MINNESOTA

# DANCER

November 2017



Mike Checky and Maryann Kudalis having fun at Mall of America Dance Demo Photo by David Chin Photography



## **DANCER**

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



#### **USA Dance: Who Are We?**

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

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

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

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

Send advertising materials to Paul Stachour at MNDancer.Ads@gmail.com.

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#### **USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES**

November Saturday, November 18

Cinema Ballroom 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul

6:30 pm - Annual Meeting 7-8 pm lesson - Bolero Instructor: TBD 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music January Saturday, January 20

DanceLife Ballroom 4444 West 76th St, Suite 250, Edina New Location!

7-8 pm lesson - Foxtrot Instructor: Shinya McHenry 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

December Saturday, December 16

Cinema Ballroom 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul

Holiday Gala Dance
7-8 lesson - Viennese Waltz
Instructor: TBD
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

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

If you join USA Dance at a monthly dance, you attend that dance for free!

#### USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Meeting Minutes

The USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Meeting Minutes will be published in the December issue because the board did not meet in October 2017.

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Communications Committee is seeking a volunteer(s) for the following opportunities:

- 1. **Design/Layout Editor** This person is a member of the newsletter committee and works with the Executive Editor to design, create and prepare our 28-30 page monthly ballroom dance newsletter. Experience with Adobe InDesign is desirable. We'd like a creative, knowledgeable individual who is comfortable meeting deadlines, is detail oriented, and is able to volunteer 8-10 hours per month. We request a minimum 1-year commitment, position to start January, 2018.
- 2. **Website Maintenance** The webmaster is responsible for keeping the USA Dance-Minnesota website current by entering data and updating the calendar. We use a template that is easy to maintain and we will train you. We'd like a volunteer who has some experience working with web site templates, is detail oriented, and able to volunteer 4-6 hours per month. We request a 1-year commitment, position to start January, 2018.

Contact Bonnie Burton at bonnieburton@comcast.net or 952.454.4620 for more info.

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM'S

# GRAND OPENING



CELEBRATION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** 

Refreshments

**Appetizers** 

**Door Prizes** 

**Group Class** 

Dance Party 7-10pm

**Special Performances** 

Tickets \$10

Call (952) 934-0900

**NEW LOCATION!** 

1495 Stieger Lake Ln

Victoria, MN

www.acballroom.com



### DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

#### **USA DANCE**

**USA Dance** – **Monthly** - 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, November 18, at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul. 6:30 pm Annual Meeting. Lesson 7-8 pm and dance 8-11 pm. Lesson - Bolero. Instructor: TBD. 8-11 pm Variety Dance Music.

**Project Dance** - November 5, 12 and 19 at 2 pm, at Dancers Studio, Sterling Hall, 415 Pascal Street North, St. Paul MN 55104. Fridley. Lesson - Beginner Night Club Two-Step. Instructor: Troy Lerum.

#### **WEEKLY DANCES**

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

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

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

**Costa Rica Ballroom** – Wednesday, Practice Party, 8:15 - 9 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 DANCES**

**Argentine Tango Milonga** - Second Saturday of each month, November 11, class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

