

MINNESOTA

DANCING TIMES

A publication of the Minnesota Chapter 2011 of USA Dance

October 2012



Photo from our September dance by Cathy Dessert

Inside this month's issue:
USA Dance Minnesota Board Elections, Using Rhinestones, Finding a Dance Partner, and More!

Join us for the USA Dance

October Monthly Dance

Saturday, October 20th

7-8 pm Waltz Lesson

Instructor: Angella Hadrath

8-11 pm Variety Dance

Music DJ: Angella Hadrath

\$7 USADance members ■ \$10 non-members

(Become a USA Dance-MN member tonight and get in free!)

Hotline: (651) 483-5467

Email: info@usadance-mn.org

Web: www.usadance-mn.org

American Classic Ballroom

550 Market Street
Chanhassen, MN 55317

USA Dance MN HOTLINE

(651) 483-5467

www.usadance-mn.org

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

Dancers' Night Out

Fri 10/5 - Line Dance Party; Tropical Ballroom, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury; Lesson at 7:30, dance 8:15-11; \$10; call 651 414 0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Sat 10/6 - Practice Party; Tropical Ballroom, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury; \$10; call 651 414 0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Sun 10/7 - Free American Mambo Group Class; Dancers Studio, 415 N Pascal Street, St. Paul

Sun 10/7 - Salsa Dance Party; Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St. N, St. Paul; Call 651 641 0777 or visit www.dancersstudio.com

Fri 10/12 - Whitesidewalls; Medina Entertainment Center, 500 Hwy 55, Medina; Doo-Wop/Rock-a-Billy/Rock 'n Roll; Lesson at 7:30, dance 8:30-11:30; \$12; call 763 478 6661 or visit www.medinaentertainment.com

Sat 10/13 - Variety Dance; Tropical Ballroom, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury; Lesson at 7:30, dance 8:30-11; \$10; call 651 414 0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Sat 10/13 - Aqua Gliders Dance Club; Assumption Church Activity Building, 306 77th St., Richfield; Rumba lesson at 7, dance 8:45-11; partner required; \$20 per couple; call 612 869 3062

Sat 10/13 - Tango Society of Minnesota Milonga; B-Dale Club, 2100 N Dale St, Roseville; Lesson at 8:30, dance 9:30-1; \$12 (\$8 members); call 612-224-2905 or visit www.mntango.org

Sun 10/14 - Free American Mambo Group Class; Dancers Studio, 415 N Pascal Street, St. Paul

Sun 10/14 - Salsa Dance Party; Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St. N, St. Paul; Call 651 641 0777 or visit www.dancersstudio.com

Sun 10/14 - Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra; Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; Big Band/Variety/Swing; lesson at 6:15, dance 7-10; \$12; call 651 699 5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Fri 10/19 - Variety Dance; Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; Lesson at 7, dance 8-11; \$10; call 651 699 5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sat 10/20 - USA Dance; American Classic Ballroom, 550 Market Street, Chanhassen; Waltz lesson with Angella Hadrath at 7, dance 8-11; \$10, \$7 USA Dance members

Sun 10/21 - Free American Mambo Group Class; Dancers Studio, 415 N Pascal Street, St. Paul

Sun 10/21 - Salsa Dance Party; Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St. N, St. Paul; Call 651 641 0777 or visit www.dancersstudio.com

Sun 10/21 - MN Ballroom Blast; Coffman Memorial Union -- 300 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN;

Sun 10/21 - Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra; Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; Big Band/Variety/Swing; lesson at 6:15, dance 7-10; \$12; call 651 699 5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Fri 10/26 - Line Dance Party; Tropical Ballroom, 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury; Lesson at 7:30, dance 8:15-11; \$10; call 651 414 0644 or visit www.tropicalballroom.com

Fri 10/26 - Salsa Fusion; Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; Lesson at 7, dance 8-11; call 651 699 5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sun 10/28 - Free American Mambo Group Class; Dancers Studio, 415 N Pascal Street, St. Paul

Sun 10/28 - Salsa Dance Party; Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St. N, St. Paul; Call 651 641 0777 or visit www.dancersstudio.com

Sun 10/28 - Jerry O'Hagan Orchestra; Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul; Big Band/Variety/Swing; lesson at 6:15, dance 7-10; \$12; call 651 699 5910 or visit www.cinemaballroom.com

Sun 10/28 - Halloween Dance; Cheek to Cheek Dance Studio, 11415 Foley Blvd NW, Coon Rapids; Costume party; call 763 755 3644 or visit www.cheektocheekdancestudio.com

Wed 10/31 - Halloween Dance; Blue Moon Ballroom, 2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester; Costume Variety Dance; lesson at 7, dance 7:30-10; call 507 288 0556 or visit www.blumoonballroom.com

American Classic Ballroom.....(952) 934-0900
www.americanclassicdance.com, 550 Market St., Chanhassen, MN 55317 (494 west to Hwy 5, right on Market Blvd, right on Market St.)



Photo from Twin Cities Open submitted by Grace Peterson. Check out photos from the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club on page 21.

USA Dance – MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, September 4, 2012
Submitted by Leslie Whitney

In attendance: Sue Zeller (President), Cathy Dessert (Vice-President), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Zhuojing Liu, Mike Jones, Yeun Chou, Julie Elholm, Nels Petersen, Taylor Wall, Michael Kasinkas

Location: Quixotic Coffee, 769 Cleveland Avenue South, St. Paul

Call to Order: Quorum established. Agenda approved. June minutes amended and approved.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

- Jane distributed a financial report as of August 31, 2012.
- The treasurer's report was approved.
- A deposit was made to hold the hotel for Star of the North.

Board Meeting Date and Time

It was decided that our date, time, and location would remain unchanged.

PROJECTS

Minnesota Ballroom Blast

- This event will take place at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union.
- Sunday, October 21, 2012
- This event will offer dancers an opportunity to participate in a low-stress, exciting ballroom event and to receive a critique written by experienced ballroom professionals.
- Please consider participating by choosing to compete or to watch the fun. Volunteering would offer an opportunity to be part of the event and support the dance community.
- Details for registration are in the Dancing Times.

Star of the North

- Jessica Madson is returning as Chairperson.
- Michael Kasinkas will be the Facilities Manager.
- March 2nd, 3rd, 2013
- Plans are underway for another amazing SOTN.

Board Elections

- The election will be held at the November monthly dance.

Annual Meeting

- 6:30, Saturday, December 15th at Retro Ballroom.
- Attend and receive free entrance to the dance.

Mall of America Demo

- Thursday, November 1st.
- Please consider dancing or coming to watch.

Minnesota Madness and October Monthly Dance

- October 20th. Details in the Dancing Times.
- Monthly dance will be on October 20th in Chanhassen, American Classic Ballroom.
- ERV has requested to join the monthly dance rotation.

Next Meeting:

6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
Quixotic Coffee
769 Cleveland Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116 ■

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization formed to preserve and promote ballroom dancing, both as an art and a healthful sport. The Minnesota chapter, USA Dance 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 should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to: newsletter@usadance-mn.org.

Subscriptions: \$22/year. Make checks payable to USA Dance MN and send to Theresa Kimler, 7050 49th St. N, St. Paul, MN 55128 ■

Advertising

DISPLAY ADS: To advertise your event or professional service, submit a digital file (300 dpi pdf or jpeg format ONLY) or camera-ready artwork to Suzi Blumberg (email: suzi.b@usfamily.net phone: 612-869-4416) along with payment to USA Dance MN. Advertising for charge cards, insurance, or travel cannot be accepted. Payment to accompany ad.

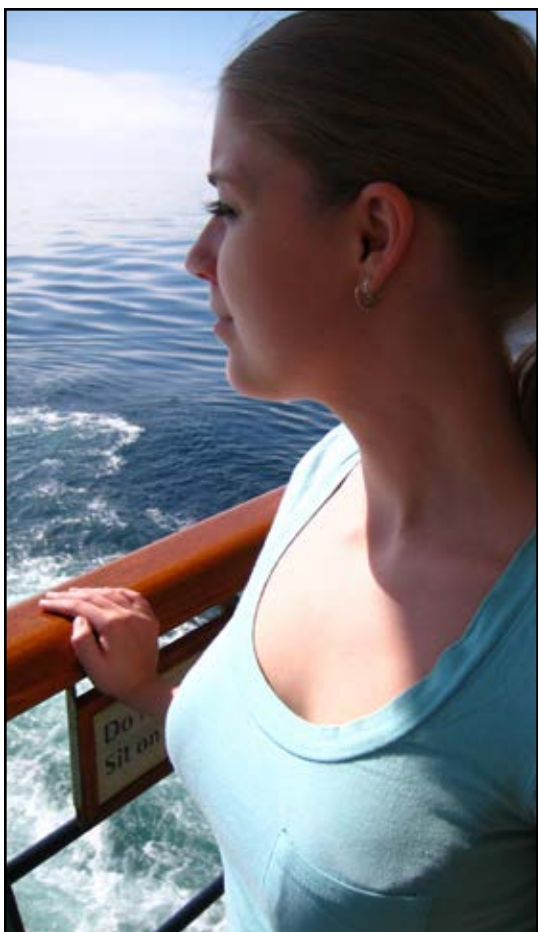
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Business Card	3 consecutive months	\$50

SWAPLINE ADS: Free 3-line ad in Swaplines available to subscribers (dance merchandise only). Send to: newsletter@usadance-mn.org

DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIALS:
10th OF EACH MONTH

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To solicit Mary Beth's editing services, ask questions about the newsletter, or submit content, contact her at newsletter@usadance-mn.org.

