

MINNESOTA

DANCER

October 2014

Amateur couple Dan and Patty Fitzgerald, delighted with their results at TCO2014.

Photo by Bonnie Burton



Official publication of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011



**Twin Cities Rebels
Masquerade Ball & Workshop Weekend
Featuring John Lindo & Jessica Cox!
Saturday – Sunday
October 18-19, 2014**

More info.: www.tcrebels.com or 952.941.0906

Sat., October 18	Workshops and Masquerade Ball: Wear your best costume!
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Fun in Fundamentals – Banish the idea of fundamentals being boring! <i>All Levels.</i>
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Lead & Follow Styling – Sassy but classy. Leads with John, Follows with Jessica. Two classes run concurrently, then join to practice. <i>All Levels.</i>
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Syncopations – Change it up to add some pop!*
8:00-Midnight	The Masquerade Ball with demo by John & Jessica, “darned good” door prizes (really!), costume contest, and refreshments. DJ is Gail Zimmerman
Sun., October 19	Workshops: (an asterisk* means the workshop is more challenging)
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Creative Conversation – Learn how to communicate with your partner on the dance floor.*
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Tips, Tricks & Tools for Taking Your Dance to the Next Level – How to maximize your dance and take it up a notch.*
3:30-4:30	Move Your Body – Get comfortable with body movements and using them in your dance. <i>All Levels.</i>
4:45-5:45 p.m.	Dancing to Slow Music – Fill the space in slow music with small and easy changes. <i>All Levels.</i>

The Masquerade Ball : Saturday, October 18, 2014, 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. Payment can be made with cash, check (made payable to *Twin Cities Rebels*) or with credit card.

Workshop pricing: \$14 each for Rebels members & students w/ID; \$19 each for guests

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

Pre-Pay Discount:

Pre-pay Sept. 7-Oct. 12 thru Rebels website or at a dance for discount!:

Workshops: \$12 each for members & students; \$17 each for guests.

John Lindo & Jessica Cox teach all over the world as well as compete. Each holds numerous awards for their West Coast Swing dancing. John also coaches, judges competitions and Deejaays.





LOVE TO DANCE? SUPPORT USA DANCE MINNESOTA!



**Join the FUN at USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011
today for \$25! Get benefits valued at over \$300!**

- ♦ Project Dance: 48 Sunday afternoon free beginning group lessons: Value \$240
- ♦ Reduced cost of admission to all 12 USA Dance monthly dances: Value \$36
- ♦ American Dancer magazine: Value \$25
- ♦ Minnesota Dancer magazine: Value \$22
- ♦ Attend the dance in your birthday month free: Value \$10
- ♦ Join at a USA monthly dance and get free admission to that dance: Value \$10
- ♦ No chapter dues

Join today!
FRIENDLY. FUN. BALLROOM DANCING.

Join online at: www.usadance.org/membership/



Sponsored by USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011
www.usadance-minnesota.org or info@usadance-minnesota.org

Join us for USA Dance Minnesota's
UPCOMING DANCES

JOIN
USA DANCE MINNESOTA
AT OUR DANCE AND GET IN FREE!
www.usadance-minnesota.org

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 18

7-8 pm lesson
Instructor: Eliecer Ramirez
8-11 pm Variety dance music

\$7 USA Dance members
\$5 Students under 25 with ID
\$10 Non-members

Costa Rica Ballroom
816 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 15
ANNUAL MEETING

6:30 Meeting
7-8 pm lesson: Swing
Instructor:
8-11 pm Variety dance music

\$7 USA Dance members
\$5 Students under 25 with ID
\$10 Non-members

Cinema Ballroom
1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 20

7-8 pm lesson:
Instructor: Jeff Nehrbass
8-11 pm Variety dance music

\$7 USA Dance members
\$5 Students under 25 with ID
\$10 Non-members

Balance Pointe Studio
5808 W. 36th St, St Louis Pk, MN

DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

Want to dance? Dancer's Night Out lists social dance events in Minnesota. Want to see your dance listed here? Email the details to newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org.

Wed 10/1 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, www.cinemaballroom.com

Dancers Studio WCS Party 9-10, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Thu 10/2 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

Fri 10/3 DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 7-9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance, 7-11, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, www.cinemaballroom.com

Sat 10/4 DanceLife Ballroom 1st Saturday Variety Dance, 7-9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

Sun 10/5 Project Dance, Triple-Swing Lesson with Donna Edelstein; 2 PM; \$5 or FREE to USA Dance Members! Tapestry, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, www.usadance-minnesota.org

Pizza Practice Party; Pizza, music, dancing; American Classic Ballroom, 7-9, \$8 / \$6 for USA Dance members and ACB private students, 550 Market St., Chanhassen, www.acballroom.com

TC Rebels Swing Dance, Social Dance Studio, 7-10:30, 3742-23rd Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

First Sunday Dance at Tapestry, 6-9:30, \$7-\$10, Bolero Level 1 with Shinya McHenry, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, www.tapestryfolkdance.org

Mon 10/6 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

Wed 10/8 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, www.cinemaballroom.com

Dancers Studio WCS Party 9-10, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Thu 10/9 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

Fri 10/10 Beyond Ballroom Dance Co. Benefit Ball, 7-11, Dancers Studio, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, www.beyondballroom.org

DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 7-9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

Mill City Ballroom Dance Party, 8-10, 2382 Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN, www.millcityballroom.com

Sat 10/11 Linden Hills Dancing Club 100th Anniversary Dance, for dancing couples, 6 PM, Dinner & Dance -\$85/person, Reserve by Oct 1, St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S, Mpls. 612-929-2121, www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

Café Bailar Dance Party, 7:30-11:30, Balance Pointe Studio, 5808 W 36th St, St. Louis Pk, www.cafebailar.com

Sun 10/12 Project Dance, Triple-Swing Lesson with Donna Edelstein; 2 PM; \$5 or FREE to USA Dance Members! Tapestry, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls, www.usadance-minnesota.org