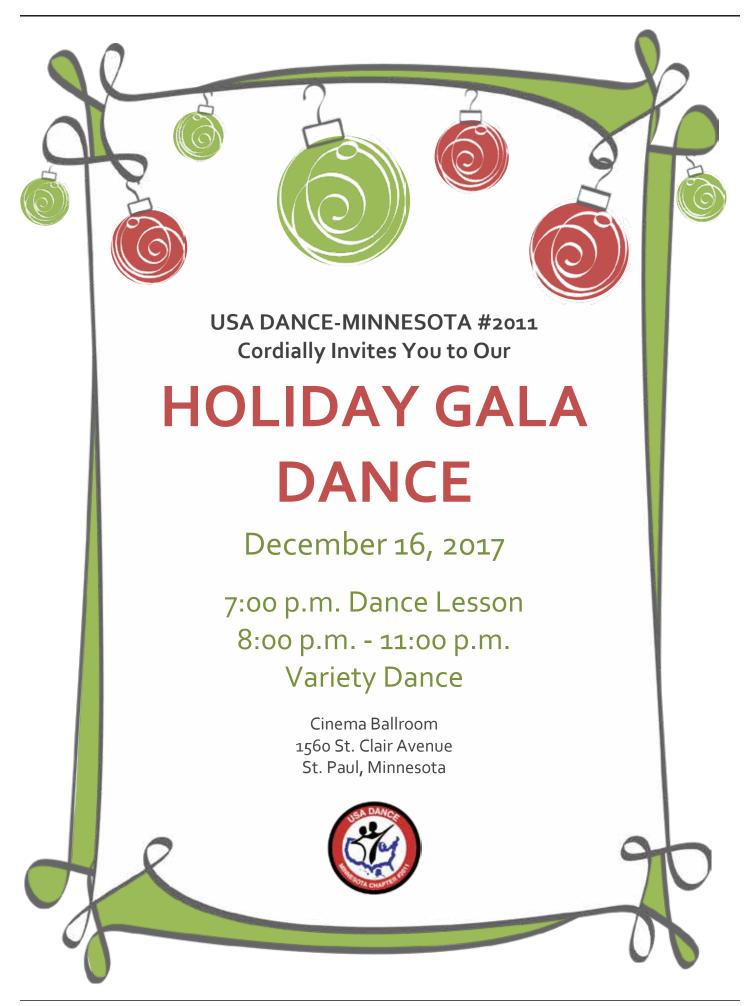
**Café Bailar Dance Club** – Saturday Variety Party, November 11 and 25, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

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

Dancing with Jerry O'Hagan and His Orchestra - November 12 and 26, Cinema Ballroom, 6:15 - 10 pm.

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

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



### DANCE CONTACTS

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

#### **STUDIOS**

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM 1495 Steiger Lake Lane, Victoria, MN 55386 952.934.0900 www.acballroom.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DANCE WITH LOISA DONNAY 3142 1st Ave S, Minneapolis 612.822.8436 www.mndance.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA 10 Southdale Center, Edina 612.564.5483 www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCELIFE BALLROOM 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

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

LA DANZA 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.qd/umnbdc

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

#### **DANCE INSTRUCTORS**

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

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

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

For more information, contact Bonnie Burton at <a href="mailto:bonnieburton@comcast.net">bonnieburton@comcast.net</a> or Tom Crable at <a href="mailto:tcrable3s@gmail.com">tcrable3s@gmail.com</a>.



#### **COMPETITION CALENDAR**

December 2, 2017

California State DanceSport Championships - 2018 NQE

Oakland, CA

January 12 - 14, 2018

**Snow Ball Dancesport Competition** 

Minneapolis, MN

January 13 - 15, 2018

**Manhattan Amateur Classic - 2018 NQE** 

Jersey City, NJ

February 2 - 4, 2018

**Southeastern Dancesport Championships - 2018 NQE** 

Birmingham, AL

February 16 - 18, 2018

**Mid-Atlantic Championships NQE** 

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

February 16 - 18, 2018

**Senior IV National DanceSport Championships** 

Hosted by MidEastern USA Dance chapter # 6001, Bethesda, MD

April 6-8, 2018

**National DanceSport Championships** 

Baltimore, MD

June 29 - July 1, 2018

**Gumbo DanceSport Championships NQE** 

Baton Rouge, LA

#### LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

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

www.lynnesdancenews.com



# Beginner Night Club Two-Step!

Sunday, November 5 — 2:00 pm

Sunday, November 12 — 2:00 pm

Sunday, November 19 — 2:00 pm

Classes with Troy Lerum at



STERLING HALL 415 Pascal Street North St. Paul, MN 55104 651.641.0777

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





**USA** Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$3. Non-members pay \$8.

Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org or fill out a membership form available at class. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Leland & Leslie Whitney are preparing to compete at four competions early next year: February 2018 – Southeastern Dancesport Championships (NQE – Birmingham, Alabama); February 2018 – Mid Atlantic Championships (NQE and Senior IV National Championships – Bethesda, Maryland); April 2018 – Senior III and younger National Championships (Baltimore, Maryland).

