm Dress. Lavender latin/rhythm dress with halter style top, ruffled hem and open back. Entire dress stoned in different colored stones which will make you sparkle! Dore Designs. Size 4-8. Asking \$2100.

☛ Contact Rhonda @ 952-935-7810

Assorted Celebrity smooth & rhythm shoes. US 9-10N and split sizes. Practice shoes & 1 pr. Supadance rhythm sandals also available. Best offer.

☛ Contact Cheri at artncheri@aol.com or 763-544-6724

Flashy fushia silk dress with silver swirls featured in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. Size 2-4. This dress is very eye-catching on the floor. Asking \$675.

Aqua and Blue silk and chiffon dress. Gown in long sleeved with heavily stoned bodice and three tiered chiffon skirt. The dress is soft and elegant. Could be used for smooth or standard. Asking \$1100. Size 2-4.

☛ Contact Michelle at 651-286-6705 (day) or 763-572-0418 (eve)

Sexy Bright Red Rhythm Dress. Size 4-8. Halter cut top, with stones all around collar. Beading on short flirty skirt moves well on the floor! Luxury Crushed Red Velvet very comfortable to wear. Gently used, is in excellent condition - all loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$400

Sultry & Exotic Gold Latin/Rhythm Dress. Size 2-6. This sultry 2-piece costume has lots of straps and fabric pieces that make for great movement. TONS of rhinestones - on the floor it completely shimmers. Comes with: necklace, 2 arm bands, 2 wristbands, and large matching hoop earrings. Looks great on the floor, very sexy All loose rhinestones replaced by hand. Asking \$600

☛ Please call Anne @ 763-550-1223

Championship level gown. Get the latest style without paying full price! Brilliant turquoise American Smooth gown loaded with stones in a figure flattering pattern! Off the shoulder style with very sexy open back and side slit for great kicks. Slinky fabric really moves and is comfortable. Can be tailored to fit! Call Anne for more information. Size 8-12. Asking \$750.

Swaplines is a monthly feature offering members and subscribers the chance to sell their dance merchandise. Advertisements for partnerships are not published in this column. Please include your area code when submitting advertisements for Swaplines.

Competition Calendar

May 19-20, 2007 North Central Regional DanceSport Championships/Chicago DanceSport Challenge Sheraton Chicago Northwest Hotel

Qualifying event for 2007 USADance National Championships. Contact organizer Barbara Finn at barbarakfinn@comcast.net, or visit our website www.usadancechicago.org

Jun 1-2, 2007 USA Dancesport South Central Regional Championships Holiday Inn Select Executive Center, Baton Rouge, LA

Qualifying event for 2007 USA DanceSport National Championships. For information, contact Ann Durocher, 504-722-4800 or 985-853-0030, fliprann@aol.com. More info at <http://usabdanola.org>

Jun 9, 2007 SW Regional DanceSport Championships, San Jose, CA Hosted by NorCal Chapter. Qualifying event for 2007 UsaDance National Championships. More info at <http://www.usabda-norcal.org/>

Jun 30-Jul 1, 2007 NW Regional Dancesport Championships Seattle, Washington

Sponsored by USA Dance Seattle Chapter. Qualifying event for the 2007 USADance National Championships. For more information contact Mark Tabor at (425) 486-6023, or e-mail chair2007@nwregional.org

Jul 21-22, 2007 NJ DanceSport Classic Summer Sizzler Hackensack, N.J.

Organized by Mario Battista and Wendi Davies. Sanctioned by USA Dance. Info: NJDSC or e-mail questions@njdancesportclassic.com or phone 973-325-1399.

Jul 28, 2007 Southern Star Midsummer Classic Rhapsody Ballroom, Tampa, FLA

For more information contact Michael Nolan at mnolan10@yahoo.com or 813-681-5275.

Aug 3 - 5, 2007 2007 USA Dance National Championships Galt House, Louisville, KY Hosted by the Greater Louisville Chapter.

Oct 19 - 20, 2007 SE Regional DanceSport Championships

Qualifying event for the 2008 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships. Presented by the Greater Atlanta Chapter of USA Dance. For more information, please go to the Southeastern Regional Championships website.

Nov 17 - 18, 2007 2007 National Collegiate DanceSport Championships

The event will be held at the Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. This is a great event! Don't miss it. (You must be a Student member of USA Dance to enter.) For more information go to the official website.