From the Editor

by Mary Beth Beckman

As many of you know, I was able to go along on the DS Destinations Alaskan Getaway at the end of August. It was a seven-day cruise setting off from Seattle with stops in Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Victoria, B.C. On the way to Juneau, we went through Tracy Arm, which was incredibly beautiful, and I encourage you to go Google photos right now. The water is genuinely turquoise, something I had always thought was a result of gratuitous Photoshop.

I had plenty of much-needed relaxation and a few adventures, including going whale-watching in Juneau and kayaking in Sitka. Both experiences brought me right into the wildlife of Alaska, which was breathtaking. I learned a lot over the course of the cruise, and I think that was the best part. I now know about salmon, the city of Juneau, town-naming conventions, and cruise ship operations. Learning is great.

The thing I really want to draw attention to is Holland America Line. I was on the ms Oosterdam, and I thought the experience was top-notch. This was my first cruise, so I have nothing to compare it to, but the experience really spoke for itself. The staff was friendly, professional, and expert. I felt extremely well taken care of. The accommodations were roomier than I expected (but I live in a 200-square-foot apartment, so maybe my idea of "spacious" is a bit different from yours). The food was excellent, plentiful, and available all the time. Wow. I basked in the glory of extremely fresh fish for a week, and that is what I miss the most. There were activities onboard all the time (including plentiful dance opportunities), though admittedly, I spent much of my time reading fan fiction in the café. I really don't have anything bad to say about the experience. It was truly lovely. The moral of the story: if you're looking to go on a cruise, take a look at what Holland America is offering. They know their stuff.

Anyway, that's the quick overview of my adventure. Now let's talk about this issue of the *Dancing Times*.

We are happy to host an informational spread for the upcoming USA Dance Minnesota board elections. Several of the individuals hoping to take a seat on the board have submitted profiles so that you can get to know a bit about them and how they fit into the dance community.

We also have another set of great advice from Deborah J. Nelson, this time on applying your own rhinestones to your ballroom costumes. Elizabeth Dickinson and first-time *Dancing Times* writer Eliza Hirsch discuss dancing dichotomies, while Suzi Blumberg regales us with the tale of her own dance vacation. Kate Bratt gives a fun reminder of the different roles of ladies and gentlemen in ballroom dancing, which complements Jack Munday's column perfectly. And finally, we honor the life of Jerry Hauwiler, a member of the dance community who is no longer with us.

We've got yet another excellent issue, and none of it would be possible without our awesome writers and photographers. Don't forget to submit your content for the November issue of the *Dancing Times* by the 10th, and get your Minnesota Ballroom Blast registrations in by the 15th!

Until November. ■



The President's Corner

Fall Dance Fun

By Sue Zeller

The third weekend of each month is the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter's monthly dance. It's wonderful having a guaranteed dance lesson and variety ballroom dance each month that we can go to, where we can enjoy a fun night of ballroom dancing.

Minnesota Madness is back this fall. This year it will be at the Medina Entertainment Center. On the third weekend in October, you can enjoy, as usual, a fun dance event in which you may be critiqued on your dancing by professionals who will let you know what you need to work on. Being able to receive constructive criticism in a non-competitive environment makes this a very fun event.

Minnesota Ballroom Blast is on the third Sunday this month following Minnesota Madness. This event is much more accessible to college students and will allow them to access quality critique of their dancing. This event will be at the University of Minnesota. Once again, this is an event that provides an opportunity to be critiqued by professionals in order to gain a new sense of focus and direction for practice sessions. It's sure to be a day of dancing fun.

The Mall of America Dance Demo is on November 1st. Dance demos are fun to be a part of and to watch. Seeing others dance is a great way to attract others to dancing. Some of our best dancers will show up to make this a great dance demo. It is an excellent way to help non-dancers who may love watching *Dancing with the Stars* see that dancing that goes on in their own community. Put this event on your schedule and invite others you know to watch this special demonstration.

In the fall, the temperature is cooler and we really feel like dancing. We are very fortunate in the Minnesota metro area to have very active studios with a wealth of dance professionals to help us learn to dance and expand our dancing ability. The studios also have many dance events for us to attend.

Happy Dancing! ■



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Elizabeth Dickinson is a dancer and life coach in the Twin Cities. She can be reached at <http://elizabethdickinson1.wordpress.com>

The Dancing Life

Rhythms and Relationships

By Elizabeth Dickinson

Last month I wrote a little about the pillars of relationship. Two of the pillars are knowledge and capability. Does each person know what they're supposed to do, and are they capable of fulfilling it?

I've been struggling with what I'd call alternate rhythms in silver foxtrot—basically the idea that you can choose to step on the first or second beat of the first slow. Counting is not my strong suit. Big, deep sigh. Apparently, no matter how my teacher led it, I've been either early or late on following. There's nothing worse than finding out that you're not doing something you didn't know you were supposed to be doing, or at least that you're not doing it well, and that, in fact, you have been messing it up with alarming regularity. I didn't know what I was supposed to do.

All I can say at this point is that it's a victory that I can even explain something about what's supposed to be happening from a technical point of view. Last month I wouldn't have even been able to do that.

I think what's most bothersome is that I was confusing sensitivity with something technical. I really thought I would be able to feel the right rhythm from my teacher and then just fulfill it.

Something similar happened recently with my family. My dad remarried in January to a lovely lady. So far so good. But there's a kind of renegotiation of all the familial roles. Before and after my mother died, when I visited my dad, I would always help clean the house. No big deal. It became apparent the last time I visited, when I did some dusting of a very high shelf I thought no one else could reach without endangering life and limb, that suddenly this was a Very Big Deal. And not wanted.

I took it as both a rejection and a slur on my sensitivity. But it really goes back to the first pillar of relationship. Is there mutual agreement about what our roles are? In a sense, I was lacking the technical piece of information, the idea that my dad's new wife prides herself on keeping a clean house, and that dusting (especially from me) would call that identity into question. I didn't know and was relying on my sensitivity to guide me. And it let me down.

Kind of like the foxtrot rhythms. Sometimes you just need more information to be a good partner in a relationship. And it's not a slur on your sensitivity if you sometimes put your foot in it. You just keep going until you find the right rhythm for all your relationships. ■

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Twin Cities Rebels Masquerade Ball & Workshop Weekend

Saturday – Sunday

October 20-21, 2012

Featuring West Coast Swing Workshops by
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Ben Morris!

More info.: www.tcrebels.com or 952.941.0906

Sat., October 20	Workshops and Masquerade Ball: Wear your best costume!
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Playful Push Breaks & Stylish Side Passes: Embellish Your Basics —Learn how to “style it up” with the basics. <i>For All Levels</i>
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Linking Your WCS Patterns: Transitions that Work – Link patterns together seamlessly to flow your dance. <i>For intermediate level dancers</i>
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Funky, Fun & Fresh WCS Patterns – Pep up your WCS patterns with cool, new material. <i>For intermediate/advanced level dancers</i>
8:00-Midnight	The Masquerade Ball with demo by Ben, “darned good” door prizes (really!), 50/50, costume contest, and refreshments
Sun., October 21	Workshops
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Turning Tune Up: Tips & Techniques for Improving Your Spins & Turns – For both leads and follows. For all levels
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Oh S#@t, Here Comes a Hit – Add texture and energy to your dance through the use of hits. For intermediate/advanced level dancers
3:30-4:30	Enhancing The Partnership – How to have fun and interact more with your partner. For intermediate/advanced level dancers
4:45-5:45 p.m.	Dance Slow and Keep the Flow – This class will focus on stretch and using space and body control. For intermediate/advanced level dancers

The Masquerade Ball : Saturday, October 20, 2012, 8:00 p.m. – Midnight at Social Dance Studio with DJ Gail Zimmerman playing predominantly West Coast Swing and some Variety tunes. Cost: \$10 for Rebels members & students w/ ID, \$15 for guests. Annual memberships are \$25 and can be purchased at the door.

Workshop pricing: \$12 each for Rebels members & students w/ID; \$17 each for guests

Ben Bonanza Weekend Pricing: Get all 7 workshops *and* the dance for only \$80/members; \$120 guests. Please make checks payable to *Twin Cities Rebels*.

