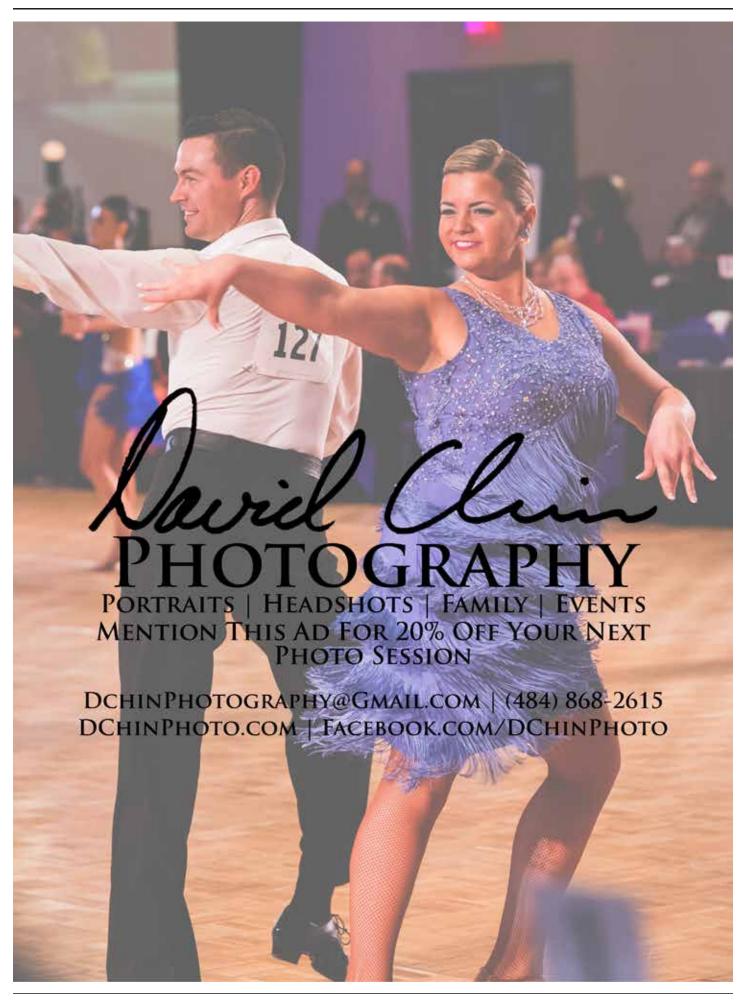
MINNESOTA

DANCER

November 2016



Professional Dancers Alyenendrov Tsorokean and Maria Wheeler at the 2016 Grand Ball. Photo by David Chin.



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/Layout: Tom Crable Assistant Editor: Leland Whitney Advertising: Tom Crable

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

Contributors: Suzi Blumberg, Scott Gore, Deborah J. Nelson, Carol Post, Gary Stroick, Joyce Thompson, Leland Whitney and Leslie Whitney.

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<u>Please send articles and ads to Tom Crable at tcrable3s@gmail.com.</u>

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

November Saturday, November 19

Cinema Ballroom 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul

Annual Meeting - 6:30 7-8 pm lesson - Hustle Instructor: Spencer Loufek 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

December Saturday, December 17

'nMotion Dance Center 7988 University Ave NE, Fridley

7-8 lesson - Bolero Instructor: Jennelle Donnay 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music January Saturday, January 21

Costa Rica Ballroom 816 Mainstreet, Hopkins MN

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

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



Beginner Salsa

Sunday, November 6th — 2:00 pm Sunday, November 13th — 2:00 pm Sunday, November 20th — 2:00 pm

Classes with Jennelle Donnay at



7988 University Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432 763-571-6180

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



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

USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Lee Whitney (President), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Carol Post, Tom Crable and Dan Fitzgerald.

Absent: Ed Soltis, Joyce Thompson and Karen Maldonado.

Guest: Gary Stroick.

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

Call Session to order:

- 1. Agenda A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the September agenda.
- 2. Confidentiality Meeting discussions are confidential. Chapter minutes are posted in the Minnesota Dancer.
- 3. Minutes The chapter will have an online meeting to approve the July minutes. There wasn't a quorum at the August meeting.
- 4. Treasurer's Report Jane distributed a July and August treasurer's report current as of August 31.
 - a. The University of MN at Rochester Ballroom Team and the Carlton Ballroom Team have submitted letters requesting scholarship money from the chapter. Several board members will meet with these teams in October to discuss their specific needs and how to address them.
 - b. The UMR Scrimmage will be held on Saturday, February 18th, 2017. The chapter will donate the floor for this event.
- 5. Chapter Nominations and Election Committee.
 - a. Nominations have been received by this committee.
 - b. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to allow no more than \$500 to facilitate the election.
- 6. Social Dance, Special Projects and Volunteer Coordinator Reports.
 - a. Monthly Dances.
 - i. September Cinema, V. Waltz.
 - ii. October Dance With Us America, Rumba.
 - iii. November Cinema, Hustle.
 - iv. December 'nMotion Dance Center, Bolero.