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

USA Dance provides the opportunity to dance for those of us with modest means. You don't have to be wealthy to be a social or competitive ballroom dancer. For example, the member admission fee for USA Dance-Minnesota monthly dances, held the third Saturday of every month, is only \$10. The member entry fee for our Sunday afternoon Project Dance lessons is just \$3!

Leslie and I competed in several events this year, all with reasonable entry fees:

Birmingham, Alabama	We danced six events in 26 dance heats:	\$300 total entry fees
Bethesda, Maryland	We danced five events in 21 dance heats:	\$220 total entry fees
Kansas City, Kansas	We danced six events in 26 dance heats:	\$180 total entry fees
Charlotte, North Carolina	We danced six events in 26 dance heats:	\$320 total entry fees

Please note that "Total Entry Fees" includes competitor entry and dance fees, as well as admission for both my wife and me to all of the day and evening sessions. We like to watch and cheer loudly for our many friends from around the country.

The entry fees are the same whether you are dancing as an amateur couple, a teacher/student couple or a Pro/Am couple.

All levels of proficiency are available to our dancers: Newcomer, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Open Novice, Open Pre-champ and Open Championship level.

Our competitive dancers come from all age groups: very young children to dancers in their seventies and even eighties.

Dancing is fun, healthy and inexpensive with USA Dance!

Come dance with us!



Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer. She works at Donaldson Company global headquarters in sales.. She is active in her church including dancing with a Hebrew worship dance team, gardening and walking her two bichons.

Each fall, USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 under the direction of Dan and Yvonne Viehman, performs a huge ballroom dance presentation at the Mall of America in celebration of National Ballroom Week. The show includes solos, groups, and formation teams dancing ballroom, polka, hip-hop, and jazz numbers. It is a very fun representation of the Minnesota dance community.

I've enjoyed being involved in this production over the years and was excited to hear they planned to organize a cha cha flash mob performance to start the show off. Bonnie Burton, a USA Dance Minnesota board member, coordinated the event and practices began in mid-August for the September 24th performance. The choreography came from the USA Dance National office, and was modified for the Minnesota dance group

## I Danced a Cha Cha Flash Mob at the Mall of America!

## By Suzi Blumberg

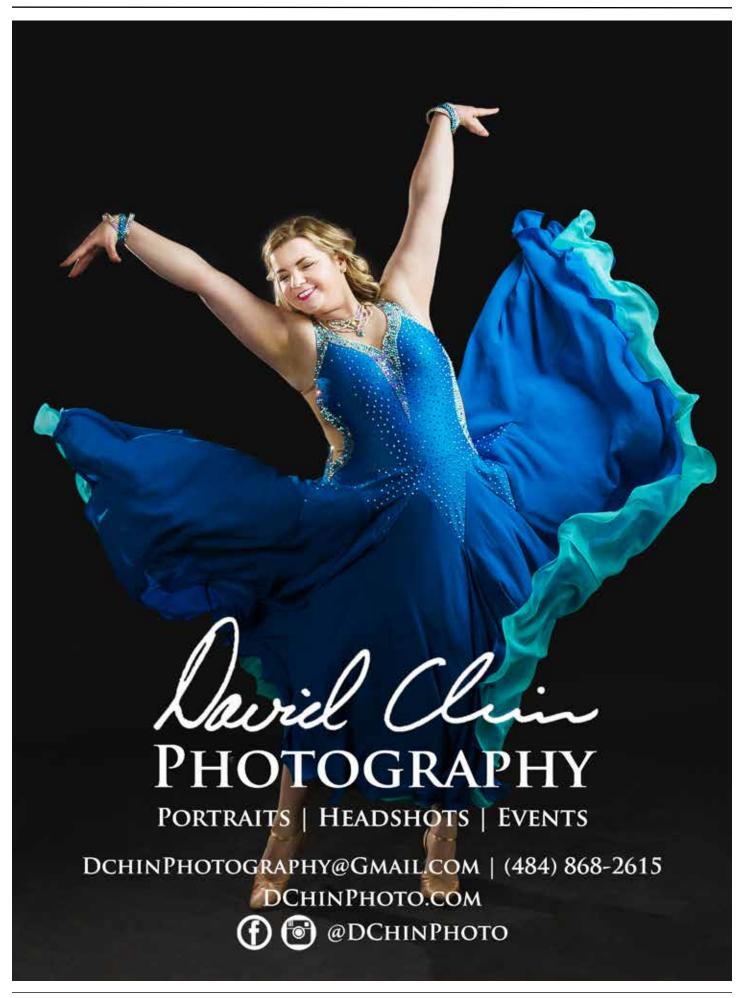
by local pro Scott Anderson. There were 70 to 80 people who attended practice regularly for four weeks! My dance partner was Jeff Schoeneck and we really spent a lot of time learning and mastering the routine. We had a great time perfecting the cha-cha together and we went to most of the practices at Dancers Studio.