Workshops and Dance held
at Social Dance Studio,
3742 23rd Ave. S., Mpls.



Ben Morris began swing dancing at the age of 12 and is now a 2-time World Swing Dance Champion, 3-time U.S. Open Swing Dance Champion, Spirit of Lindy Hop award winner, a California Swing Dance Hall of Fame award winner, and a featured dancer in the movie *Love N' Dancing* and the Leann Rimes Music Video *Swingin* and performed on stage with her at the CMT Awards.



Backwards in High Heels

By Kate Bratt

There's that nifty bumper sticker that reads, "Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did only backwards and in high heels." I hate that bumper sticker.

Ginger Rogers was great. She was fun to watch dance, she could act, and she was pretty (Fred Astaire really only had one of those three things). She put up with Fred's legendary grueling perfectionism, so I give her street cred for that.

But that bumper sticker seems to imply that because she did it "backwards and in high heels," she did it better.

Well, no.

She did it differently, yes. 'Cause she's a *lady*, y'all.

Lady ballroom dancers spend some time with their butts preceding them down the dance floor. And these ladies wear heels. They are trained to do so, and it works for them. Most of dancing ladies' posteriors are quite lovely, and many ladies love a good pair of pretty shoes.

Men, however, move forward in many patterns because they have to see where they're going to lead. Have you ever led? It's the worst. All that thinking and planning and steering.

Yes, I sound dated and chauvinistic and sexist, but have you seen ballroom dancing? Um, that's what it is. Paso doble? Offensive. Tango? Borderline abusive! Viennese waltz? Talk about dated.

Ballroom dancing illustrates the *difference* (not the competition) between the genders. And that is *okay*.

Men are encouraged to stand up and be strong, yet also be protective and loving. Ladies are taught to be flexible and responsive, but also purposeful and self-reliant.

So I'd like to think Ginger did what Fred did, but in the feminine style, which is both awesome and her job. ■



Kate Bratt authors *Riot and Frolic*, a multipurpose blog that features a post on ballroom dancing every Friday. See her blog at www.riotandfrolic.typepad.com or email Kate at riotandfrolic@gmail.com.

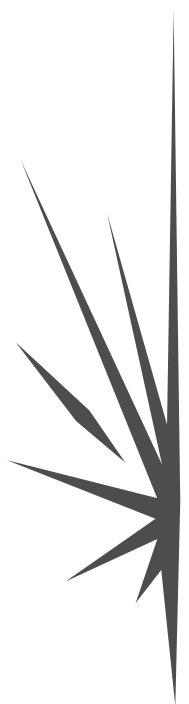
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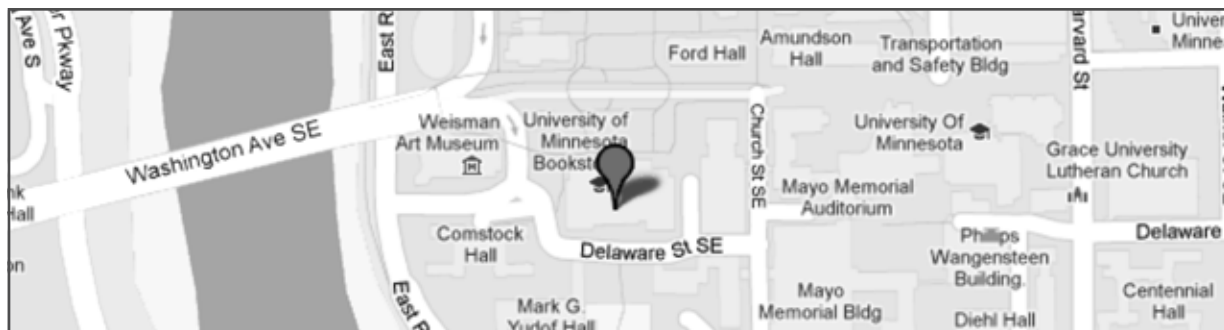
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Evening (7:30 -10:30 pm) Tickets: \$15 (children 10+: \$10)

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Tension and Release

By Eliza Hirsch

I have found perpetual complications with the phrase “try harder.” My first response to this inner coaching is to get tense as I put forth greater effort. What is it that makes tension the default and relaxation an effort? Shouldn’t it be the other way around? Right now as I write, I have to work to keep my shoulders relaxed. My piano instructor is constantly telling me to release my arms and play without tension. And I know I’m not the only one who leaves work with knots in her back. However, there is a fundamental difference when it comes to my ballroom lessons: my partner flat-out won’t let me get away with undue tension because it affects him directly.

If there’s one thing I’ve learned in ballroom lessons, it’s that tension holds you back. As a follow, it inhibits my left stretch, shortens my stride, and makes my extensions and arm styling choppy, none of which is very appealing to the audience or the judges, and especially not to my partner. Working so closely in tandem with a dance partner, I must be aware that every decision I make simultaneously affects my partner in a way I don’t experience while playing piano or sitting at my computer. Sometimes I can be so concerned with landing my steps in exactly the right spot that I completely forget to dance the steps in a way that fits my partner’s frame. In so doing, I miss the connection, and with it, the life of *dancing* beyond the technical step.

Ballet training has taught me that an underlying core strength is one of the keys that empowers a seemingly effortless quality and fluidity in dance. Even still, I don’t know how often I have subconsciously determined that the way to master a step is to overtly muscle my way through it. Thanks to patient instructors, I am continually learning to support from my core, relax my shoulders, lengthen my arm and back muscles, prepare each step, and allow my body to rotate and swing through steps in American smooth. Miraculously, I often look down and realize I’ve traveled twice as far while feeling like I’ve exerted less effort! Suddenly my dance steps reflect the flow of the music, and I am able to maintain a connection with my partner. The next step is to fill each beat of music, allowing my body to stretch and breathe through each position and inject emotion and presentation into a routine that has finally moved beyond the choreography.

There is risk and vulnerability involved in releasing, yet so much more is gained when we make this conscious effort than when we inadvertently control and stifle our dancing. I recently watched an eleven-year-old pianist perform a virtuosic piano concerto, and at the conclusion of the program, he was asked how he felt while he was up there performing. His response? “I feel free.” I hope to say the same when I dance. ■

It's Your Turn to

STAND OUT

January 11 AND 12
2013

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Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, president, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd. See more costuming tips at www.satinstitches.com.

Look Your Best Using Rhinestones

By Deborah J. Nelson

What rhinestones should I use?

If you find the prospect of having to embellish your own costume or help with embellishing costumes for an entire group a daunting task and wonder just what is the best way to go about it, read on. Some people love to rhinestone, and others aren't so sure. Adding glitz to a costume can truly take the costume to the next level, or if done poorly, it can detract from the overall look of the costume, which is not what you're trying to achieve.

First of all, you need to decide what type of rhinestones to use for your dance costume embellishment project. There are many different styles, qualities and colors. The best, most brilliant, highest-quality, and, yes, most expensive are Swarovski rhinestones made in Austria and Czechoslovakian rhinestones. There are several qualities of Czech stones and several rhinestone websites that help to inform you on what makes a better stone. Do some research to learn more. The less-expensive Korean rhinestones are of much lower quality. The ones that I've seen are not nearly as brilliant, especially the colors, but they are still much better than acrylic rhinestones. Acrylics are plastic and look plastic and generally should not be used.

Should I set, sew, glue, or hot-fix my rhinestones?

Many larger rhinestones are only available to sew or glue on, but most of the flat-back rhinestones that are more commonly used for embellishing dance costumes can be set, sewn, or glued. Be aware that it is harder to permanently apply rhinestones to any surface-printed spandex. This finish makes the fabric very slick, and stones will not stick as easily as to any other type of spandex or costume fabric.

Old-school costume embellishers generally have stuck with gluing or setting their rhinestones. Setting stones has always been problematic with the metal prongs that are used. These prongs can easily shred chiffon or spandex unless there is extra care to cover each prong with a dab of glue to protect it. Seems like wasted time to me. I am not a fan of gluing or setting stones.

My preference is always hot-fix. Why? There are many reasons. They stay on better when properly applied, you do not run the risk of dropping a spot of glue on your costume, they can be washed or dry-cleaned, and they set immediately without any waiting. We have been using hot-fix stones for many, many years.

What is a hot-fix rhinestone?

Hot-fix rhinestones have glue on the back, and heat is used to permanently apply them to all types of fabrics. There are many techniques and tools that may be used. Hot-fix wands and various tools are available online from many different sources. If you haven't tried this type of rhinestone, you should. They are the same quality stones as those with the plain back, and if heat cannot be used, you may still use your favorite glue on these.

What color and what size rhinestones should I use?

In my experience, you get the most bang for your buck with the plain crystal-colored rhinestone. It shines and glitters the most. Second choice would be Aurora

Borealis if it coordinates with the color fabrics you are using. Third would be the jewel-toned colors, followed by pastel and various other colors. Last would be jet (black) or the really dark-colored stones. These dark stones just do not show as much as all the other choices.