Feb 9 - 10, 2008 USA Dance North Central Regional Championships

Qualifier for the 2008 National Championships Downtown Marriot Hotel. 500 Hill Ave Knoxville, Tennessee Organizer: Tim McGhee, (865) 386-7843, tim@usabda-knoxville.us

DNO continued from page 2

Liola-La Bodega (612) 823-2661
Lyndale & Lake Street, Minneapolis; Sundays and Mondays
SALSA and Latin Dancing Costa Rica-style; Brought by
ERVentertainment & Tico Baila (612-240-9053)

Loring Pasta Bar
www.loringcafe.com/pastabar Sunday nights have tango
or other latin music from 6-9 pm.

Medina Entertainment Center (763) 478-6661
www.medinaentertainment.com 500 Highway 55, Medina.
Wednesdays, Big Band Dances, Lesson 7 pm, Dance 8-11 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club (651) 777-5599
www.mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com B-Dale Club, 2100 N.
Dale St., Roseville. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays. Lesson 7:30 pm,
Dance 8:30 pm. \$5/WCS members, \$8/non-members.

Naar Grille Salsa Night (952) 946-6227
11528 Leona Road, Eden Prairie. Every Friday is Salsa Night
from 10 pm-2 am.

Rebels Swing Dance Club (952) 941-0906
www.tcrebels.com Harmonies Dance Center, 10726 France
Avenue South, Bloomington. Two Sundays per month,
Dances 7 pm. \$5/Rebels members, \$8/non-members.

Shakopee Ballroom (952) 445-0412
2400 East 4th Avenue, Shakopee. Every other Friday they offer
either ballroom or swing or dance bands; lesson at 7:30 pm and
band begins at 8 pm. Other dances scheduled occasionally.

Social Dance Studio (612) 418-4046
www.socialdancestudio.com St. Paul and Minneapolis,
1st Fridays-Latin Dance Parties 9-12 midnight. \$5/person.

Tango Society of Minnesota (763) 576-3349
www.mntango.org 2nd Saturdays, DanceSport Studio,
816 1/2 Main Street, Hopkins. Introductory lesson 8 pm,
Dance 9 pm - 1 am. \$10.

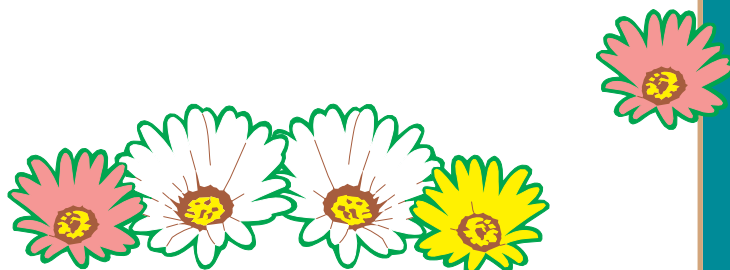
Twin City Ballroom Dance Club (651) 735-2233
twincityballroom.com 7166 10th Street North, Oakdale
(corner of 694 and 10th St. N.). M-W: Lessons 8 pm, Fridays:
Lesson 9 pm, Dance 10-11:30 pm, Sundays: Lesson 8 pm,
Dance 9-10:30 pm. \$7/\$2 off with Univ. ID.

Wabasha Street Caves (651) 224-1191
215 S. Wabasha St., St. Paul. Thursdays are "Swing Night" with
big bands! Lesson 6:15 pm, Dance 7-10 pm. \$7 cover charge.

June Issue Teaser

Don't miss next month's
coverage of...

*Dancing Trends
– What's Hot!*



MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

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Nathan Daniels	763-545-8690
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Mary Rosenstiel	612-720-2584
Kate VanAlstine	651-641-0777

Services

Made for Movement: costume design, production,
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Satin Stitches Ltd.: custom designed dancewear
(Deborah J. Nelson).....763-323-9507 or 1-800-48SATIN

Studios

Arthur Murray Dance Studio, St. Paul	651-227-3200
Cheek to Cheek Studio, Coon Rapids	763-755-3644
Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul	651-699-5910
Dahl Dance Center	507-252-1848
Dancers Studio, St. Paul	651-641-0777
Foster's Dance Sport Studio, Hopkins	952-938-0048
On Your Toes, St. Louis Park	952-928-7803
Social Dance Studio, Mpls	612-418-4046

Clubs

Café Bailar	612-600-5129
MN West Coast Swing Dance Club.....	651-777-5599
REBELS Swing Dance Club	952-941-0906
Tango Society of Minnesota	763-576-3349
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter	651-483-5467

USA Dance MN HOTLINE (651) 483-5467
www.usadance-mn.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: May 10th, 2007