Marcy McHenry, of Dancers Studio, graciously donated her Sterling Hall event room, where we held the lessons. We really appreciated having such a nice space to learn the dance. wasn't an 'easy' routine and everyone worked hard to learn it. Bonnie Burton kept us all on track with weekly emails with instruction videos, so we could get the routine in our brain and muscle memory.

Paul and Natalie Botes, America Classic Ballroom owners, allowed us to practice in their beautiful brand new studio in Victoria on Saturdays as the date got closer. Jeff Chinn also had groups at his house Mondays and Saturdays before the big date. He has a beautiful dance floor in his home.

The date finally came! The plan was to mingle at the Mall of America at the Rotunda where the event was held. Then, when the music started, we got into our designated lines and began the dance. It was a whole lot of fun and the crowd really liked it! After our number opened the show, there was an hour more of exceptional local dance entertainment.

Many thanks to Scott Anderson, Marcy McHenry, Bonnie Burton, Jeff Chinn, my partner Jeff Schoeneck, and USA Dance-Minnesota for making this a great event!



# Dance Performances Celebrate National Ballroom Week!

# By Yvonne Viehman, Dance Demo Director, USA Dance-Minnesota

On September 22, 2017, USA Dance-Minnesota hosted dance demo in downtown Minneapolis at the Oracle - International Building Atrium. As folks munched on lunch, we treated them to a 30-minute demo of both rhythm and smooth dances. Many thanks to Kristen Longhenry and Oracle for their donation to our cause, too. We were delighted to have the following dancers join us for this demo: Doris & Ron Lazarski, Sharon & Ron Meyer, Lorie & C.J. Hurst, Leslie & Leland Whitney, Yu Ping & Bob Anholt, and my husband Dan & myself. We were told our demo drew its largest group of spectators they have ever had at an event - awesome!

On September 24, 2017, USA Dance-Minnesota held its annual

at the Mall of America. We were thrilled to see a great turnout of both dancers and spectators! To start this year's dance extravaganza, USA Dance-Minnesota sponsored a cha-cha flash mob. Back in August, many a dancer gathered at Dancers Studio to learn the choreography USA Dance Nationals had developed. challenge to all chapters was put forth and USA Dance-Minnesota stepped up! Scott Anderson led the charge as dancers worked their way through the fun choreography.

Bonnie Burton was instrumental in bringing together all of the dancers for lessons and practice sessions. Jeff Chinn, Gary Stroick, Lee Whitney and Janie Nordberg were so helpful in leading the practices and answering

questions galore from the dancers as they perfected the chore-ography. Over 85 dancers joined the craze – many of whom were first-time performers! Their enthusiasm was infectious and the fever continued for the next 75 minutes!

Over the course of the afternoon, we showcased the talents of many ladies groups: the Summit Dance Shoppe Ladies, the youth and ladies groups from Dance Unlimited, who were all "jazzed" up. I think they brought their own cheering section because the crowd roared with each performance by these artistic women!

We then welcomed the Twin Cities DanceSport Formation Team who impressed us all with their "James Bond" medley. The magical dancing continued with Janie Nordberg's Rhapsody & Rhythm's team who enthralled the audience with their fabulous tango and bolero numbers. Their precision was impeccable and their ability to emote - striking!

The fun continued with our friends from local cable TV's



showcase

"Music around the World Polka Spotlight" as seniors danced old time waltz and polka, which always gets the crowd cheering. Dresses were swirling about the Rotunda floor when the dancers then dazzled us with the American smooth dances: waltz, tango, foxtrot and Viennese waltz. We were mesmerized by the talents of the Sleigh Belle Dancers, as they brought us hints of the holidays with their jazz routine. They always keep us yearning for more!