- b. Special Events.
 - i. The Chapter #2011 25th Anniversary Event will be held on Sunday, September 25th, Midpointe Event Center, Grand Ballroom.
- c. Project Dance.
 - i. September Dance With Us America, Tango.
 - ii. October Dancers Studio, Rumba.
 - iii. November 'nMotion, Salsa.
- d. Dancing Classrooms.
 - i. There is a continued need for classroom teaching assistants.
- 7. Communications Coordinator Report.
 - a. Minnesota Dancer Committee The October issue will be late due to chapter elections.
 - b. Website, Facebook, Constant Contact Nothing unusual reported.
 - c. The document informing dancers of Chapter #2011's website, mission, and activities is being developed.
- 8. Membership Coordinator Report.
 - a. September 2015 381 members.
 - b. September 2016 312 members.
- 9. USA Dance National Policies Gary led an on-going discussion.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4th, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Washburn Public Library

5244 Lyndale Avenue S

Minneapolis 55419

DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

USA DANCE

USA Dance – **Monthly**, 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, November 19, at Cinema Ballroom. The Annual Meeting will be from 6:30 to 7 pm, lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - Hustle. Instructor: Spencer Loufek.

Project Dance - Sundays, 'nMotion Dance Center, November 6,13 and 20, 2 to 3:30 pm, lesson: Salsa. Instructor: Jennelle Donnay.

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

American Classic – Sunday Pizza Practice Parties, November 13, 7 – 8:30 pm.

Café Bailar Dance Club – Saturday Variety Party, November 12 and 26, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, November 4 and 18, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom - Sunday Night Dancing with The Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra, November 13 and 27, 6:15 to 10 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom - 1st Saturday, November 5, showcase from 6 to 10 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, November 6 and 20, dance 6 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, November 6 and 20, at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 10:30 pm.

OTHER DANCES

Argentine Tango Milonga, second Saturday of each month, November 12, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

DanceLife Ballroom Showcase, November 5, from 6 to 10 pm.

DANCE CONTACTS

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

STUDIOS

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

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

AWAKENED DANCE at 'nMotion Dance Center 7988 University Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432 www.awakeneddance.com

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB 1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville 952.292.0524 www.ballroom-club.com

BLUE MOON BALLROOM 2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester 507.288.0556 www.BlueMoonBallroom.com

CINEMA BALLROOM 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul 651.699.5910 www.cinemaballroom.com

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS 816 Mainstreet, Hopkins 952.303.3339 www.costaricaballroom.com

DAHL DANCE CENTER 4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester 507.252.1848 www.dahldance.com

DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT 651.605.5784 tricia@danceandentertainment.com www.danceandentertainment.com

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

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

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

DE Studios 3701 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington 952-392-9631 www.de-studios.com FOUR SEASONS DANCE STUDIO 1637 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis 612.342.0902 www.fourseasonsdance.com

FRED ASTAIRE DANCE STUDIO 1975 Seneca Road, Eagan, MN 651.451.6300 www.FredAstaireMN.com

MILL CITY BALLROOM www.millcityballroom.com

'N MOTION DANCE CENTER 7988 University Avenue NE, Finley 763-571-6180 www.nMotionDanceCenter.com

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO Bloomington, MN 612.799.4147 Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio

RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO Minneapolis 612.872.1562 www.theplacetodance.com

STUDIOJEFF 701 St. Germain St W, Suite 201, St. Cloud 320.266.4137 www.studiojeff.com

CLUBS

CAFÉ BAILAR www.cafebailar.com

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

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

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN Email: latindc@umn.edu sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

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

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB 952.941.0906 www.tcrebels.com

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

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

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA 612.224.2905 www.mntango.org

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

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

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

DANCE INSTRUCTORS

612.816.5904 612.816.4446 612.816.4446
651.439.3152
612.718.6823
763.464.1021
763.218.3096
651.357.2060
612.598.5355
612.910.2690
952.922.8316
952.922.8316
612.872.1562
612.940.9546
612.978.9371
651.261.6442
561.502.2822
651.387.3886
715.821.9039
612.508.9255
612.874.0747
612.242.5159
612.720.2584
612.709.6399
651.208.0818
651.242.2421