What you need to do is visualize your choice of rhinestone from performance distance when deciding what size stone to use. At Satin Stitches, we have found that for an all-over scattered effect, we think that the size 20 works the best. If you are looking for a more subtle effect, then size 16 is a good choice (but the smaller the stone, the more difficult they are to apply). When you go larger, the stones start to look more like polka dots unless the color matches the fabric exactly. For outlining effects on costumes, we have found that the size 30 and size 34 work the best if you can afford the cost of the larger stones. Cost is also influenced by how far apart you space your stones.

Of course, the cost increases with the increase in the size of the rhinestones. Rhinestones are generally sold according to how the rhinestone manufacturer packages the stones, usually by the gross (a gross is 144). The smaller stones come in 10-gross packages, size 30 stones come in a 2.5-gross package, and size 34 stones come in one gross per package. You will find that most rhinestone retailers offer discounts when you purchase in these amounts, because they don't have to repackage for smaller quantities.

What pattern should I use to trim my costume?

Generally, there are three styles of applying rhinestones:

1. Outlining
2. Scattered
3. Precise pattern, based on a geometric or free-form design

How do I determine how many stones I will need?

Math! If you are outlining design features on your costume, simply measure all the lines that you wish to outline. Then determine how many stones per inch you will want to use. Then multiply to see how many gross you will need, and then round up. If you are scattering your stones, you will need to place your scattered pattern in a 6-inch square, then count them up and multiply how many 6-inch squares you wish to cover with your rhinestones. When you are working with a precise pattern of stoning, you will need to count how many stones are used in one pattern, determine how many patterns you will use, and multiply. If you find you do not have enough stones or do not wish to use that many stones, you will be able to rework your plan before you start.

How do I know how long my project will take, and what if I do not have enough time?

Math! Calculate how long it will take you to do one yard or one section or one precise pattern, and multiply to see how many hours it will take. If you know you do not have enough time, then edit your design, or start with one part of your plan.

Never stone one area of a costume heavily first unless you have calculated that you have enough time and enough stones. Always embellish lightly all over your costume first in case you run out of time or stones. That way, you will be able to wear it and take the time to add more later for your next performance.

What if I do not know exactly how I want to stone my costume?

Start simple, see if you like it, and then stop if you do. It is always easy to add more and more stones. It is very difficult to remove stones, especially if you put them on correctly!

How should we work on stoning a group of costumes?

For a group, the most important thing to remember is that you want them all to turn out the same. You achieve this by working as a team, not individually. Never let everyone do their own costume, because they will all turn out differently, even with specific directions. Everyone interprets the directions differently. Have one person do the same section of the predetermined design so that they all look alike. Work together so everyone can see what the plan is and how it's going.

Most importantly, if there is a predetermined amount of rhinestones available for the project, stick religiously to the plan so you don't run out. Has anyone had to find more rhinestones at the last minute to complete a project? Avoid this by keeping track of how many stones are needed, after ordering a few more than you expect you will need.

Something else to think about is what you do with the back of a costume. If you have no limit on the amount of stones or the time it takes to apply them, remember that dance is a 3D performance, so add them to the back of your costume, too. But if you are limited as to how many stones you can use, put more on the front of your costume. Your audience faces front more often than the back, and most of your pictures will be focused on the front. Put your glitziest face forward!

What if I can't do it on my own?

If applying your own rhinestones seems overwhelming, you can always hand the task to a professional instead. ■



Jerry Hauwiler

By Suzi Blumberg

The Twin Cities dance community has lost a much-loved friend. Jerry Hauwiler died on August 30th after battling cancer. Jerry and his partner, Kathleen McGonagle, would be seen often on the dance floor, especially Sunday nights at Cinema Ballroom when the O'Hagan Orchestra played.

Jerry's love of dance began in his twenties after a blind date at the Withrow Ballroom where he decided to learn to polka. From polka, he moved on to ballroom and soon was teaching dance for Arthur Murray and Fred Astaire studios in St. Paul and in Iowa. He opened his own dance studio, Gotta Dance, in the '80s, and the Twin Cities dance community has many dancers now that owe their skill and love of dance to Jerry.

He had a heart as big as his laugh. He lived joyfully and with enthusiasm. He enjoyed being outdoors hunting, walking, or picking blackberries, and he loved dancing.

We will miss Jerry very much.

*Don't bring a frown to old Broadway
Ah, you got a clown on Broadway
Your troubles there, they're out of style
'Cause Broadway always wears a smile*

*A million lights, they flicker there
A million hearts beat quicker there
No skies are gray on that great white way
That's the Broadway melody*

Gotta dance! Gotta dance! Gotta dance! ■



Peter Westlake and Sehyun Oh grace the monthly dance with a lovely waltz and quickstep performance. Peter and Sehyun have finished in open pre-champ standard two years in a row. See them perform again at Minnesota Ballroom Blast on October 21st.

USA Dance Minnesota



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Questions? Email info@usadance-mn.org, or check out our website at www.usadance-mn.org/chapter-news/.

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Project Dance Minnesota offers free quality ballroom dance instruction. A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a new location every month.

USA Dance Minnesota Board Elections



Peter Westlake

Peter Westlake

The hard work of USA Dance Minnesota has been an inspiring force for dancers in Minnesota. The benefits of this organization can be seen everywhere from the fun of monthly dances and Sunday lessons to the excitement of Star of the North to the interesting articles in the *Dancing Times*.

It is very important to me that USA Dance continues pushing forth its positive mission to improve the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing nationwide. That is why I am excited to announce my candidacy for a position on the board of directors for Minnesota Chapter #2011.

My leadership experience as president of the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club and as a small business owner will be an asset in managing the many successful programs of USA Dance Minnesota. I will also leverage my experience as a competitive and social dancer in the community to help develop new programs that benefit Minnesota dancers.

USA Dance has been a major benefit to my life and my dancing, and I sincerely hope to have the honor of contributing to its vision. Please vote for me at the USA Dance Minnesota board elections in November. I look forward to having the opportunity to



Jane Phipps

guide our thriving dance community as a member of the USA Dance board. Thank you for your support.

Jane Phipps

I'm Jane Phipps, and I am running for reelection to the USA Dance board. I have served on the board for the last year and a half as treasurer, and I have also been a volunteer for Star of the North and finance manager for that event.

I haven't been dancing for a long time, but when I started, I knew I was in love. I dance and compete pro/am and enjoy social dancing, too. I am happy when I can help a cause I love, which, in this instance, is ballroom dancing.

Please elect me to continue the mission of improving the quantity and quality of ballroom dance for USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011.

Marty Faeh

My name is Marty Faeh. About three years ago at forty-nine years of age, single again for the first time in many years, I walked into my very first ballroom for an introductory lesson during an ice storm. I was the only person there, and this nice young woman walked up to me, introducing herself as my instructor. All three-hundred



Marty Faeh

pounds of me looked down, blushed, and mumbled, "I have two left feet and do not know why I'm here," and I proceeded to bolt out the door. This instructor was shocked but smiled, reached out the door, calmly grabbing my hand, and said, "Marty, I will teach you to dance."

Here is what happened one step at a time:

Within two months, I started my own meet-up dance site called *So You Want to Go out and Dance* so I had people to go out and dance with. Membership grew to over two-hundred members within six months.

Within three months of beginning to dance, I moved next door to the studio, as I lived fifty miles away and found myself at the studio every day after work.

At six months, I went down to Fred Astaire Regionals in Greensboro, North Carolina, to see if I wanted to become a competitive or social dancer. I did extremely well in the competition, and the next thing I knew, I was moving to a bigger studio with more opportunity.

At the year mark, sixty pounds lighter, I started training at Cinema Ballroom, doing showcases, a solo, and learning



Corissa Ranum

about pro/am as I learned many different dances.

At the year two mark and another thirty pounds lighter, I started exploring am/am competition opportunities and met Cathy Dessert. She introduced me to USA Dance and suggested I participate in Star of the North. I said, "I don't have a partner," and she said, "Yes, you do!" Cathy and I had a blast preparing to do a rumba with no time to spare. My experience with USA Dance Minnesota was very positive, and I have been attending as many events as possible ever since.

This past July, I participated in my first major competition, Twin Cities Open, with my pro partner, Kristina Lee, the instructor who stopped me and said, "I will teach you to dance." We competed in American rhythm, American smooth, and standard, placing in all scholarship rounds, including first place in standard.

So at the end of the day, dance is much more than just dance to me; it is a way of life. I lost ninety pounds, I have over six-hundred new friends all around the world, and I have priceless memories that will last me a lifetime. My passion is dance, and I have great people skills to enhance, encourage, and motivate anyone who gives me



Zhuojing Liu

their ear about the world of dance. With passion, anything is possible.