One of the groups who truly rocked the house were the Rhythm & Swing Dancers with their lindy hop kicks, flips and eye-catching steps! It is amazing to watch how well they keep pace with the fast tempo, yet never miss a beat. These same skills were featured in the dynamic dancing duo of Terry Gardner

and Stephanie Riley – simply spectacular to behold and left us all breathless!

A spell-binding solo waltz by C.J. & Lorie Hurst had the crowd entranced as they danced effortlessly across the Rotunda floor!

We were intrigued by a new group of dancers - ladies from Dancers Studio featured a Viennese Waltz routine. It was unique in that you normally see that style of dance performed by a couple. They performed a tribute to Nic Westlake who had lost his life this past July in a train-car accident. Viennese Waltz happened to be one of Nic's favorite styles of dance and it was fitting that they were dancing alone, as if they'd lost their partner. Yet, they continued to dance on, carrying his memory with them. It was

a beautiful remembrance, with choreography by Whitney Irene.

We finished out the evening with a series of rhythm dances including cha-cha, rumba, hustle, west coast swing and east coast swing! Dancing is contagious, it is a high like no other, and the enthusiasm flourished amidst all of our performers! Thank you to all who participated, whether it was your first time or your tenth time! Many kudos to Joyce Thompson for being our ever-calm music technician! Thanks also to Ted and Mary Ringberg and Carol Post Stroick for being our ondeck captains! Thank you also to my husband Dan Viehman, for emceeing and dancing with me, and reminding me in those anxious moments, "It's just a demo!"

#### DANCE DEMO NEWS

Volunteer dancers are wanted to perform in the following dance demos.

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26: 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm

Rosedale Mall – Center Court Rosedale, MN

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm**

Rosedale Mall - Center Court Rosedale, MN

Please contact Yvonne Viehman at 763.245.7936 or email me at <a href="mailto:danvman@aol.com">danvman@aol.com</a> for further details.

## David Chin Photography Mall of America 2017 Dance Demo





































# PARTICIPANT LIST USA DANCE DEMO AT MALL OF AMERICA SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

#### CHA CHA FLASH MOB

Janice Andrzejek, Bob Anholt, Suzi Blumberg, Emily Boole, Lance & Karen Boole, Jim Bourassa, Bonnie Burton, Mike Checky, Chuck Chen, Jeff Chinn, Stephanie Clausen, Jackie Dalton, Dale Denn, Roxanne Denysiuk, Don Devine, Warren Ericson, Tordis Flaathe, Diane Fraser, Brennan Gensch, Scot Gore, Richard Haney, Margaret Hanson, Delores Houle, Denny Hukriede, Julie Johnston, Gary Jedynak, Bill Kieffer, Regina Kim, Leslie Koepke, Maryann Kudalis, Bill Lawrence, Cheu Lee, Choua Lee, Bob Lex, Conchita Ligeralde, Deb & Paul Lundgren, Sue Martin, RaNae Murphy, Kurt Nelson, Janie Nordberg, Marcia Novak, Debra Olson, Barb Peterson, Bruce Pomerantz, Tom Reinke, Jeffrey Schoeneck, Linda Schuck, Stuart Schukei, Bill Scripps, Lyndon Smith, Ed Soltis, Jackie Dalton & Paul Stachour, Rebecca Steinkruger, Ray Stiff, Greg Story, Dinah Taylor, Joyce Thompson, Frank Trode, Ha Tuong, Leland & Leslie Whitney, Laura Zhang, Nia Zeng, Yuen Zeng, Yuping Zheng.