Mon 10/13 Social Dance Studio West Coast Swing Social, 9:30-11, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

Wed 10/15 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party, 8-9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910, www.cinemaballroom.com

Dancers Studio WCS Party 9-10, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Thu 10/16 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8-9, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing 10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

Dancers Studio WCS Party 9-10, 415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777, www.dancersstudio.com

Thu 10/16 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8–9,
415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777,
www.dancersstudio.com

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing
10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls,
www.socialdancestudio.com

Fri 10/17 Heroes & Villains Ball, American
Classic Ballroom, 8-11, Beer, wine, re-
freshments, \$12/\$15, 550 Market St,
Chanhassen, www.acballroom.com

DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance, 7–
9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-
4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

Mill City Ballroom Dance Party, 8-10,
2382 Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN,
www.millcityballroom.com

Cinema Ballroom Variety Dance, 7–11,
1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-5910,
www.cinemaballroom.com

Social Dance Studio Club Salsero, 7-11,
3721-23rd Ave S, Mpls,
www.socialdancestudio.com

**Sat 10/18 Monthly USA Dance Minnesota,
7-11; \$7-\$10; Lesson: Eliecer Ramirez;
Costa Rica Ballroom, 816 Main St, Hop-
kins, www.usadance-minnesota.org**

TC Rebels Masquerade Ball, Social
Dance Studio, 1 PM–12 AM, 3742-23rd
Ave S, Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

**Sun 10/19 Project Dance, Triple-Swing Les-
son with Donna Edelstein; 2 PM; \$5 or
FREE to USA Dance Members! Tapes-
try, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls,
www.usadance-minnesota.org**

Pizza Practice Party; Pizza, music, dancing;
American Classic Ballroom, 7-9, \$8 / **\$6 for
USA Dance members** and ACB private
students, 550 Market St., Chanhassen,
www.acballroom.com

Mon 10/20 Social Dance Studio West Coast
Swing Social, 9:30–11, 3742 23rd Ave S,
Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

Wed 10/22 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party,
8–9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-
5910, www.cinemaballroom.com

Dancers Studio WCS Party 9-10, 415
Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777,
www.dancersstudio.com

Thu 10/23 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8–9,
415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777,
www.dancersstudio.com

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing
10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls,

www.socialdancestudio.com

Fri 10/24 DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance,
7–9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-
4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

Cinema Ballroom Salsa Fusion, 7–11,
Cinema Ballroom, 651-699-5910,
www.cinemaballroom.com

Mill City Ballroom Dance Party, 8-10, 2382
Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN,
www.millcityballroom.com

Sat 10/25 Café Bailar Dance Party, 7:30-
11:30, Costa Rica Ballroom , 816 Main St,
Hopkins, cafebailar.com

**Sun 10/26 Project Dance, Triple-Swing Les-
son with Donna Edelstein; 2 PM; \$5 or
FREE to USA Dance Members! Tapes-
try, 3748 Minnehaha Ave S, Mpls,
www.usadance-minnesota.org**

Mon 10/27 Social Dance Studio West Coast
Swing Social, 9:30–11, 3742 23rd Ave S,
Mpls, www.socialdancestudio.com

DanceLife Ballroom Variety Dance hosted
by Shinya & Scott Anderson, 7–9:30, 6015
Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-345-4219,
www.dancelifeballroom.com

Wed 10/29 Cinema Ballroom Practice Party,
8–9, 1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul, 651-699-
5910, www.cinemaballroom.com

Dancers Studio WCS Party 9-10, 415
Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777,
www.dancersstudio.com

Thu 10/30 Dancers Studio Dance Party 8–9,
415 Pascal St N, St Paul, 651-641-0777,
www.dancersstudio.com

Social Dance Studio Late Night Swing
10pm-2am, 3742 23rd Ave S, Mpls,
www.socialdancestudio.com

Fri 10/31 DanceLife Ballroom Halloween
Party, 7–9:30, 6015 Lyndale S, Mpls, 612-
345-4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

Mill City Ballroom Dance Party, 8-10, 2382
Hampden Ave, St Paul, MN,
www.millcityballroom.com

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

*A list of dance events for every day of the
week—updated daily*

[http://www.organizersonduty.com/
testimonials.html](http://www.organizersonduty.com/testimonials.html)

USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom
dancing. The Minnesota chapter, 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 including access to a network to meet other danc-
ers.

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

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Mailing: Committee member

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newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org.

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ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

USA Dance Minnesota

Board of Directors Positions

By Gary Stroick, Nominations and Election Committee Chair

Elections for nine board member positions for USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 Board of Directors will be conducted by mail. Ballots will be mailed to eligible USA Dance Minnesota #2011 members in good standing, on **October 15, 2014**. The deadline for receipt of your completed ballots by the election committee is **noon on November 15, 2014**. This year's Nomination & Election Committee includes Bonnie Burton, Gary Stroick, and Karen Tepley.

Election Committee

Bonnie Burton bonnieburton@comcast.net 952.454.4620

Gary Stroick gstroick@comcast.net 952.926.7648

Karen Tepley kktepley@comcast.com 952.926.2866

PERFORMANCE DEMO OPPORTUNITIES!

Get your dancing shoes on! Come one and all to the *Mall of America to DANCE!*
Join us for a dance extravaganza of all levels of skill and style! Here are the details:

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2014

Time: 7:30pm - 8:30pm (check-in by 7:00pm)

Place: Mall of America Rotunda

Costumes: Yes! (nothing too revealing, please)

Smooth and rhythm couples and formation teams are welcome to participate! For more information or to be a part of the festivities, contact Yvonne Viehman at danvman@aol.com or 763.245.7936. (Formation team routines will be previewed to ensure they are "family-friendly").

WE ALSO NEED: On-deck captains and costume helpers to ensure everyone is dressed and ready to dance when their dance comes up!