Corissa Ranum

My name is Corissa Ranum, and I am excited to announce my intention to run for reelection to the USA Dance Minnesota board. I started dancing three years ago with the University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club and have loved it since the moment I learned the box step for waltz. Over the years, dance has taught me more than just steps to music; I have had the opportunity to develop my confidence, communication skills, and leadership abilities while having the pleasure of making many treasured friendships.

My desire is to spread the joy of ballroom to others through my role on the USA Dance Minnesota board. Already, I have served on the board for the last two years and have worked to develop our mission of promoting the quality and quantity of ballroom dance. From working as a volunteer coordinator for Star of the North to the implementation of Project Dance Minnesota, I have worked to advance our mission.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to see you soon at one of our monthly dances.



Julie Elholm

Zhuojing Liu

Hello, my name is Zhuojing Liu. I have been dancing for six years and love ballroom dance both socially and competitively. I have served on the USA Dance Minnesota board for the past two years, working on the monthly dance committee to organize and schedule monthly dances. I also participate and volunteer for local dance demos, Star of the North, the Tea Dance, and other ballroom dance events. I would love to continue to serve on the board and to contribute to the Minnesota ballroom dance community.

Julie Elholm

Hi, my name is Julie Elholm.

I grew up in Roseville, attending Mounds View High School. Currently I have a grown daughter who lives in Roseville, and I live in Shoreview.

I have worked various jobs, mostly in the retail venue, including cashier, customer service, jewelry, and book-keeping, and was an assistant manager. I have been employed at my current position since March 1995 in the capacity of administrative assistant/membership records at my home church. I was previously a nursery volunteer, worship/music ministry team chair, wedding coordinator,



Bonnie Burton

and am presently on the evangelism committee. I have taken classes in front desk administration and computers and have been a member of the Professional Association of United Methodist Secretaries since 1995.

I have always loved music and dance and did the tap and ballet thing when I was growing up. Then in about 1999 I told myself that if I were to get back into dance, it was now or never, so I joined a community education class by my house taught by Dean Constantine. I took lessons from him regularly, and then I teamed up with Carol and Norm Fritchie by first taking their classes and then being their assistant in class. While with Dean, I was introduced to Tapestry Folk Dance Center and lindy and east coast swing and became a regular Thursday night fixture. I was heavily into the Tapestry scene. I migrated back to more ballroom when the Cheek to Cheek Ballroom Studio opened up by my apartment in Coon Rapids. I started dabbling in west coast when a friend took me to Loren's class at the Camel Club, and I fell in love with yet another style of dancing.

I am currently a board member of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 and the secretary of the Minnesota West Coast Swing Dance Club. I am on three formation teams with Cheek to Cheek Ballroom. While on the USA Dance board, I have served on the



Cathy Dessert

volunteer committee and the nominating committee. I also have been a volunteer at various dance competitions and performed at the Mall of America as part of National Ballroom Week.

Bonnie Burton

Hello! My name is Bonnie Burton, and I would love to represent you on the USA Dance Minnesota board! I'm somewhat new to the dance party. It was 2007 when my then-fiancé and I became fascinated by ballroom dancers on a cruise ship, and we resolved then to learn to dance.

Shortly after, we met Anne and Tom LaTourelle (probably at a USA Dance), and we asked them to teach us a few steps. They were kind enough to take us under their wing and share their passion with a couple of beginners they'd never met. My interest snowballed, and during the past four to five years, ballroom dance has been my hobby, therapy, addiction, and passion.

It was dance that introduced me to my husband, Ed Soltis, when we became ballroom practice partners about two years ago. We've found there are many opportunities to participate and fuel dance passion. I like to compete at pro/am competitions with my instructor and also with Ed as an amateur couple at events such as Star of the North. We love to social dance



Tracy Frazee

and enjoy monthly USA Dances and Sunday nights at Cinema Ballroom dancing to Jerry O'Hagan's Orchestra. We're members of the Twin Cities Performance Dance Team with six other couples.

I like to write articles for the newsletter and also served as volunteer program liaison for the 2011 Star of the North event. I believe USA Dance Minnesota brings immense value to the Twin Cities, and I feel it is the right time to be involved with the board to help share the excitement and joy of this wonderful sport that I love so much. Please vote for me. I would be honored to be your board member!

Cathy Dessert

Hi! I'm Cathy Dessert, and I'm pleased to be running for the USA Dance Minnesota board. I have been ballroom dancing for about fifteen years. I had my first taste in college at the University of Minnesota, and I was hooked! Now I dance pro/am and have also competed am/am with my husband, Bill. I enjoy social dancing, too.

I am running for the board because I want to help promote ballroom dancing to all age groups and provide opportunities for all to dance if they care to. I have worked over the past several years on most events the chapter promotes. I have been on committees for



Mike Jones



Leslie Whitney

Star of the North, danced mixed proficiency at Star of the North, sold ads for the *Minnesota Dancing Times*, participated in *Dancing the Night Away*, and currently do much of the communication via email and Facebook. You may also see me snapping shots with my camera.

My favorite thing to do is teach kids to dance, which I have done in White Bear Lake and Mounds View. I feel the need to increase our membership and get everyone involved in some way. Volunteerism is very rewarding and fun! New members are the future.

I hope you'll vote for me and the love of dancing.

Tracy Frazee

Hello! My name is Tracy Frazee, formerly Tracy White, and I have always been head over heels for dance.

I was first introduced to the world of ballroom dancing through my older brother back in 2005. He had become obsessed with dancing, and I was a bit of a social hermit, so I simply had to tag along and check it out. After attending a salsa party at Cinema Ballroom, I knew that my life would never be the same. I soon found myself taking numerous classes and lessons and then competing pro/am as well.

I realized that I was meeting the most wonderful people through dance and that my life had quickly become very rich and fulfilling due to dance. I even met my husband, Bryan Frazee, while dancing. We met six years ago at my first salsa party, and we now compete as an amateur couple in American smooth, where our mutual love of dance has enabled us to become true partners for life.

As you can see, I have always had a passion for ballroom dancing and a strong desire to share that passion with others. I am very excited to have the opportunity to become a member of the USA Dance Minnesota board. I believe that, with my experience in the pro/am and am/am dance world, I can bring creative and new ideas to the table as well as a fresh perspective on the world of dance. I've always been dedicated and hard-working when I believe in something, and I believe that ballroom dancing has the power to change lives. I am very excited about getting started and working on building up USA Dance so its voice can not only be bigger but it can reach deeper into the community. I'm also very excited to get to work on the local dances and competitions so they can also reach larger audiences and encourage a new and deeper appreciation for ballroom dancing.

Mike Jones

Hello, all. Many of you have seen me at our chapter functions. I joined the USABDA-MN board about thirteen years ago. I've competed and performed at various levels and venues (local, regional, national, international). Since then I've also volunteered for and participated in lots of host committees, projects, and functions (the lists of which seem to go on a bit, so I'll defer). And over the years I've held the posts of USA Dance Minnesota board member, vice-president, president, and, most importantly, heck-of-a-nice-guy.

Leslie Whitney

Cathy Dessert called me several years ago and asked, "How about volunteering to be a board member for the Minnesota chapter of USA Dance?" I was immediately concerned about being qualified for the job, but it's difficult to say no to Cathy, and I was eager to learn more about the very active dance community in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. I have learned about the activities, opportunities, needs, and structure that support dance. The opportunity to meet hard-working and fun-loving people has been a real bonus. I have been the secretary on the board for the past two and a half years. I believe I have done a good job and would like to continue serving on this board. ■

New York Dance Weekend Getaway

By Suzi Blumberg

I just returned from New York, where I attended the 91st Stardust Dance Weekend Getaway. I wish you had been there. It was such fun—3 full days of lessons, social dancing, dance shows, and unbelievable food!

It was held at the lovely Honors Haven Resort and Spa in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. The grounds were immaculate! I loved the drive from the airport on the winding mountain roads. Once I arrived, I didn't need to get back in my car until it was over. Everything was right there.

Mornings started out with zumba or yoga classes. Breakfast was a scrumptious buffet. Each meal also had dancing available, and it was great eating while wonderful dance music played. You quickly learned who wanted to dance more than eat. I have never danced so much!

There were lessons and social dancing morning, noon, and night into the wee hours. Over fifty dance workshops were offered. Special two-hour workshops were offered in country two-step, salsa, west coast swing, Argentine tango, and hustle. Private instruction was also available. Sometimes there were up to three different dance sessions going at the same time—one room had Buenos Aires style milonga, another had ballroom, and the third had hustle, west coast, and Latin!

Each evening had a professional dance show that brought in special talent. I think every style of dance was performed at these shows. They were terrific! There was a champagne and wine reception, a dance contest, and a live Latin band!

Most importantly, there were lots of dance hosts for the single women, and they were fantastic!

A total of 450 attended. Some came from as far away as California. There were three of us from Minnesota. This was my first time, and I sure got my fill of every kind of dance I love to do. There are four Stardust Dance Weekend Getaways a year, and the next one is scheduled for November 16-18.