#### JAZZ - DANCE SHOPPE LADIES

Marie Reilly, Sangeetha Larson, Barbie Albers, Bonnie Warhol, Jodi Ayd, Monica Vlach, Sara Madler, Michelle Skrypec, Sarah Rudell Beach, Amanda Ayd, Stevie Roles, Kym Latterall

#### TWIN CITIES DANCESPORT FORMATION TEAM

Cheri & Art Rolnick, Bernie & Scott Osborn, Karen & Lance Boole, Ember Reichgott Junge & Dennis Yelkin, Vicki Nauschultz & John Burns

#### TANGO- RHAPSODY & RHYTHM TEAM

Emily Boole & Brennan Gensch, Stephanie Riley & Nick Benish, Kelly Davitt & Anthony Carlsen, Joy Davitt & Ehren Kluge

#### JAZZ - YOUTH -- DANCE UNLIMITED

Lily Anderson, Anna Becker, Emma Brown, Anna DuSaire, Allison Foster, Emily Foster, Julia Fromstein, Anna Haen, Taylor Huempfner, Marisa Lee, Lucy Lundholm, Lily Simonett, Raelyn Wertz

#### OLD TIME WALTZ

Susan & Arthur Hellmann, Doris & Ron Lazarski, Sharon & Ron Meyer

#### WALTZ

Cheri & Art Rolnick, Yu Ping & Bob Anholt, Linda & Tom Crable, Bonnie Burton & Ed Soltis, Leslie & Lee Whitney, Jill Smith & Greg Warner, Ginny Gross & Denny Hukreide, Lorie & C.J. Hurst, Whitney Irene and Bill Scripps, Lisa Wu & Daniel Lai

#### **TANGO**

Cheri & Art Rolnick, Yu Ping & Bob Anholt, Linda & Tom Crable, Bonnie Burton & Ed Soltis, Leslie & Lee Whitney, Jill Smith & Greg Warner, Ginny Gross & Denny Hukreide, Lorie & C.J. Hurst, Whitney Irene & Bill Scripps, Lisa Wu & Daniel Lai

#### JAZZ-SLEIGH BELLE DANCERS

Barbie Albers, Lori Goldstein, Pat Dechaine, Diane Frey, Sara Madler, Jodi Ayd, Trisha Foster, Gretchen Novak, Marie Reilly, Nicky Thorvilson, Shannon Saleck, Stevie Roles, Bonnie Warhol, Melissa McCabe, Kym Latterell, JoJo Latterell, Amanda Ayd, Sarah Rudell Beach

#### **FOXTROT**

Cheri & Art Rolnick, Yu Ping & Bob Anholt, Linda & Tom Crable, Bonnie Burton & Ed Soltis, Leslie & Lee Whitney, Jill Smith & Greg Warner, Ginny Gross & Denny Hukreide, Maryann Kudalis & Mike Checky, Lorie & C.J. Hurst, Whitney Irene & Bill Scripps, Jackie Dalton & Paul Stachour, Debra Olson & Stuart Schukei, Lisa Wu & Daniel Lai

#### VIENNESE WALTZ

Cheri & Art Rolnick, Yu Ping & Bob Anholt, Linda & Tom Crable, Bonnie Burton & Ed Soltis, Leslie & Lee Whitney, Jill Smith & Greg Warner, Lorie & C.J. Hurst, Whitney Irene and Bill Scripps, Lisa Wu & Daniel Lai

#### **POLKA**

Susan & Arthur Hellmann, Doris & Ron Lazarski, Sharon & Ron Meyer

#### **BOLERO- RHAPSODY & RHYTHM TEAM**

Emily Boole & Brennan Gensch, Nelly Dorovski & Nick Benish, Joy Davitt & Anthony Carlsen, Kelly Davitt & Ehren Kluge or Frank Kohlasch.

#### LADIES GROUP - DANCE UNLIMITED

Diane Frey, Erica Frey, Trish Foster, Nicky Marso, Nicky Thorvilson, Alina Janachovsky, Erin Koski, Stacey Dennehy

#### WALTZ - SOLO

Lorie & C.J. Hurst

#### CHA CHA

Jeralyn Mohr & Ha Tuong, Whitney Irene & Bill Scripps, Jill Smith & Greg Warner, Linda & Tom Crable, Yvonne & Dan Viehman

#### **RUMBA**

Jeralyn Mohr & Ha Tuong, Whitney Irene & Bill Scripps, Jill Smith & Greg Warner, Linda & Tom Crable, Ginny Gross & Denny Hukreide, Jackie Dalton & Paul Stachour

#### VIENNESE WALTZ – DANCERS STUDIO LADIES

Mirna Vela, Ligaya Carlos, Jenessa Scherb, Tina Nguyen, Elora Wiggins, Isabella Amour, Bethany Schur, Margeret Stockton, Kathy Griebel, Danielle Derose, Whitney Irene