. Yvonne Viehman, USA Dance Demo Coordinator, Tel: 763.245.7936

USA Dance-MN Chapter #2011 Board Minutes

Tuesday, August 14, 2014

Submitted by Leslie Whitney

Special Online Board Meeting Participants: Lee Whitney (President), Bonnie Burton (Vice President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer), Leslie Whitney (Secretary), Zhuojing Liu, Dan Fitzgerald, Daniel O'Connell, Karen Maldonado, Cathy Desert, Tracy Frazee, Gary Stroick

1. A special online board meeting was called starting at 9:00 AM, Friday 8/15/2014.

2. A motion was made and approved to accept the May and July minutes and treasurer's reports.

3. A motion was made and approved to appoint Gary Stroick to fill our USA Dance Minnesota Chapter 2011 board member vacancy until December 31, 2014.

4. The request to move our next board meeting to Tuesday, September 2, 2014 was approved.

5. Special online meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 2, 2014

DanceLife Ballroom

6015 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls, MN 55419

USA DANCE MINNESOTA
HOTLINE

651-483-5467

www.usadance-minnesota.org

Call for information on dance
events. Leave a message for mem-
bership information.



Leland and Leslie Whitney competed September 6th at the Kansas City Dance Classic. They will be competing at the Carolina Fall Classic (NQE) in Charlotte, NC, Oct 3-5.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

My wife Leslie and I are avid social and competitive dancers. We do it because our dancing enhances every aspect of our lives, but most of all, it brings us tremendous joy.

Come join us! Become a member of USA Dance Minnesota and a life-long member of our dance community. There are so many ways to participate I couldn't possibly describe them in this column, but I will name a few.

For those who may have a physical reason you cannot dance, join us anyway. Many elderly folks in our community come to our dances to meet old and new friends, to watch and to encourage those of us who are still able to dance.

For those who are college age, the local colleges and universities offer dance clubs including ballroom, west coast swing, tango and others.

For those of you who have always wanted to dance but just never got around to it, participate in USA Dance Minnesota's progressive lessons every Sunday afternoon at a variety of dance studios and clubs in the area. The lesson is free to USA Dance members and \$5 for non-members.

For those of you who are single, come dance with us in a safe and fun environment at USA Dance Minnesota monthly dances, various dance club events, dance studio parties and showcases. If you're single and interested in a new relationship, dancing opens up many safe and fun opportunities to meet other single people.

Check out various columns and advertisements in this newsletter for more details: Dancer's Night Out; Project Dance; studio events; services and instructors.

Welcome to you all! Come dance with us and make yourselves at home. ■

Learn to Dance with the Rebels!

**Classes on Sunday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
at Social Dance Studio**



October 5, 12, & 26: West Coast Swing: Whips (3 week series) or Night Club 2 Step (specialty class-3 weeks)

November 2, 9, & 16: West Coast Swing: Beginning or Tuck Turns (both are a 3 week series)

More info: www.tcrebels.com, call 952.941.0906 or email to: info@tcrebels.com.

www.tcrebels.com

USA Dance Membership Application

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



Name		Date of Birth (required for Athlete members)	
1.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
2.		Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Street Address		Apt. #	City
		State	Zip Code
Seasonal Address: Do you have a seasonal address? If so, enter below. Dates applicable: From: _____ To: _____			
Street Address:		Apt. #	City
Home Phone		Work Phone	Cell Phone
Email Address			
Is this a renewal application? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, Member # _____ # _____			
Name of USA Dance Chapter I wish to be assigned to: _____			
Name of College or Youth Club you are affiliated with (if applicable): _____			

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY			ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Recreational: Social Ballroom Dancer	\$35	\$	Dances for enjoyment and works to improve but does not compete . May include retired DS Athlete.
Recreational: Social Adult Dancer	\$25	\$	Enjoys and appreciates the physical, mental, and social benefits of social dancing.
Recreational: Social Youth Dancer	\$10	\$	A social dancer under the age of 19. Often a family member or friend of adult member.
Recreational: Social Dance Teacher	\$50	\$	An individual who is engaged in the teaching of social dance.
DanceSport: Adult Athlete*	\$70	\$	A competitive dancer who is age 19 or above.
DanceSport: Student Athlete*	\$25	\$	A competitive dancer who is age of 19 or above but below age 35 and is enrolled in school full time.
DanceSport: Minor Athlete*	\$20	\$	A competitive dancer who is below the age of 19.
DanceSport: Professional Athlete*	\$75	\$	A competitive dancer who declares him or herself as a professional or dances as a professional in competition.
DanceSport Official*	\$80	\$	An individual who serves in an official capacity in the field of DanceSport and/or ballroom dance, i.e. judge, emcee, music director, invigilator, independent comp organizer, chairperson of judges, WDSF adjudicator etc.
DanceSport: Special Olympics Athlete	\$10	\$	Qualifies for participating in Special Olympics competitions only.
DanceSport: Unified Sports® Partner	\$25	\$	Dance Partner of Special Olympics Athlete for participating in Special Olympics only.
DanceSport Supporter*	\$40	\$	This category of membership is designed for those who are not active competing athletes but who want to show support for the DanceSport initiatives of USA Dance. This would include former athletes, parents or other family members of athletes, and general supporters who would like their voice counted on DanceSport matters.
Other Misc. Fees	\$	\$	This space for upgrades, and other miscellaneous fees.
Total Membership Fees	\$	\$	
Total Contributions & Donations	\$	\$	Donations are used to help fund our many efforts to increase the quality and quantity of ballroom in the US on a social and competitive level including youth outreach, raising public awareness of the physical, mental and social benefits of dance, development of chapters, increased social dance options, support for our athletes and dancesport events. Thank you for helping us achieve these goals. USA Dance is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Any donations in excess of value received are tax deductible.
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		\$	

You may enroll on-line at www.usadance.org
Or, you may mail your application and payment. Make check payable to USA Dance and send to:
USA Dance Member Services Dept. P O Box 90 Oak Hill FL 32759-0090
Central Office 1-800-447-9047

* Memberships for Adult, Student, Minor and Professional Athletes, DanceSport Professionals and DanceSport Supporters are on a calendar year basis rather than on an anniversary year basis.