If you're looking for a fun-filled dance weekend away, check it out! The Stardust Dance program combines the luxury of a top resort, the excitement of opening night, the glamour of an evening on the town, and the romance of a classic movie in which you are the star.

Stardust Dance Company is also sponsoring two Caribbean cruises in January and March 2013. Contact me at suzi.b@usfamily.net if you would like information. ■

Photo Competition

If you love combining the arts of photography and dancing, submit your best photo to the *Dancing Times* photo competition!

Photos must be taken at a USA Dance monthly dance, must feature dancing as the subject material, and must be high quality (in focus, good lighting, clear subject) and high resolution—we print at 300 dpi.

Not only could you win free admission to the next USA Dance monthly dance event, but your beautiful photo might be featured in the next issue of the *Minnesota Dancing Times*!

So get out your cameras and your dancing shoes, and have a blast at the next monthly dance!

Submit photos of our October dance (see the ad on page 2) to newsletter@usadance-mn.org by October 25th.

Dance Demo

USA Dance is hosting its annual Mall of America dance showcase on Thursday, November 1st, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Formation teams and couples are needed to perform rhythm and smooth routines in costume in the rotunda.

There will be a variety of performances featuring dancers full of holiday cheer. If you are interested in participating, either by dancing or by helping with on-deck needs, please contact Yvonne Viehman at danvman@aol.com or (763) 245-7936 for more information.



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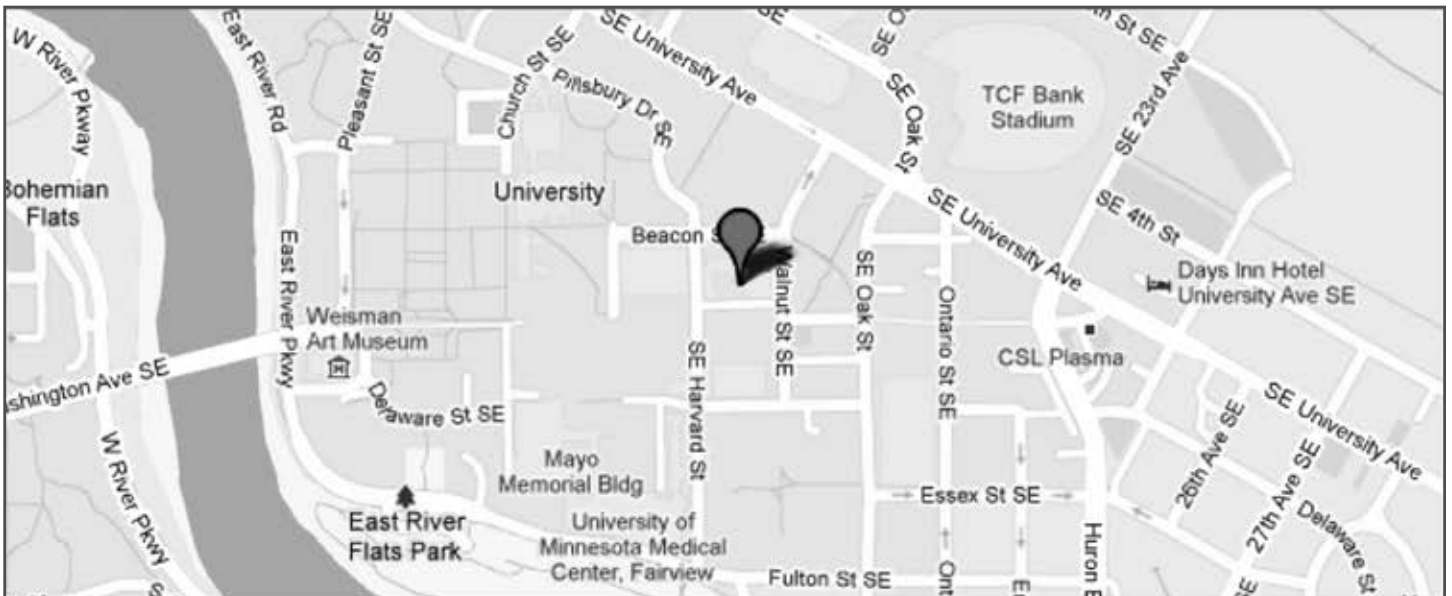


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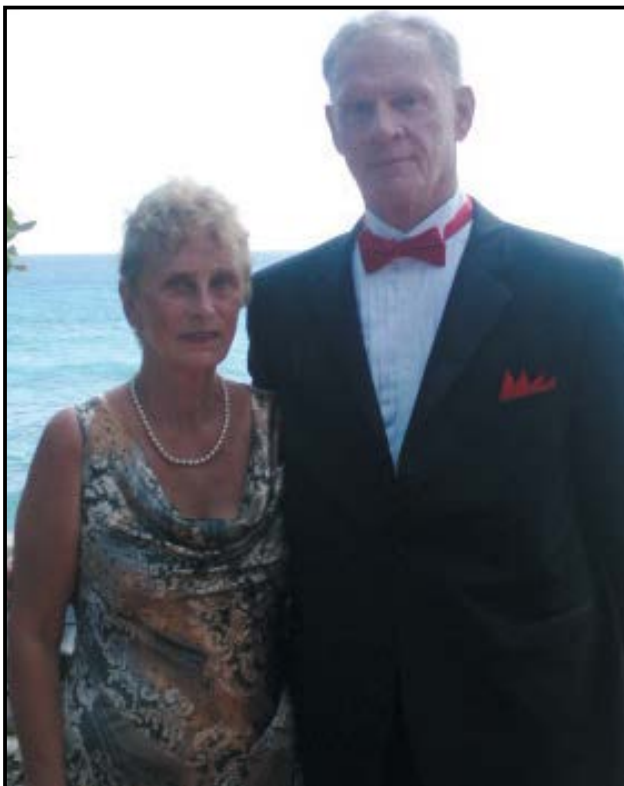
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*John S. Munday is a writer and lawyer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife Fran. Together they found ballroom dancing at Cheek To Cheek Studio. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn. Jack's new book, *Beauty In Partnership, A Memoir of Ballroom Dancing*, is available at www.johnsmunday.com and at several dance studios.*

Gentlemen Lead

By Jack Munday

Fran and I were at a group class when the instructor commented on the range of skill levels in the group. Some have been dancing a while (five-plus years for us), and some might have been at their very first lesson. Remember yours?

The point the instructor was making is that both the gentleman and the lady should take into account what they perceive to be the skill level of their partner as the lesson progresses and the ladies rotate every so often to the next gentleman. I am getting more confident in leading, knowing that it is based on trust that she will follow if I lead. Fran is a delightful follower.

At the group lesson, I thought about how a lady learns a pattern and has to dance it by herself. Then she and a gentleman form a couple and she now needs to learn to follow his lead instead of doing what she learned by herself. I could see how new patterns are more difficult for the lady.

Professional instructors (like Harry Benson and Monica Mohn, to name just two of the many excellent dance instructors we have experienced) all know how to both lead and follow the patterns. Then the thought occurred to me. When, if ever, is it appropriate for the lady to back-lead?

When we first started dancing lessons at Cheek to Cheek, Harry would show the steps, and eventually I would try to do them as well, first by myself and then with a partner. The ladies were very forgiving. Even further back in history, when we would dance at a party or wedding or bar, Fran would demonstrate my step pattern and then back-lead. But I didn't know what that meant. She laughs about it now.

I asked Monica about if and when it is appropriate for a woman to back-lead. She acted a bit surprised, perhaps because I'm supposed to lead. "No one ever asked me about back-leading." The thought fascinated her. "I may back-lead in a lesson to provide the student the feel of the movement. I have done that with you." She's right. There is no way I would have learned our cha cha performance without her help. It is how I got the muscle memory to lead the steps. "And I would if someone asked me," Monica added. "But social dancing is not a time to back-lead unless the woman sees danger and leads the man to stop. Instead I would use all of my skills follow rather than back-lead."

During group lessons when the instructor tells us to change partners, both Fran and I have experienced dancers who are really good at leading or following, and we have had partners who are new to the dance. More than once I have been told, "I've never danced this dance before." I reply that the lady relax and follow my lead.

Fran says, "That's okay. We'll dance anyway." Without back-leading. ■

Advertisement



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Oct. 28: Country 2-Step specialty class (one session only)

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Dec. 2, 9, and 16 West Coast Swing: Tuck Turns or Hot Moves series classes

Dances 7-10:30 p.m. Regular WCS on 1st and 3rd Sundays; Variety Dances Sept. 30 & Dec. 30. Masquerade Ball Sat., Oct. 20; Holiday Ball Sun. Dec. 16

www.tcrebels.com

Competition Calendar

Oct 5 - 7, 2012

Carolina Fall Classic - NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in Greensboro, NC. Qualifying event for USA Dance 2013 Nationals.