COMPETITION CALENDAR

December 3, 2016

California State DanceSport Championships - 2017 NQE

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

January 13 - 15, 2017

Snow Ball DanceSport Competition

Hosted by Donna Edelstein, Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Mall of America

January 14 - 16, 2017

Manhattan Amateur Classic (The MAC) - 2017 NQE

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

February 3 - 5, 2017

2017 Southeastern DanceSport Championships - 2017 NQE

Hosted by Wayne & Marie Crowder, Sheraton Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Feb 17 - 19, 2017

Mid-Atlantic Championships - 2017 NQE and

Senior IV National DanceSport Championships (Feb 17 - 18, 2017)

Hosted by Mid-Eastern Chapter #6001, North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Bethesda, MD

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

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

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

www.lynnesdancenews.com



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

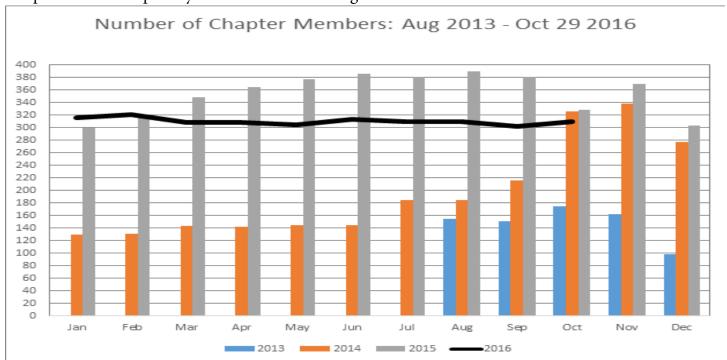
The Annual Meeting of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 will be held just before our monthly dance and lesson. Please join us. Refreshments will be served at the meeting:

Annual Meeting 19 November 2016, 6:30 - 7 pm (7 pm Lesson and 8 - 11 pm Dance) Cinema Ballroom 1560 St. Clair Avenue St. Paul, MN

- Chapter activities over the last year will be reviewed.
- Chapter strategic plan for this coming year will be presented.

USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 membership continues to stabilize after two years of growth and variability.

Chapter membership this year has been in the range 302-321.



Grand Ball 25th Anniversary Celebration USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 by Carol Post and Joyce Thompson

September 25, 2016 was an evening to remember. People from across the dance community turned out to help USA Dance Minnesota Chapter celebrate its 25th anniversary. Over 200 people filled the MidPointe Event Center in St Paul to enjoy an elegant event that included a sit down dinner, dancing, a video of our contributions to the dance community and entertainment by both amateur and professional dancers.





Dinner and Dancing at the Grand Ball

Dancers from across the Twin Cities attended this grand event. Charter members Jeff Chinn, David Schmit, Carol Post, Rita Stoner and Karen Tepley recalled starting the chapter. Past chapter presidents, treasurers, secretaries, board members, newsletter editors, web masters, studio owners and past members shared stories and memories. Dancers from Dancing Classrooms, Heart of Dance, University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club, Studio Jeff, Dancers Studio and DanceLife Ballroom mixed and mingled. Coordinating the overwhelming response of attendance from DanceLife Ballroom was Lisa Mohr-Guinta and owner Shinya McHenry along with USA Dance member Joyce Thompson.



Chapter Charter members David Schmit, Rita Stoner, Carol Post and Jeff Chinn.



Heart of Dance Board Members



Dancers from Dancing Classrooms Doing a Swing Solo

Attendees enjoyed a photo exhibit of chapter history, a display of local and national awards including Chapter of the Year, Newsletter Editor of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. There was a display of events the chapter has hosted including the annual Tea Dance, monthly dances, Project Dance, our first State Games Competition later becoming Star of the North Competition. Star of the North was the first all amateur run event in Minnesota and a sanctioned USA Dance event. Our chapter also hosted four years of USA Dance National Championships, the local production of Dancing the Night Away and the Ballroom Blast show. Displays also included a collection of articles citing the achievements of chapter competitive dancers and National Championship Dance Titles held by these dancers over the past 25 years. It was fun to see photos of all that has been accomplished.