We are a volunteer organization. Can we count on you? ☐ Yes If yes, where? ☐ Chapter ☐ Regional ☐ National

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



Bonnie Burton is Vice-President of USA Dance Minnesota #2011 and editor of Minnesota Dancer Magazine. She and her husband Ed Soltis will compete next at the Chicago DanceSport Challenge (NQE), Chicago, IL, on Halloween weekend.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

By Bonnie Burton

My husband and I love amateur ballroom dance competitions. We danced at a one-day amateur competition in Kansas City, KS, a few weeks ago. Last month, we danced at Derby City DanceSport Competition in Louisville, KY, and in October, we'll go to Chicago. We combine a road trip with a little sightseeing, a few days off work, nice weather, our dance-partner's charming company. What could be better?!

But most of all, where else can you go and literally dance yourself to exhaustion for a very affordable fee of \$100 - \$150 each for an entire weekend of dancing?!

At USA Dance amateur competitions, you may register for as many styles as you know how to dance, in two age categories and in two proficiency levels. For example, at Chicago we will dance Bronze Standard (W, Q) and Silver Standard (W, Q, F) in age groups Senior I (35+ years) and Senior II (45+ years). That's ten dance heats right there, if you start with a final, which is six couples or less.

But there are a lot of participants at these competitions, so they often start with quarter-finals (more than 12 couples), then semi-finals (12 couples), then narrow it to a final of 6 couples or less. This could result in dancing 30 heats in Standard alone! We also dance American smooth many multiple times. And if you and your partner also dance rhythm and Latin . . . well, you get the picture!

The limiting factor becomes how much dancing you wish to do, rather than how much money you can afford to spend, as is often the case with pro/am competitions. (Pro/am competitions tend to be much more expensive.) I strongly encourage any amateur couple who is interested in competing to give it a try. Traditionally, Minnesota has a strong contingent of couples who attend these regional National Qualifying Event (NQE) competitions and it's fun to cheer each other on.

Four Minnesota couples competed at the Kansas City Classic and results are in this issue, along with fun dance photos taken by talented photographer Mark R. Harris Photography.

Also in this issue are discussions about costumes and 'what should I wear' by Kate Bratt, Dr. Dance, and Deborah Nelson. Beyond Ballroom Dance Company shares their latest news; and Joyce Thompson offers secrets for a musically satisfying social dance.

Lastly, in this issue are applicant profiles for the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 Board of Directors election. In case you've not heard, USA Dance Minnesota is having an election this fall to fill nine board member positions. The chapter membership is growing, and interest in serving on the dance board is high. I encourage you to read the applicant bios, select the individuals that most closely represent your interests in the ballroom community, and when your ballot arrives in the mail, please VOTE!

Until then, happy dancing! ■

Yes! I want to receive the USA Dance Minnesota Dancer Magazine! Please send my one-year subscription to:

Name Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please mail your check for \$22 along with this form to:

Jane Phipps, 9018 Zanzibar Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311 janep1951@gmail.com



East Coast Triple Time Swing



Sunday, Oct 5th — 1:30 pm
Sunday, Oct 12th — 1:30 pm
Sunday, Oct 19th — 1:30 pm
Sunday, Oct 26th — 1:30pm

classes at the
Tapestry Folkdance Center
with Donna Edelstein

3748 Minnehaha Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.722.2914
tapestryfolkdance.org



Check out our website:
www.usadance-minnesota.org
Contact us:
info@usadance-minnesota.org

Project Dance Minnesota offers free dance instruction to members of USA Dance. Non-members pay \$5. Become a member of USA Dance at membership.usadance.org.
A different professional instructor teaches a new dance at a different location every month.