#### WEST COAST SWING

Ginny Gross & Denny Hukreide, Maryann Kudalis & Mike Checky, Linda & Tom Crable, Whitney Irene & Quang Nguyen, Debra Olson & Stuart Schukei, Yvonne & Dan Viehman

#### IIVE - Solo

Stephanie Riley & Terry Gardner

#### **HUSTLE**

Ginny Gross & Denny Hukreide, Whitney Irene & Quang Nguyen, Linda & Tom Crable, Yvonne & Dan Viehman

#### JAZZ – YOUTH - DANCE UNLIMITED

Lily Anderson, Anna Becker, Emma Brown, Caroline Burnett, Sloan Carden, Anna DuSaire, Allison Foster, Emily Foster, Anna Haen, Taylor Huempfner, Rachel Katzovitz, Grace La Mar, Marisa Lee, Lucy Lundholm, Greta Lunke, Kaylin McCabe, Brooklynne Patterson, Maddie Schutte, Lily Simonett, Avery Stahl, Makayla Stocke, Alyson Weinberg, Raelyn Wertz.

#### EAST COAST SWING

ALL DANCERS!!

#### THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR LOVE OF DANCING!!



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

# What is a cringe-worthy dance costume? It's a dance costume that makes the viewer or audience wince and think to themselves "oh my, that doesn't flatter the dancer" or "ooh, I wouldn't have worn that" or your eyebrows raise dramatically and you think "really?"

As a professional fashion/costume designer (for my company, Satin Stitches Ltd) I am AL-WAYS critiquing costumes and even street apparel. It just goes with the profession that I 'size up' what everyone wears, all the time! "Once a fashion designer, always a fashion designer!"

With my "Dancing with the Stars: Costume Critique" I'm able to share my dance costume thoughts. Of course I understand that we all have our personal preferences for colors, fabrics and looks. I'll be the first to uphold everyone's right to love or hate certain styles. And if you

# Avoiding Cringe-Worthy Costumes

## By Deborah J. Nelson/ Satin Stitches Ltd.

follow my blogs, you should already know many of my likes and dislikes.

Some of the specific dance costume details that I really dislike and yes, cringe at, when I view them include:

- 1. Color combinations: I personally adhere to color principles that I describe in my 'Wild World of Color' Blog. Most upsetting is when pastels are combined with jewel tones, causing the pastel colors to just fade away, leaving the jewel tones visible. This combination becomes totally unbalanced.
- 2. Fabric combinations: Dance costumes often need to combine woven/non-stretch fabrics with knitted/stretch fabrics. If the stretch/non-stretch factors aren't taken into account, the result can be badly fitting costumes or puckering seams neither a welcome sight.
- Unsuitable styles for body shapes and for age groups: Refer to my blog titled "Age Appropriate Costumes". Children should NOT be wearing adult themed or sophisticated or sensual cos-Adults should not be tumes. wearing juvenile costumes. 'woman of age' should not be reliving her Shirley Temple days, nor wear child pageant style costumes that she never had the opportunity to wear when she was young. Teen or 20-something clubbing dresses should not be worn by great-grandmas.
- 4. Bad design especially 'over design': Dancers should resist the urge to design their own costumes without the input of a professional designer or at least someone with the restraint to not include 'everything but the kitchen sink' in a design. Yes, less CAN be more, creating sophisticated costumes, not amateur-hour costumes.

- 5. Bad design incorporating drapes that camouflages the body and too-long fringe that when dancing it camouflages the body, making the wearer look very wide.
- 6. Bad fit: I continue to preach this concept even the most unattractive or boring costume will look so much better if it fits properly. Conversely, the most spectacular costume can look really bad if it is ill fitting. All your audience will be looking at, is how badly you look when your costume is too tight, too short, too loose or too big. Invest in proper tailoring or order a size that fits you.
- 7. Unsuitable costume styles for a particular style of dance: Of course there are always exceptions to the 'rules', but certain silhouettes and fabrics lend them-