Exhibits of the Chapter's History and Awards

After enjoying an elegant dinner, attendees delighted in dancing to music compiled specifically for the evening event by Joyce Thompson. Dan and Yvonne Viehman emceed the program for the evening with introductions and they recognized the event planning committee of Carol Post, Joyce Thompson and Sharon Kennedy. Vendors and dancers who had generously supported the chapter over the last 25 years were acknowledged (Marsha Wiest-Hines of "Made for Movement", Shinya McHenry of DanceLife Ballroom, Bill Dessert of Rapit Printing who was the first USA Dance Chapter #2011 Volunteer of the Year of 1990). Dancing Classrooms students performed a Merenque and a Swing number. The Twin Cities Formation Team entertained us with a Foxtrot. Alyenendrov Tsorokean and Maria Wheeler, International Professional Cabaret Champions for 2016, performed an amazing Theater Arts number. They were sponsored by Jeff Chinn. To top off the entertainment, Dan and Yvonne showed a video recounting the first 25 years of USA Dance Minnesota. David Chin, photographer (www.dchinphoto.com), captured the spirit of the evening in GRAND photographic style.



Shinya McHenry and Regina



Twin Cities Dancesport Formation Team



Alyenendrov and Maria



Video of the First 25 Years of the Chapter



2016 Grand Ball participants



Dining at the Grand Ball









Dan and Yvonne Viehman



The planning committee and board members of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 wish to thank everyone who attended this wonderful event. You made this celebration one to remember for a long time. We look forward to our next 25 years!

2016 Nominees for the USA Dance Chapter #2011 Board of Directors

by Gary Stroick

Thank you to all of the 2016 Nominees for the USA Dance Chapter #2011 Board of Directors. This year only four nominees met the criteria established for the candidates (*see page 4 of the July 2015 Minnesota Dancer*). As a result this year's election will be uncontested which according to the USA Dance Election Procedures for Chapters means that:

- No ballots will be sent out to the membership.
- The election will be held by a show of hands at the November Monthly dance.

The candidate bios and photos are included for your review. The Board of Directors will meet in January to discuss potential appointments to the Board in order to fill the vacant positions. If you are interested in serving please contact the current president Leland Whitney (651-690-9367 or lrwhitney@msn.com).

Sincerely,

Gary Stroick, Bonnie Burton, Karen Maldonado USA Dance Chapter #2011 Nominations & Election Committee





Biography Carol A Post

My partner (Gary Stroick) and I were active competitors and have successfully competed in American Smooth, Theater Arts, and International Standard styles of dance. We were the United States National Open American Smooth B Champions for the eight years, been one of the top three United States National Open American Smooth A finalists for the six years, the United States National Amateur Cabaret Champions for 3 years and the United States National Amateur Theater Arts Champions for 4 years. We began competing in International Standard during 1997 and were semi-finalists in the United States National Open International Standard B in 1998, 1999, and 2000. We are the 1997 Feather Award winners in the Best Amateur Smooth Couple category. In addition, I have been the team captain of our first USAB-DA-MN open formation team.

As a past competitor, I believe that I have a good understanding of the issues facing DanceSport Athletes and Social members today. These issues include: acquiring adequate funding for training, obtaining quality training facilities and coaching, rule changes that permit us to be competitive on an international basis, establishment of a national championships that is respected throughout the dance community, among others. At the local level, I believe activities for social dancers are the glue that binds our community together. Conducting events such as the Tea Dance and Grand Ball which draw the dance community together, I have successfully chaired the Tea dance for 2 years. In addition, I organized and am chair of the 2016 Grand Ball that will celebrate 25 years since the formation of the chapter.

I was a charter member of the USABDA-MN chapter where I was a board member from 1994 to 2000 with an emphasis on membership and fund raising. I have 25 years of continuous active membership in USA Dance. Beginning in 1997 as membership chair, I was able to obtain quality chapter status for USABDA-MN. I've been active in promoting USA Dance and performed at numerous benefits for the organization with donations forwarded to the chapter. I served as DanceSport delegate at the National level for 6 years. During that period I contributed to obtaining teaching rights for our Championship Athletes, recognition of additional DanceSport categories for Senior 2 and Senior 3. I was appointed, selected and served for 12 years as the USA Dance Sport Anti-Doping Chairman with USA Dance and the IDSF. I conducted Anti-Doping activities for USA Dance National Competitions, several which resulted in doping violation and Athlete suspension. I have been part of an International committee that laid the groundwork and conducted activities and developing anti-doping policy and regulations for the IDSF and USA Dance. For the last 2 years I have returned to serving as a local board member, in an appointed position, as board member and Chair of the annual Tea Dance. I am chairing the 25th Grand Ball and anniversary celebration.