Oct 12 - 14, 2011

Chicago Harvest Moon Ball Championships

Organized by Keith Clinton, Peter Minkov, & Yulia Kornilova to be held at the Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont, IL. www.chicagoharvestmoon.com

Oct 27 - 28, 2012

Northwest DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Seattle, WA USA Dance Chapter #1004. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Nov 2 - 4, 2012

Chicago DanceSport Challenge - NQE

Hosted by the Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Jan 11 - 12, 2013

The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition

DoubleTree Park Place Hotel Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact Donna Edelstein: (612) 910-2690, thesnowballcomp@msn.com.

Jan 18 - 20, 2013

Manhattan Amateur Classic - NQE

Hosted by Greater New York USA Dance Chapter #3004 at Manhattan Center. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Jan 19, 2013

Royal Palm Winter Frolic DanceSport Extravaganza

Hosted by Royal Palm USA Dance Chapter #6016 in Coconut Creek, FL.

Feb 1 - 2, 2013

USA Dance Southwest Regional - NQE

Hosted by Orange County USA Dance Chapter #4018 at the Culver City Veterans Auditorium. Qualifying event for 2013 Nationals.

Feb 16 - 17, 2013

Mid-Atlantic Championships - NQE

Hosted by MidEastern USA Dance Chapter #6001 in Bethesda, MD. Qualifying event for 2014 Nationals.

Apr 5 - 7, 2013

2013 National DanceSport Championships

To be held at JW Marriott, Los Angeles at LA Live.

Jun 28 - 30, 2013

Gumbo DanceSport Championships - NQE

Hosted by Louisiana Gumbo USA Dance Chapter #5031 in Baton Rouge, LA. Qualifying event for 2014 Nationals.

Jul 27, 2013

Southern Star Mid-Summer Classic

Hosted by Southern Star USA Dance Chapter #6038 in Tampa, FL. Will not accrue proficiency points and may not follow all rules in the rulebook.

Aug 10 - 11, 2013

2013 Heartland Classic - NQE

Hosted by Heartland, IN USA Dance Chapter #2022. Qualifying Event for 2014 Nationals.

Oct 4 - 6, 2013

Carolina Fall Classic - NQE

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in Charlotte, NC. Qualifying event for 2014 Nationals.



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ASK DR. DANCE

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

Q:

What advice do you have for finding a competitive amateur partner? I'm hoping to find a regular partner who will commit to competing regularly and exclusively (at least in the style I dance). I don't even know where to begin, and I want to make sure I avoid making any common mistakes.

Donna Said:

Finding the right partner can be tricky. I'm guessing that you are newer to dancing and this would be your first partner.

First, ask your coaches and instructor if they know anyone who might be a good fit for you. Let your friends who compete know that you are looking as well.

Make sure you are seen on the competition floor. Dance either mixed proficiency at amateur events or pro/am so that potential partners can notice you.

Attend dance camps so that you can meet other serious and interested dancers. If you are of college age, consider BYU. They do an amazing job of matching partners and developing great dancers.

Are you open to traveling for a partner, or must your partner live in town?

Post an ad online with USA Dance or Dance Beat, or in a dance publication like the *Dancing Times* or *American Dancer*.

When you do have a tryout, make sure that you both discuss:

1. Your goals
2. How much money you will spend weekly on lessons/coaching
3. How much time you will dedicate weekly for practice
4. How many competitions you will attend annually
5. If you are willing to travel nationally and are comfortable sharing a room with your partner
6. If you want to compete at both USA Dance and NDCA comps or one or the other

Dance-wise, you'll want to make sure that your height is fairly comparable and that your build is similar. I've found that in my best partnerships, it felt comfortable right from the start.

Good luck. It may take time, but if you are persistent, continue to train on your own, and are seen, it will happen.

Paul Said:

Hang out where dancers hang out. Do group classes in as many venues as you are able, thereby meeting new people all the time. Put an ad in the *Dancing Times*. Contact all of the local

pros and ask if they teach or know of someone who might be interested.

Before committing to a partnership, make sure you know all of the pros and cons—budget (a big issue), schedule, goals, etc. Make sure you examine your own motives and that you have a clear idea of what you want to achieve. If, for instance, you want an amateur partner simply because it will be less expensive, it may mean that progressing at a faster pace is less important to you than saving money. Dancing and competing is a big commitment and should not be entered into lightly.

Good luck!

The Dance Medic Said:

There's good news. Chances are, someone in your dance community is looking for the same thing you are. You just have to find them. Attend every dance that's open to the public. Dance with everyone there.

With each person you dance with, consider:

- Does this dancing feels particularly good?
- Are you having fun?
- Is your partner having fun?

- Do you feel like you and your partner are doing a similar quality and level of dancing?

If you answer yes to all of these questions, this person is a potential partner.

Off the dance floor, respectfully ask, "Do you compete with an amateur partner?" Their answer will guide the phrasing of your next questions, but they'll be something like this: "I'm looking for a competitive amateur Latin partner. Would you be interested in practicing with me sometime? No pressure to make a long-term commitment. We can just try out one practice."

You'll get a lot of nos. Don't worry about it. You want to be told no by

everyone who doesn't have the same goals you do. When you get a yes, schedule that first practice with a time limit. I recommend starting with one hour, and certainly no more than two hours.

At that first practice, be kind and respectful and keep the focus on the dancing. If you have routines you're familiar with, try those out with this partner. When problems arise, try to work them out. This is when you'll learn how easily you solve problems with this partner.

When your time is up and if you thought the practice went well, ask, "Would you like to do this again?" If they say yes, schedule the next one. If

they don't, respect their wishes and go back to the social dance party scene.

When you've had maybe ten two-hour practices, you'll have a pretty good idea about whether or not the partnership could work. As you've been upfront about your goals, your partner will already know what you're looking for. It will be no surprise when you ask to schedule a competition.

Remember, if the partnership is ever making one or both of you miserable, it's a bad idea. Don't feel like you're stuck with a partner or like you're entitled to a partner. You want to be in a partnership that is improving the lives of both parties.

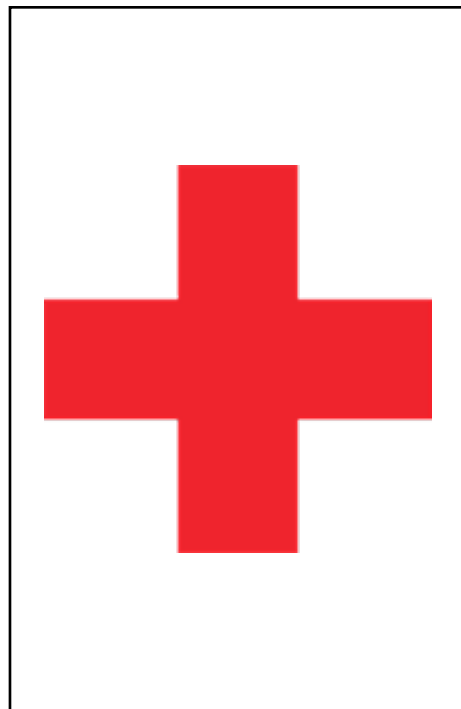
Go get 'em. ■



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



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



The Dance Medic is a member of the Minnesota dance community chosen each month based on his or her unique insight on the question.

SWAPLINES

↪ **Contact Jean at 952-922-7425, Size 11 Silver 1.5 in heel.** Only used twice - \$60

↪ **Contact Mark at 612-701-8553**

For Sale: MENS TAIL SUIT, Custom-made by Arthur Ashmore Tailors in England. NEVER WORN! Made for 5'11" / 165 Lbs. Alterations could be done.

↪ **Contact Anne @ 612.280.7818**

Striking black and hot pink American style gown. Sexy while still being covered up. Feminine while still being bold and strong. Whatever your vision on the floor this one has it covered. Light weight and effortless to dance in. The bottom of this dress dances unbelievably taking your movement and showcasing it to the max. Made by Marsha Wiest- Hines. Sz. 6-10

↪ **Contact Jean @ 952-922-7425**

Ladies dance shoes size 11 narrow width, 1½" heels, silver. Only worn a few times. \$60.

↪ **Contact Jeff @ 320 266 4137 or jeff@studiojeff.com**

New women's dresses for sale \$200 to \$400 size small. Pics at www.studiojeff.com.

↪ **Contact: diana.fu2@gmail.com or 952-288-6159**

Latin, rhythm, salsa Dress, Size 0-6, brand new, piquant red color, sensual fringes show movement, open back with straps that can tie into various patterns, built in bra. \$380, negotiable.

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

Size 2-6 prices \$500-\$700 American smooth gowns. Contact Cheri for details and pictures.

↪ **Contact Stacie @ 612-251-8108 or SPIERSON0081@yahoo.com**

Purchase, rent to own or weekend rental available. Pictures available. **Seafoam green latin/rhythm dress.** Short playful skirt. Includes matching bracelets, choker and ear-rings. Sizes 0-6. \$1,950.