- selves to certain styles of dance. When a heavy, boxy costume is worn by someone doing a light, floaty routine, there is a disconnect. And vice versa. Dancers need to be aware of the style generally required for a particular dance presentation.
- 8. Inappropriate use of nude fabrics on a costume: This is one of the most annoying (and cringe-worthy) categories. I have written several articles and blogs on this. NEVER have a nude fabric located in an area on the body where if it REALLY WAS NUDE it would be totally scandalous and the dancer would be hauled off to jail. Do NOT put nude fabric over the woman's 'naughty bits' as one of my favorite DWTS Pro Dancers would say!
- 9. The lazy use of elastic banding on costumes that could have

- been a decorative detail: Plain or nude-toned elastic IS UGLY. Avoid it at all costs. If you need a utilitarian strap to help a costume not fall off, OK, use it, but first consider incorporating the strap into the design not just a 'stuck on' strap. You can cover it with matching fabric and of course you can add a few rhinestones (or many) to accent this strap that is now a featured part of your dance costume.
- 10. Adding a strap to anchor a front bust coverage piece that just 'ends' at the side of the body in a point. Ugh!

These are all my personal dislikes and cringe-worthy costume details that should be avoided to create more flattering dance costumes for all.





#### Dancing in Cottonwood, MN

#### By Karen Meiners and Paul Stachour

Imagine that you are the Community Education Director of a school district in rural western Minnesota, such as Cottonwood, a town of 1212 people. And that someone comes to you with the request for a class to be offered in partner dancing. Just that. No more. What do you do? It is your job to fill the wants and needs of the community, provided such can be done for a reasonable cost.

You know that there is nothing in town, otherwise they would not have come to you. A quick check in the two nearest towns of any size (Marshall and Granite Falls) comes up empty, as does a look further away. You search for dance ballrooms, and find the nearest one in Glenwood, 88 miles away. A phone call to the president of the dance club located there indicates that they do not have permanent instructors, but rely on occasional people from Fargo, St Cloud, and the Twin Cities. That seems far, so you try Brookings and Sioux Falls in SD; coming up empty there as well. You contact Glenwood's instructors by e-mail and all but one decline due to the travel distance involved. One from the twin cities says "Let's talk possibilities", but he is leaving the following week for a three-month cruise.

And so you defer for three months,

and then begin discussion. How many lessons need to be scheduled to make it worthwhile? Taught over one day or two? Should there be only group lessons, or private ones as well? Should there be a late afternoon or early evening multihour dance? Must everyone prepay or will we allow drop-ins? Can individuals sign up, or only pairs? And at what price do we set to break even and attract a teacher? Where/how do we need to advertise to get the minimum number needed to hold the class?

Eventually a decision was made: A Saturday afternoon in mid-March (no-one would be working in the fields that day) with three onehour separately payable segments, each segment with two half-hour lessons of a single dance. We will offer waltz, tango, foxtrot, rumba, cha-cha, and (east coast single-time) swing. We advertise in our winter Community Education brochure and extend our listing to eight different school systems, with a "press-release" to local area newspapers and radio stations. The expectation is we will need ten pairs fully paid for at least one segment each, two weeks prior to the event date, or the event will need to be cancelled.

Then we wait. Eventually 14 pairs sign up, and 12 pairs provide pay-

ment. Most from close by, but one pair from Tracy, one from New Ulm, one from Glenwood and even one from Watertown, South Dakota. And one pair schedules a private class with the instructor. The day (March 11) comes, and 10 pairs show up just before 1 pm.

The dance class location is the Community Education room in the school. It is 44 X 30, with a mirror along one side. The floor is terrazzo, reasonable though not the best for ballroom dancing. The instructor, Paul Stachour, brings his own DJ dance computer, which can plug into the audio system of the room. He has over 1000 dancesongs, and can play any of them at variable-speeds, thus being able to fit the speed of the dance music to the level of ability of the students in the class. Three hours is a long time, both for the instructor and the students, but six pairs manage to tough it out for the full time. The students filled out an evaluation form, generally very favorable.

This attempt was definitely a success. Enough people signed up and paid. We held the event. The students liked it. After looking at the evaluation and comments to determine if we will offer it again, we decided to schedule a dance event for March 24, 2018, with details to be decided.

#### **MINNESOTA**

# **DANCER**