I have held various leadership positions during the course of my career. Some of which include:

- Captain USA Army.
- Department Supervisor North Memorial Hospital.
- Clinical research nurse at North Memorial Hospital.
- Clinical Project Manager for global projects conducted in Mexico, Canada, Germany and India at NAMSA.



Biography Joyce Thompson

USA Dance member since 1993.

USA Dance board member 1994-2004 2015 to current.

Responsibilities included: treasurer, partnership in providing music for monthly dances, special events, and competitions. Currently responsible for arranging monthly dances, project dance, member of tea dance committee and 25th anniversary event.

I am a retired nurse with management and organization skills including program development.

Current role/accomplishments:

Donated music and provided a template play list to be utilized at the monthly dances eliminating the expense of a DJ.

Evaluated attendance and expenses of the monthly dances and recommended changes in the price structure to ensure financial viability.

Evaluated Project dance attendance and made recommendations to reduce expenses, which included a nominal admission fee for members, eliminate the months of July, December, and holiday weekends due to consistent low attendance, and no more than 4 Sunday's per month.

I regularly attend USA Dance events indicating support for chapter events.

I serve as an advisory member representing USA Dance on the Heart of Dance board. I assisted in obtaining volunteer teaching assistants for the Dancing Classrooms program. I volunteered as a classroom teaching assistant. I served on a committee to organize a fundraising dance event for Dancing Classrooms.

I want to continue to be a board member to meet the mission of our chapter to increase the quantity and quality of ballroom dance. This would be accomplished by observing, listening and evaluating the dance community and recommend changes to meet our goals.



Biography Lee Whitney

USA DANCE MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 2011:

MEMBER OF USA DANCE, 2007 TO PRESENT

CHAPTER PRESIDENT, DEC 2013 TO PRESENT, OF USA DANCE MINNESOTA CHAPTER 2011 IN DISTRICT 2.

WORK HISTORY:

OWNER, LELAND R WHITNEY LLC, ST PAUL, MN, 2008 TO PRESENT.

• Inventor on a USA Patent issued in 2012 (30th lifetime patented invention issued in USA).

SENIOR RESEARCH SPECIALIST, 3M, ST PAUL, MN, 1984 TO 2008.

• Inventor on 29 issued USA Patents and many patents issued in other countries.

EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICIST, SHELL OIL, HOUSTON, TX, 1981 TO 1984.

EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, PH. D AWARDED 1981, MINNEAPOLIS.

• Ph.D. awarded in Theoretical Physics specializing in Condensed Matter Theory.

OTHER VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

LINKED IN GROUP INITIATOR AND MANAGER: OPTICAL DESIGN AND ANALYSIS SOFT-WARE, 2008 TO PRESENT.

• 2413 current group members worldwide.

SOBRIETY HIGH SCHOOL, 2000–2004.

- Sobriety High School Maplewood Minnesota Campus Board of Directors President.
- Leader of team that opened another campus in Burnsville, MN that operated through 2013.

USA DANCE COMPETITORS:

2015 National Champions in Smooth and Rhythm at Championship Level with spouse Leslie Whitney.

2016 National Champions in Smooth, Rhythm and Nine Dance at Championship Level with spouse Leslie Whitney.



Biography Leslie Whitney

I was born and raised in St. Paul, graduated from Hamline University with a B.A. in music education and a master degree from St. Thomas in special education. I taught in District #917 for 30 years, retired and now substitute.

Lee and I started dancing in 2003 and have competed as an amateur couple since 2008. Currently we are the Senior IV National Champions in American rhythm and smooth.

I serve as secretary for Chapter #2011 and am on the Advisory Board of Dancing Classrooms.



DanceLife Ballroom

Dance is life · health · happiness (612) 345-4219





Wednesday, February 22 to Wednesday, March 1 2017

Playa Mazatlan Beach Hotel

- Oceanview Room
- * All Inclusive
- Roundtrip Airfare
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- ♣ Nightly Dance Parties with DanceLife Ballroom Staff
- Evening Group Dinners with DanceLife Ballroom Staff
- Games wttith Shinya and Spontaneous Entertainment
- *\$2200 Double Occupancy/\$2600 Single Occupancy



Mall of America 2016 Showcase

Photos by Scott Gore and Bonnie Burton



Old Time Waltz



Twin Cities Dancesport Formation Team



Sleigh Belle Dancers to Jingle Bell Rock



Andy and Janie Norberg Solo



Rhapsody & Rhythm Formation Team Doing a Bolero



Dance Shoppe Dads



Ember Reichgott Junge and Dennis Yelkin Doing a Group Dance



Rhythm & Swing Formation Team Doing a Lindy Hop Medley



Waltz Solo by Cheri and Art Rolnick



MN Dance Collaborative



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

The last time I discussed this subject, it was over two years ago. Now, we have even more shopping options online. What should we be watching out for, besides possible Identity Theft and the compromising of our banking and credit card information?