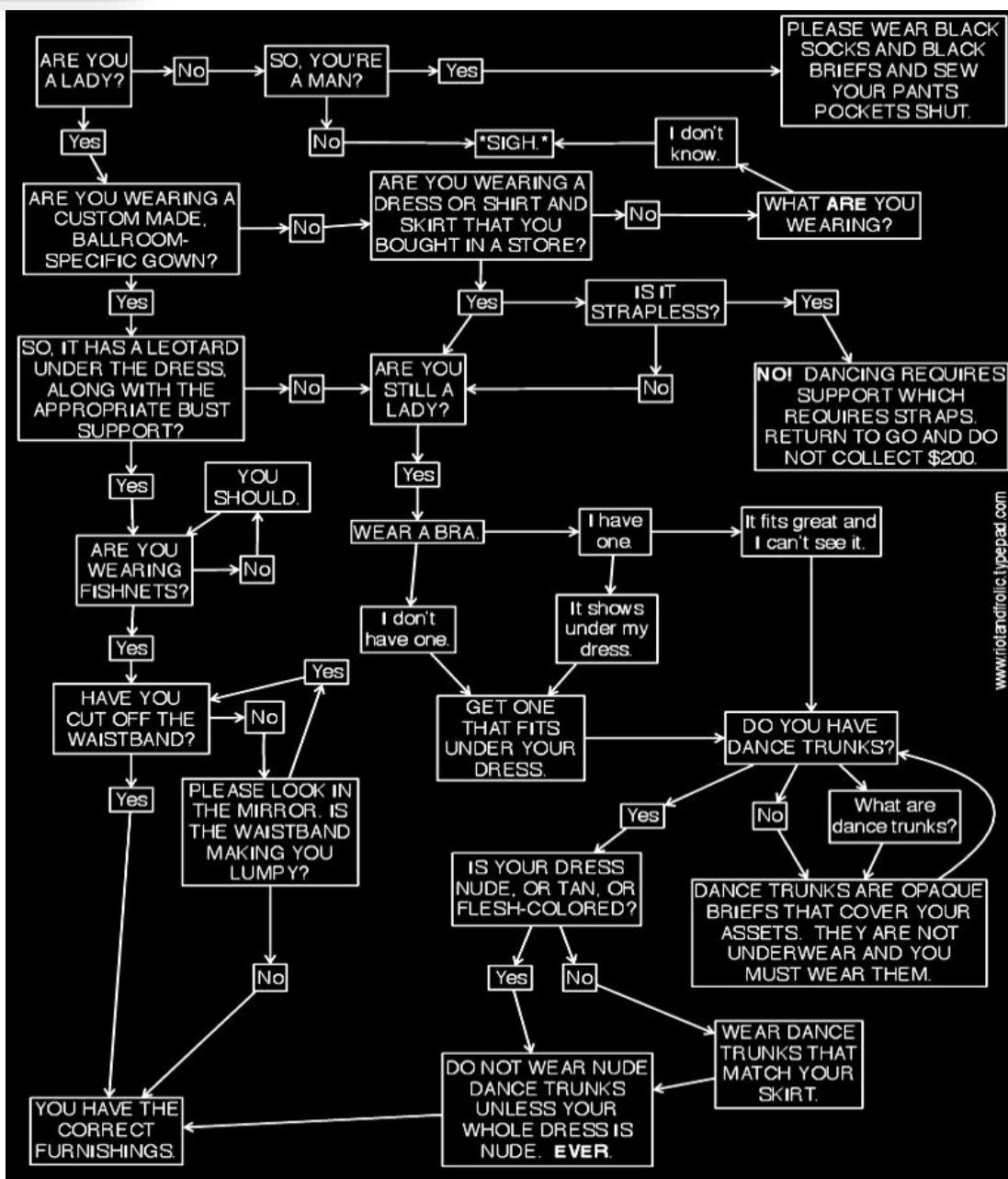


TIPS FOR PERFORMING WELL

By Kate Bratt

- Stand up tall, you beautiful you.
- Smile like you mean it.
- Dance on time.
- Wear something that looks and feels good. Second opinions and the chart below might help. ■

Kate Bratt is co-owner of Mill City Ballroom in the Twin Cities, a professional ballroom dancer and instructor, and writer at: www.riotandfrolic.typepad.com





MUSICAL RECIPE FOR A SOCIAL DANCE

By Joyce Thompson

Pete Maki and I provided music for dances and special events for USA Dance Minnesota Chapter from 1994-2011.

We provided music and sound for other events including Twin Cities Open (9 years), Star of the North (13 years), Snow Ball Dance Competition (8 years), Iowa State Cyclone Ballroom Classic (4years) Arthur Murray Regional (4 years), USA Dance Sport Nationals (4 years), and a variety of other dance events. Pete was the technical expert and I was the planner and organizer. Here's our recipe for successful music at a social dance.

Goal:

- ◆ Play music that helps participants have fun; wanting to attend future dances.

Music:

- ◆ Variety of artists and styles.
- ◆ Good solid beat.
- ◆ Proper tempo.

- ◆ Appropriate rhythm pattern.

Preparation of Music:

- ◆ Change tempo as needed.
- ◆ Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot and Waltz need to be American tempo. International Viennese waltz is 58 measures per minute (mpm) vs. 54 for American, making it too fast for most social dancers. On many dance CD's the tempo is 60 mpm for V. waltz. International Foxtrot and Waltz are 28 mpm making them too slow.
- ◆ Edit out non-danceable sections.

Plan Music for the Dance:

- ◆ Establish a template to plan the music.
- ◆ Plan sets of smooth and rhythm.
- ◆ Begin the dance with music that works well for the new dancer.
- ◆ Announce the dance.
- ◆ Play songs an appropriate length of time. (about 2 1/2 minutes for most songs)

Mixer:

- ◆ Music needs to accommodate the bronze level dancer.
- ◆ The purpose is to meet people whom you will be comfortable asking for a dance. (For male and female dancers)
- ◆ It provides an opportunity for all attendees to dance.
- ◆ Should occur 30-45 minutes into the dance to meet the goals of the mixer.

The greatest complaint about the monthly dances has been about the music. Thus, I am donating a variety of prepared music from Pete and myself, to USA Dance MN. This music can be used at the social dances to meet the goals of the monthly dance. I am including a template to plan the music and guidelines for selection. ■

Dance Music Observations by Joyce Thompson

- ♦ Mixers that don't seem to end are difficult. Three times through for the lady is sufficient.
- ♦ A fast Viennese waltz (60 bpm), that is also a very long song, doesn't work. Viennese waltz is a fast dance that should be played no longer than 2 minutes in length.
- ♦ A quickstep played within the first 15 minutes of the dance is not a good idea. This is not a dance for new dancers.
- ♦ A tango so short I didn't get half way around the dance floor with a good dancer, was disappointing.
- ♦ Playing an entire mambo that's 5-6 minutes long, is too long.
- ♦ Music that is too fast. The tempo should be edited.
- ♦ A rhythm pattern that could not be heard: the DJ had to say "1-2-3 cha-cha-cha".
- ♦ Sections in a song that are silent on the beat. My dance partner said, "I don't hear the beat". I told him there is no beat and that part should have been edited out.
- ♦ A waltz for a mixer was very slow, with a beat that was difficult to hear. My dance partner said "I don't hear the beat and can't dance to this."
- ♦ New dancers may leave early when the main dances are not played in the beginning, or if the music is difficult. Save these dances for after the mixer: samba, Viennese waltz, quickstep, bolero.



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

Trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving, and, of course, attending costume parties are all necessary components of the incredibly popular holiday we know as Halloween. Stores capitalize on this so much that now, not only do they sell costumes, but also accessories, decorations and all types of confections and candies. In addition, most entertainment establishments feature Halloween in their party and event plans. For me, the Halloween pandemonium is magnified because I live in the self-professed ‘Halloween Capitol of the World’, Anoka MN.

Despite our location, (and to the surprise of many) you won’t find us designing, sewing, or selling any Halloween costumes at Satin Stitches! Every year, however, we get panicked last minute calls for green tights or other hard-to-find accessory items (including XXL Elvis costumes).

We hear the dismay in our callers’ voices when we have to tell them, “Sorry, not here! We’re busy creating fabulous team costumes for high school dance teams, show choirs and cheer teams all over the western hemi-

HALLOWEEN DANCE COSTUME?