Black latin/rhythm dress with bugle beads and Abs. Dress worn on Dancing w/ Stars and in Take the Lead. Size 0-6. \$1,850.

Black Lace with peach underskirt smooth gown. Entire dress is lace, long sleeves, open back. Skirt slit in back. Worn on dancing w/ Stars. Size 0-6. \$3,150

Deep Purple rhythm/latin dress. Skirt has some movement. Sexy but covers your sides. Size 2-8. \$2,750

Fusia Smooth Gown. High slight on side, open back. Including jewelry. Worn on Dancing w/ Stars. Size 4-8. \$2,350

Blue latin/rhythm dress. Full flowing skirt. Matching jewelry. Made for a larger chest. Size 6-8. \$2,450.

Black and Rose Print Standard Gown. Full sleeves, large floats. Size 0-4. \$2,950

Lady Supadance latin shoe, 2.5" heel, fits an American 5 ½-6, never worn, style #1066, sell for \$151 asking \$75.

↪ **Contact Theresa Kimler at theresakimler@yahoo.com or 612-414-3099.** Call or email for photos. Most dresses also for rent for \$250-\$300.

Size 2-8: Marilyn Monroe inspired Ballgown. White gown with gold waist accent that is shaped perfectly to create a slim silhouette. Truly amazing visual effect. Silk skirt, slit on right leg, mid-height backline, armbands. Made by Doré. \$3000.

Size 2-6: Shiny Gold Ballgown. Super shiny fabric with multi-shaped/sized rhinestone design. This dress is best on someone who wants to stand out in a crowd. Classic design meets the latest trend in fabrics! Includes super sparkly armbands. \$2800.

Size 2-8: Championship White Ballgown. One long sleeve and one bare. Diagonal gold rhinestone design for slimming effect and 8-godets of silk for the ultimate skirt. Made by Doré. This dress is a must-see...classic and elegant. SALE \$2400.

Size 2-8: White & Black Couture Ballgown. Designed by Chanel... brought to life by Jordy. Look for the signature "crossing-C" design in the black bodice. White skirt, long sleeves. Mid-height backline. Great for standard or smooth. SALE \$2400.

Size 2-8: Black Elegant Smooth Gown. Black mesh peeks through an intricate velvet pattern overlay. Cobalt blue rhinestones, necklace, and earrings. Long sleeves, one arm with fox fur cuff. Made by Doré. SALE \$2000.

Size 2-8: Rhythm Dress - Black with Red Scarves. Jet stones on body, silk chiffon skirt, 3/4 length sleeves, sweetheart neckline, mesh back. Includes bracelet, earrings, hair decoration. Made by Doré. SALE \$1500.

Size 2-8: Grace Kelly-inspired Rhythm Gown. Black stretch velvet bodice with matching belt. Multi-layered silk skirt that ends at knees when still. A great dress for the classic, movie-star type dancer. Effortless wear. Made by Doré. SALE \$1500.

Size 6.5 to 7 Closed-toe Elegance Shoe Company court shoes. Satin taupe color, elastic along sides of the shoe allow you to point your foot. New Queen Flexi. \$75.

Size 35.5 (US 6.5) Dance Naturals tan satin rhythm shoes. 2-1/2" heel. Brand-new. \$75.

Size 5EU (US 7 to 7.5) Supadance 1026 Beige leather practice shoe. Worn once. \$75

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

Gorgeous Peach Championship Gown. This dress is one of a kind! Beautiful open back, stretch satin skirt with godets add fullness to movement. Fully stoned bodice and elegant gloves to match! Like new! Made by Marsha Weist Hines. Size 2-8. Asking \$1200. Pics available. **Newly Offered! Beautiful Pink/Metallic Gold Smooth Gown.** Very feminine look with lace trim on neckline, bodice, long sleeves and hems. Full coverage in AB multicolor stones! Like new - worn only twice! Size 2-8. Asking \$1100. Pics available.

Elegant Black Championship Gown, luxurious maribu boa on hem & neckline. Beautifully designed with open back and long sleeves, shows off curves. Covered in AB multicolor stones. Size 2-8. \$1100 obo. Pics avail.

Black Gown with Hot Orange & Yellow Accents. Stunning gown has fiery orange and yellows accents drapes on long sleeves, bodice and chiffon layers of skirt, sexy slit shows off legs, beautiful color rhine stones. Size 2-8. \$800 obo. Pics available.

Sexy Pink & White Rhythm Dress! This stunning dress has tons of stones, beautiful pearl beading & flirty skirt! Bracelets, necklace, and accessories included. A showstopper! Size 2-8. Asking \$700. Pics avail. More gowns available to purchase and rent. Payment plans accepted.

↪ **Contact Joan @ 6123864174 or jdazer@comcast.com**

FOR SALE: 1 pr DANSport t-strap rhythm shoes, size 3 1/2 European; 2" flare heel worn approx. 10 times. Price: \$40.00; original price \$145.00.

1 pr Kelaci Eminence 3 rhythm shoes, size 5 1/2 European; 2

1/2" flare heel worn once. The Kelaci shoes are very very flexible. Price: \$75.00. Original price \$155.00.

Also one pair of nude court shoes with clear bands, size 7 or 7 1/2

American; 2". Worn less than 10 times. Price: \$50. Original price \$150.00.

FOR SALE: Designed by Doré. Beautiful Royal Blue Smooth Gown.

Size 6-10. Bodice is encrusted with blue and green AB stones. Long sleeves. Skirt has godets and moves very elegantly. The skirt is royal blue with a green underskirt. Earrings included. Original price of this gown was \$3800. Price slashed to \$1400.

↪ **Contact janislivi@msn.com for the following:**

Super sale on many ballgowns. Under 5'3" and 130 pounds? try these:

The Millenium Gown, Silver sparkle all over, white sheer netting on sleeves with AB stones, peridot stones, and crystal stones scattered. Zipper entry. hand washable. asking \$300.

The Tangerine Dream Gown, neon tangerine color stretch lycra, swimsuit entry, AB stones, floats, hand washable. Asking \$125.

The Genesis Gown, neon yellow, orange roses, yellow stoning, yummy to wear, swimsuit entry, smooth/standard floats. hand washable. \$125. May sell Pink Champagne Gown for the right price.

↪ **Contact Shannon xin9264@hotmail.com (651)230-8901(c)**

Design Dress by Vesa, One-of-a-kind dress yellow stretch velvet drapes elegantly in front and back. Covered in crystal and citrine rhinestones.

Large citrine rhinestones and other decorative beads accent shoulders and panel at front and back, beneath the waist. Also large gold pallettes on the panel. A fringe skirt in front and back creates movement. Sides open to show off lines. Matching wristband, headband, feather hair accessory inc. Worn once by British prof rising star. Fit 0-6, 5'1"-5'5". Asking \$950.

↪ **Wanted: Tailsuit.** College student looking for a used men's dance suit or tail coat set, 6'0" 150#, approx. size 37L. Contact Andreas at 651-983-5348 or amantius@comcast.net

↪ **Contact Sherri Earley at 651-271-7690 or wwp2005@gmail.com**

Red salsa or Latin beginners dress. Can fit anywhere from a 2 to 6. Adorned with black, silver & gold disc bangles. Comes with matching earrings & arm bands. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

Black beginners Smooth gown. Fits a ladies size small/2-4. Skirt is 3 layers. Red and silver stones. Optional black gloves can be included, \$10 extra. Email for photos. \$75/obo.

↪ **Contact Janet @ 763-389-9038 or kneadmyspace@yahoo.com for photos** Gently used International latin dance shoes, size 7.5, dyed beige strappy heels. Great deal at \$40 plus will throw in a free pair of fishnet tights!

↪ **Champion dance dresses, Jennifer Foster at 952-938-0048**

↪ **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 Bernice at 952.936.2185 or 952.545.2989**

DANCE SHOES FOR SALE: ladies' smooth-dance closed-toe pumps, size 8 or 8 1/2, flesh-colored, worn once, Capezio DanceSport brand, \$50, also some RHINESTONE JEWELRY available for sale

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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.

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Classic Ballroom.....(763) 519-1314
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Club Salsero @ Cinema Ballroom......651.699.5910
1st Friday Latin Dance Party, \$15 for lesson & party; students with ID receive discount at door.

Dancers Studio......651-641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com 415 Pascal Street North, St. Paul, MN 55104

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MN West Coast Swing Dance Club (651) 487-6821
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.

North Star Dance Studio (612) 799-4147
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Rendezvous Dance Studio.....(612) 872-1562
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Suburban-Winterset Dance Club.....(952) 894-1424
www.suburbanwinterset.com

Tango Society of Minnesota.....(612) 224-2905
www.mntango.org 2nd Saturday dances: lesson 8:30 p.m., dance 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.; \$8 members, \$12 non-members

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