First of all, the old adage: 'if it sounds too good to be true, it probably IS too good to be true" should influence your online purchasing! We should all know by now, that just because something looks good in a photo in a web store, it may not be a true representation of what the garment really is. There is PhotoShop and there are ways to pin a garment in the back to make it look good on the front. It remains 'buyer beware' in all online purchases unless the very same item is available for viewing and to try on and to feel, at a real brick and mortar shop.

I personally love the ease and convenience of clicking 'buy' and with my stored shipping and pay-

Dance Costume Shopping Online Versus in a Real Shop

by Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

ment information, and simply having the item show up at my door. I Internet shop whenever I can for products that I am sure of, such as my favorite coffee and my favorite office supplies (yes, I have favorite office supplies!) and such.

But clothing is another animal – I am particular about the exact fit of a shoe or a garment, the construction of a shoe or garment and the feel of the materials that are used. Of course I've been obsessed with these features since I was a child, paving my path into getting educated in college about fashion and clothing design (I have a BFA in Fashion Design from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design) and my career as a fashion/costume designer.

Shopping for me, is a 'touchyfeely' expedition in addition to searching for a proper fit on my particular body. I have passed this obsession to my family, who all agree that no matter how attractive a garment looks, if it feels 'itchy and scratchy' it is not for us! Sensual satins and luxurious lycras are important to us.

So, if the feel and fit (and drape) are important to you (they should be) you need to investigate the return policy of ALL online clothing and costume purchases.

If you are able to see, feel and try on a garment in a local brick and mortar establishment – do so. And if you wish to keep your favorite brick and mortar stores around for another few years (or longer) BUY from that brick and mortar establishment. Many such stores are struggling to remain viable and stay in business.

I just read an article about the real possibility of our beloved Dayton's downtown Minneapolis store closing and becoming an office building. For those of the younger generation, ask your parents about Dayton's! Sure, years ago, it became Marshall Fields and then Macys, but many of my Minneapolis friends are horrified

that this brick and mortar historic/iconic store may disappear from downtown Minneapolis.

Of course for dance costumes, you will find a multitude of options available online from around the globe. And pricing extends from extravagant to downright cheap. If cheap is what you want, you are 'living the dream' with so many options. But keep in mind what 'cheap' gets you. It generally gets you: cheap fabrics and trims, cheap construction, and cheap fit. If you can afford cheap, then my advice is to be aware of return policies, in case you change your mind.

Also develop a relationship with any particular online costume purveyor – get to know what to expect from their quality and fit. The more you know about any product you consider buying, the less you will be disappointed.

Things to consider or look into, when considering ordering ready-made dance costumes on-line:

- Thoroughly read the guarantees and options for returns, in case your costume order disappoints you in any way.
- Be aware of where the costume is shipping from, and if it comes from overseas how long is shipping time. And then consider the time it will take for any returns or exchanges.
- Study the posted photos and

descriptions to determine exactly what you are promised (do they post photos that are exactly the costume or sort of like the costume?).

- Be aware of what different fashion/fabric/costume terms really mean, and figure out if the company is using those terms correctly.
- How reputable is the online shopping site?
- Does the company ever send out costumes 'on approval' with an easy return policy?
- Does the company ever display or sell their costumes at an event, so you can actually see and feel their quality?
- Are there any options for testing the company's sizes?
- Do the size charts really represent what the sizes are, and how they fit?
- Be aware of your actual measurements (not hoped for measurements) when picking your size.
- Try and figure out if the costumes are expected to fit tightly or not, and be aware of your preference of how you like something to fit.
- Is the costume displayed on a person, on a dress form or just on a hanger? It is best to know what the measurements are, for the

person or dress form displaying the costume.

- Ask your peers if they have tried (successfully) ordering from a website you are considering. Did they have a good or bad experience?
- Are there ratings or comments by customers? If there are, please read and determine if trying this company is a wise gamble. Be aware that there may be a negative comments that should be discounted. We've all read restaurant and/or hotel comments that could have been posted by competitors or people with unrealistic expectations.
- Develop your imagination as to how to jazz up a lack-luster (in person) costume with adding some features or lots of additional glitz (everything looks better with more rhinestones, right?)
- Have a plan B...have a talented alterations professional that you can call to 'fix' your costume. Or have another costume that you can wear instead, if your online choice doesn't work out.