DON’T PANIC!

© Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

sphere!” Even though we don’t specifically sell Halloween costumes here, however, we still wanted to give some advice about what to do if you’ve just been invited to a Halloween-themed party and need a fabulous costume in a short period of time!

First, you need to figure out if you want to buy or create your own costume. If you want to make your own but have no sewing or crafting skills, don’t fret! You’ll just need a friend, relative or co-worker who is willing to help you out. If you decide to ‘make it happen’ yourself, be realistic about what you can do, or what a friend might be able to help you with. If you purchase the costume online, make sure you can receive it in time for your event. Be aware that any costume you see online may not be as good as you hoped it would be.

Of course, if you’re like many people, your first instinct might be to run to the closest pop-up Halloween costume store and buy the first costume on the rack. Even though these costumes are typically about as durable as the plastic bags they come in, this option may work for those who are not concerned with quality and just want a fun, inexpensive costume to parade around town in. If this is you, just remember that when you buy a costume off the rack, you will always see a good percentage of people in the exact same costume as you! So, you’ve been warned! Now you can’t be mad if you see seven other “Sexy Kittens” at your party!

But what about those of you who want a unique, higher quality costume with attention-grabbing details? What about those people who want a costume that they won’t see ten other people in before they even get to their party?

First of all, you’ll need a clear idea of what you hope to accomplish with your costume. Do you love Halloween and dream about “wowing” everyone with your costume? Or do you typically like to throw together simple

outfits with a minimal effort? Do you want to be able to use your costume many times, or do you just need it for one night only? You should note that if one of your goals is to win ‘best costume’ contests, extra thought and planning will probably be needed!

Next, figure out where you are going to wear the costume. Are you attending a swanky work party or an event in a dark nightclub? Different venues will dictate a different quality of costuming. If you are in a bar or nightclub, detail and quality isn’t quite as important as a house party or work event.

Once you’ve established your costume goals and have an idea of the venue, you can then begin to drum up ideas for your costume. Do you want to go for sexy, clever, historical, or comedic? Is comfort at the top of your priorities or are you willing to sacrifice your comfort to squeeze into that little costume or those super high heels? Maybe you attend a Renaissance Fair every year and would like a costume that you can use for both venues? Perhaps your partner is a Star Trek or comic book fan, and you would like something to wear for his or her events and conventions? Maybe you know you’ll be seeing a certain someone and want to impress him or her with how fabulously sexy you look? Once you’ve determined what style of costume you want it’s time to do your research! Fabulous costumes almost always will take some heavy duty preliminary planning. As with any dressing or costuming, accessories can make an outfit. So shop for accessories, whether it’s hats, jewelry or simply the right hair (a wig?) or makeup to complete your look.

All of these questions are for you to ask yourself, to help you plan for your dancing Halloween costume, or for your Halloween costume that you will also use for dancing!



ASK DR. DANCE

Submit your questions to Dr. Dance at newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org.



How important is costuming and appearance in ballroom competitions and showcases? What ideas do you have for a beginner dancer to get an affordable costume?

Michelle Hudson, co-owner of Cinema Ballroom, is filling in for Donna this month.

Michelle says: Costume, hair and makeup are a huge part of dance competitions. It's part of the role that we are playing when we compete. Think of them as your tools that complete the package. An ice skater would not skate on live TV without a costume; and even gymnasts wear colorful leotards and do their hair and makeup.

There are also functional aspects to what you wear and how you look. Ballroom dancing looks much better with a long flowing skirt and rhythm dancing can look faster with a skirt that moves. Hair that is pulled back and doesn't move prevents the distraction of hair in the face. Facial expressions are easier to see and enjoy from a distance when facial features are exaggerated with beautiful makeup.

For those new to performance dancing, dance practice-wear, dolled up with some nice jewelry, can be a great option. Investing in practice-wear is money well spent because you can wear it at lessons, while you practice, and when you perform.

Practice-wear made specifically for ballroom dancers is the best option because it is constructed to move properly with how we dance. Complete the look for your next showcase by getting your hair done, shellac it down with freezing hair spray, and wear more makeup than you ever have! Have fun with it! Who doesn't want to dress up and look pretty!

Paul says: You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Costuming, along with posture and confidence convey a picture of readiness that will serve you well. If the judges are distracted by your appearance, it will be difficult for you to overcome that impression no matter how well you dance. A good costume will not win a competition for you, but it may cost you a higher placing.

As far as showcases are concerned, they tend to be less formal and the focus is mostly participation. Social dancers use a showcase as a forum to get their feet wet and the dress code is more forgiving. Competitive students, though, may view a showcase as a dress rehearsal and conduct themselves as such.

A beginner dancer may decide to rent a costume before investing in buying one. It is also possible to work with a designer to make something less elaborate and more affordable, but still eye catching. It also has the benefit of a professional making something that fits you and enhances your appearance rather than detracting from it.

I also firmly believe that if you are properly attired, you carry yourself differently and you will try to dance up to your costume. There is no downside in dressing properly and the value of a good first impression cannot be overstated. ■



*Michelle Hudson is a US National American Smooth Champion dancer, a coach, and co-owner of Cinema Ballroom, St. Paul, MN.
www.cinemaballroom.com*



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



Elizabeth Dickinson is a life/executive coach and amateur ballroom dancer. If you enjoy her writing and would like to receive her weekly emailed coaching newsletter, contact her at: elizabeth@pursueyourpath.com.

THE DANCING LIFE:

IF YOU HAD WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED

By Elizabeth Dickinson

As dancers, our motivation to dance is pretty simple. It brings us joy to do it.

It's sometimes harder to find motivation for other things in our lives, even things we say we want.

There's an exercise I sometimes use with my coaching clients. I invite you to try it if you'd like to uncover your deeper motivation for wanting anything. Think of something you want. (If you like journaling, you may want to write this down.) Now ask yourself, "If I had that, what would I have?"

When you have that answer, keep asking the question, "And if I had that, what would I have?" Keep going until you can't go any longer, or you start repeating the same or a similar type of answer. The chances are that you have landed on a quality of being that is your deeper motivation.

For instance, if you'd like to win the lottery, chances are that if you ask the question, "And if I had that, what would I have?" once you've run out of all the things you'd buy or do, you'll land on the quality of freedom (or your equivalent).

And that's your deeper motivation. Once you find your deeper motivation, I challenge you to find all the different ways you can find or express that quality- whether or not you win the lottery.

Not all activities are as simple and joyful as dancing, but knowing what's underneath anything you want, highlights your deeper, truer motivation.

And may we find more joy in everything we want or do. ■

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DANCER'S SPOTLIGHT: PROJECT DANCE

By Bonnie Burton, Vice-President, USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011

“I’ve been everywhere, man, I’ve been everywhere.” In the past 2-1/2 years, Project Dance has been taught at almost every ballroom and dance studio in the Twin Cities metro area. American Waltz has been the most featured dance; followed by tango, cha-cha, foxtrot, and swing. Participants have even had the chance to learn salsa, hustle, west coast swing, mambo, Viennese waltz, quickstep and jive, courtesy of USA Dance Minnesota.

Project Dance is the Sunday Dance lesson initiative sponsored by USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011. Essentially, it provides quality ballroom dance instruction, featuring a different dance, taught by a different instructor, at a different location each month on Sunday afternoons.

Project Dance was originally conceived by board member Zhuojing Liu, in response to the feedback she received from monthly dance participants. They felt the quality of dance ability was declining, and as a result, the dances weren’t as enjoyable.

Quality Counts

In January 2012, the board explored the opportunity to sponsor quality Sunday afternoon ballroom lessons. Board minutes from

that time show Zhuojing’s original idea included a constant location; DVIDA syllabus instruction in nine styles of American dance (waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese waltz, rumba, cha-cha, swing, bolero, mambo); lessons by certified professional teachers; and a month-long *progressive* commitment to one dance style. A 30-minute dance would be held afterward, and the plan was to charge each participant \$5 each week. (For those of you who are new to the dance community, quality dance instruction for \$5 is an incredible bargain!)

Early Days

Project Dance made its debut March 2012, at Dancer’s Studio. The incomparable Shinya McHenry taught American cha-cha to 26 students for four Sundays that first month. (Since its inception over 2-1/2 years ago, Project Dance has been featured at almost every studio in the Twin Cities area.) Just before Project Dance was launched, a sponsor came forward who wanted the lessons to be free. A board decision was made to NOT charge the \$5 fee; instead, the lessons would be offered free to anyone.

By 2013, meet-up groups had discovered Project Dance. On occasion, there were as many as 130 participants for a one-hour

group class! It was exciting to think we could attract a lot of newcomers and grow the ballroom dance community exponentially. The studios and instructors liked it, too, as they hoped to convert some of the masses into their students who would take private lessons. Unfortunately, the only thing that seemed to attract many attendees was that it was FREE. I recall asking a participant what he liked best about the West Coast Swing lesson on a particular Sunday. His one-word response: FREE.

Not Really Free

Project Dance requires a large commitment of time and resources by the USA Dance Minnesota chapter. Volunteers (currently board members Karen Maldonado and Dan Fitzgerald) arrange the lessons, coordinate the studio rental and instructor; and attend each Sunday session to facilitate the events. The sponsor dropped out after the first year, so studios and instructors are now paid from the Chapter’s General Fund. But, analysis showed that these FREE attendees weren’t attending monthly dances, or joining USA Dance, or participating in Ballroom Blast, or other ballroom activities. Quite simply, the quantity of participants did not translate into more, or better quality dancers.

The issue here was that the classes, which were NOT free except to non-members, were being subsidized by the USA Dance membership: approximately \$600 of chapter funds was being spent each month, which has cost the chapter approximately \$12,000 since 2012, to provide a 'hook-up' venue for the meet-up groups.

Now a Member Benefit

The current USA Dance Board is still committed to providing quality ballroom dance instruction, but going forward, the focus now will emphasize quality, instead of quantity; and in providing a benefit to the members who have made a commitment to ballroom dance by joining USA Dance Minnesota. As a result, the board recently made the business decision to offer the Sunday dance classes FREE to its own USA Dance Minnesota members. There is still an open invitation to non-members to attend anytime and participate in quality ballroom dance instruction; but now non-members are charged a \$5 fee, which is still an incredible bargain.

The USA Dance Minnesota chapter #2011 invites ALL its current members in good standing to come try Sunday Project Dance. It's a benefit of your membership with USA Dance Minnesota – please take advantage of it! Few of us are such skilled dancers that we can't benefit from these free progressive classes. If there aren't enough participants, the board will have to reconsider if this program has run its course in terms of interest and effectiveness.

Fall Schedule

Please join us this October, when Donna Edelstein will teach east coast triple-swing at Tapestry Center at 2 PM on Sundays. In November, we're featuring salsa at Social Dance Studio, and in December, Project Dance returns to Dancer's Studio.

(What has your experience been with Project Dance classes? Loved it? Hated it? We value your opinion! Let us know: newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org.)