I know there are a lot of fabulous costumes 'out there' waiting for you to discover them, but I also know there are lots of 'turkeys' that you may not be happy with, so shop carefully and with caution, keeping in mind what the downfalls of online shopping are.

The next step up, would be to purchase costumes that are 'cus-

tomized' from an already designed and created style. You have the option to pick your fabric and trim, and a size from their company size chart. It is better if you have some imagination to help envision how a particular colored fabric will look in the costume and then on you.

Satin Stitches has just joined this online web store option with our pre-designed, customizable basics and team performance costumes. We expect to continue to add many styles to our online web store at www.shop.satinstitches.com. We anticipate continuing to add additional styles, to supplement our totally custom dance costume manufacturing service.

So do your homework and take an educated chance on that 'perfect' online dance costume. Just make sure you can easily return it, if it turns out NOT to be 'perfect'.







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Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer.

Awakened Dance With 'nMotion Dance Center Opens in Fridley

by Suzi Blumberg

A new dance studio offering partnership and non-partnership dance instruction opened in Fridley this summer called the 'nMotion Dance Center. Jennelle Donnay is the owner of a teacher co-operative dance community called Awakened Dance and Sarah Barnett is the owner of 'nMotion Dance Center. One year ago they combined forces to provide a full-scale Dance Center that provides quality dance instruction for people of all ages. 'nMotion Dance Center (n'Motion) offers a variety of classes that include Tap, Jazz, Pointe, Hip Hop, plus partnership dances ranging from Ballroom, Latin, Swing, Country and Nightclub dances.

Jennelle starting her training at a local Fred Astaire Studio in 2001 and has been a ballroom instructor all over the Twin Cities teaching at studios such as Lets Dance Studio, Cinema Ballroom, Classic Ballroom and Cheek to Cheek Ballroom Studio. In 2008, Jennelle started teaching independently with Harry Benson at Cheek to Cheek Ballroom Dance Studio in Coon Rapids. A few years later, Harry and his wife, Kris, fell in love with the State of Washington and decided to move there and close Cheek to Cheek. Jennelle formed Awakened Dance with a few friends, who were also independent instructors, with the intent of being a traveling studio for communities in the Northwestern suburbs where dance instruction and a venue to dance was needed. Awakened Dance established several ballroom and social dance communities in Brooklyn Park, Northeast Minneapolis and continued the growth of the dance communities developed in the Coon Rapids, Blaine and Anoka areas.

Jennelle was introduced to 'nMotion six years ago when they combined forces at a local dance competition called Anoka County's Dancing With the Local Stars, based on the hit TV Show Dancing With the Stars. This was



n'Motion Dance Center



Dance at the n'Motion Dance Center

put on by 'nMotion and the Lee Carlson Center, a non-profit that helps families dealing with depression. Awakened Dance offers classes that provide healing to people suffering with depression through movement and exercise in a fun and uplifting way.

After a year of holding classes six days a week in the many areas of the Northwestern suburbs. Iennelle contacted Sarah Barnett of 'nMotion and they agreed to partner. All the community classes that Jennelle was teaching were combined under one roof, finally! Within a year, both businesses grew and together they needed more space. April 1st of this year they moved to a new location that doubled their dance space, office and reception area, and gave them three studios to hold classes in.

Their Grand Opening was held in August 2016 with an Open House that had dance shoe vendors from Very Fine Shoes and Capezio, 'nMotion dance bags and dance apparel. There were outdoor games like Plinko, Bean Bag Toss, a Bocce Ball course and a Bounce House in the parking lot. In the Luigi, the smaller front studio, there was a play area for kids with coloring sheets, past years' dance recitals playing on a flat screen, as well as healthy appetizers, root beer floats and popcorn to boot! On the last day, kids were offered a free hip hop class in the afternoon and adults enjoyed a free rumba class before a variety dance with special dance performances. Over 200 guests attended the Opening.

As Awakened Dance Community grew, Jennelle started training

other teachers to help with classes and to further help in developing their own independent teaching. It was through the breakdown of teaching and how to teach that Jennelle noticed there needed to be a new model to teach from and that the old model, or rather the intentions behind the old model, was outdated.

In her earlier training to be a dance instructor, she was taught to encourage all students to compete because this would be good for the teacher and the studio. She believes that the motivation behind competition isn't always for the benefit of the student, but rather for a studio's name and monetary gain. She feels that this motivation for a teacher to drive a student to compete can "skew how the potential of dance could better impact them". Jennelle feels that teachers need to discern and separate their own need to dance for themselves, from their own reasons for teaching. She believes there's a need to acknowledge and look deeper into the motivation to why we dance and the variety of reasons that people dance.

Whether it is for the social aspect, the connection through disciplined movement of our bodies or connection through community, dance can have a way of healing and helping us to achieve greater potential in all other aspects of our lives. For some, understanding the intention behind learning to lead can result in taking on leadership roles in other



People at the Grand Opening of n'Motion Dance Center



Items to buy at n'Motion Dance Center

areas. For others, learning to let go of control and choosing to follow helps one to trust not only themselves but trust another in leading them. One of the joys and beautiful things that come from partnership dance is to learn that we can move better as one and do more with our movement by working together.

The focus should not be on just the "steps" or pattern, but to rather understand how our bodies move and how to shape that movement. In understanding our intention to move, we can discover where that intention comes from. Jennelle says, "There are so many step-hungry people out there, and they are totally missing the point--it's not about the steps, it's about connection, in understanding our own movement and then how to communicate this movement to another."

"Together as teacher and student we are learning every day from each other." Jennelle says that her students help her become a better teacher, not only in improving her awareness of how to perform each move but how, through everyday actions and movement, we awaken something very deep inside of us and start to feel more alive and purposeful. The more we move and get comfortable and start understanding how we move in our bodies, the more we walk in confidence and walk our truth.

Jennelle likes to see dance change a person's life. There are many ways dance can do this--sometimes it's the awareness, connection and self-discovery of dancing with a partner. This is exciting for Jennelle. Her motto is, "Planting Seeds Thru Dance" and she helps create a better understanding and base for the movement that she teaches.

Jennelle's business plan is based on the Mandala approach and on Ellen Swanson's book 'Healing the Hierarchy Through Head, Heart, and Gut'. It is here where she uses the Circular Model of the Mandala and compares it to the hierarchal old model and fuses the need for both together. Understanding these needs and applying it to the intention of their teaching style in using the circular approach that we are all learning from each other and have our own life experiences to put into the making of this model. She wants to create a heart-centered unity where it brings out the potentials of what dance can show us in our day-to-day life.

It is important to understand where the need and drive of outward expression comes from as it is important that you find a teacher who is teaching with the intention in helping you find what you came into the studio for in the first place and to explore the ways in how dance is going to help you.

Social dancing and practicing what is learned in class is a key part of becoming a better dancer and to develop a skill set that one

can enjoy with a variety of people. Awakened Dance uses progressive training and dance opportunities like in-house weekly dances, Dancer Night Outs and Showcases to help channel the inner performer or to use routines to help ingrain a blending of amalgamations to do social-Once a month, Awakened Dance has a Dancers Night Out and bring their students to a different club in the Twin Cities so they can experience a club and use their dancing skills with other class members. Going out dancing together is a great way to meet new people and feel safe as a community.

She and her staff consider themselves stewards in the dance community that have an obligation as instructors to give students a real connection with dance, not a pricey dance package or encouragement to register for competition.

Sometimes we need an outside source to affirm that what we're spending our money and time on is worth it.

She tries to emphasize the need for dancing for ourselves and not for the approval of anyone else. Joining a dance partner in dance and meeting them in the middle gives us a better understanding of our individual roles. We can apply what we have learned in partnership dancing to other relations to better understand our approach and individual roles to the relationships in our lives.

Jennelle also guest teaches at a variety of dance clubs and studios such as with Tim Patrick's Blue Eyed Band and Café Accordion at Tapestry and at different clubs like B-Dales West Coast Swing Club and Stark's.

USA Dance Minnesota Project Dance will be at 'nMotion in November 2016. The class will be on Sunday, November 6, 13 and 20 at 2 pm. Jennelle will be teaching Salsa! Also, USA Dance Minnesota will hold December's monthly dance at 'nMotion Dance Center on Saturday, December 17.

'nMotion is located at 7988 University Ave NE in Fridley. For classes ranging for kids to adults in Tap, Jazz, Pointe, and Hip Hop contact Sarah at http://nmotion-dancecenter.com and for Partnership classes in Ballroom, Swing, Latin, Country and Nightclub dances contact Jennelle at 651-357-2060 or Awakened Dance at http://awakeneddance.com.



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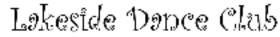
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