Project Dance Locations, Instructors, and Dances 2012-2014

<u>Month</u>		<u>Location</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Dance</u>
Mar	2012	Dancer's Studio	Shinya McHenry	Cha-cha
Apr	2012	Tropical Ballroom	James Woods	Amer. Waltz
May	2012	Social Dance Studio	Eric Bolden	East Coast Swing
July	2012	American Classic	Paul Botes	Viennese Waltz
Aug	2012	Dance with Us America	Gene Bersten	Amer. Tango
Sept	2012	Cinema Ballroom	Nadine Messenger	Amer. Foxtrot
Oct	2012	Dancer's Studio	Shinya McHenry	Mambo
Nov	2012	No Project Dance	-	
Dec	2012	No Project Dance	-	
Jan	2013	Cinema	Nadine Messenger	Amer. Waltz
Feb	2013	Dance with Us America	Gene Bersten	Cha-cha
Mar	2013	American Classic	Paul Botes	Amer. Foxtrot
Apr	2013	Costa Rica Ballroom	Eliecer Ramirez	Swing
May	2013	Women's Club	Rachel Damiani/Shane Haggerty	Tango
June	2013	Cheek to Cheek	Harry Benson	Rumba
July	2013	Tapestry Center	Kate Bratt	Salsa
Aug	2013	Tapestry Center	Julie Jacobson	Amer. Waltz
Sep	2013	Balance Point Studio	Jeff Nehrbass	Hustle
Oct	2013	Balance Point studio	Jeff Nehrbass	Cha-cha
Nov	2013	Dancer's Studio	Etta Berkland	West Coast Swing
Dec	2013	No Project Dance	-	
Jan	2014	Dance with Us America	Gene & Elena Bersten	Jive
Feb	2014	Cinema Ballroom	Nadine Messenger	Rumba
Mar	2014	American Classic	Paul Botes	Amer. Waltz
Apr	2014	Costa Rica Ballroom	Eliecer Ramirez	Cha-cha
May	2014	Mill City Ballroom	Kate Bratt	Amer. Tango
June	2014	DanceLife Ballroom	Shinya McHenry	Quickstep
July	2014	Dancer's Studio	Nic Westlake	Amer. Waltz
Aug	2014	DanceLife Ballroom	Shinya McHenry	Amer. Foxtrot
Sept	2014	American Classic	Natalie Palmer Botes	Amer. Tango
Oct	2014	Tapestry Center	Donna Edelstein	Triple Swing
Nov	2014	Social Dance Studio	TBD	Salsa
Dec	2014	Dancer's Studio	Troy Lerum	TBD



BEYOND BALLROOM DANCE COMPANY

AT THE ARTS MIDWEST CONFERENCE

By Deanne Michael, Artistic Director

Beyond Ballroom Dance Company just wrapped up an exciting week of promoting the art of ballroom dance at the Arts Midwest Conference held at the Convention Center in downtown Minneapolis. This is where the business of show business gets done! Arts Midwest is one of the largest booking conferences in the country, bringing performing arts organizations like BBDC and presenting venues together. Beyond Ballroom exhibited at the conference, introducing the arts community to ballroom dance theater.

The conference included a wide array of arts groups – everything from large concert promoters, and touring Broadway musicals to small non-profit puppet theaters and mimes. And dance...lots of dance! There were several ballet and tap dance companies, lots of ethnic and folk dance troupes, and a multitude of contemporary dance companies. But not one other company like BBDC.

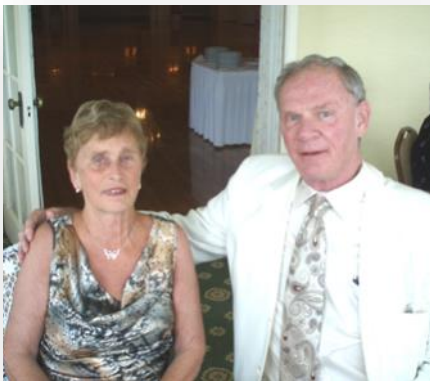
Is ballroom dance presented as concert dance, so unique? Well apparently, yes it is! There are other productions that use dancing with the stars as inspiration and perform large-scale productions that are essentially a live version of the show. But where are all the companies that create original work based on a choreographer's inspiration and the beauty and subtlety of partnership dancing, that employ talented local dancers, that provide school residencies and outreach opportunities for seniors? It turns out we're right here in Minneapolis and we're very unique.

What I'm hearing from conference goers is that this is not something they are seeing anywhere else in the country. The notion of presenting ballroom dance as an art form is not a new one (think back to all those great musicals of the 30's and 40's), but it is evolving and BBDC is at the forefront of introducing the public to ballroom dance in a new way. By merging the form with

other dance styles and stretching the possibilities of the dances, BBDC is both preserving a time honored dance form and creating an entirely new genre!

The reception BBDC has received at the Arts Midwest conference has been another example of the excitement ballroom dance evokes in people of all ages. It's been a reminder to me of how fortunate we are to live in a state that supports the arts and a community that so actively supports ballroom dance. I left the conference feeling a little sad for all those people that have to go home to communities with no ballroom dance theater...but fortunately, they now know about Beyond Ballroom Dance Company- and we are happy to bring concert ballroom dance to communities all over the country! ■

(Join BBDC for their 12th Annual Benefit Ball on October 10, 7-11 pm hosted by Dancers Studio. Visit www.beyondballroom.org for tickets.)



*John S. Munday is a writer who lives in Isanti County, Minnesota, with his wife Fran. Jack is a student of Monica Mohn. Jack's book, *Beauty in Partnership, A Memoir of Ballroom Dancing*, is available at dance studios or from Jack at www.johnsmunday.com.*

GENTLEMEN LEAD

By Jack Munday

Now, after over seven years of dance lessons and dancing, I feel pretty good about how I look. This publication showed photos of the most recent Tea Dance. I was in one photo, and looked just fine. So different from our first Tea Dance back in 2008 where both of us were so intimidated by the great dancers. Of course that was more motivation to learn to dance. And it worked.

In some ways I have increased self-confidence, certainly on the dance floor but also in general life. Posture works for both, and even walking in the skyways with good posture makes me feel more confident. Dancing is supposed to give us positive effects in the rest of our lives. As Fran and I age, as does everyone, we see the effect on our ability to function around the home, in society. Plus we get to tell dance stories when we are socializing with our non-dancing friends.

I realize that dancing is a partnership where one person leads and the other person follows. In dance lessons we sometimes reverse the roles so we can better understand what our partner needs to do to make the pattern work. Lately I have thought about the role of the gentleman in dancing, not because of any male superiority but as a reflection on how the male role in society has changed. In my research for writing an historical novel set in the 1860s, I learned that gentlemen were expected to be confident in three endeavors: how to shoot, how to ride, and how to dance.

In my younger days I did hunt, until I started raising Saint Bernard puppies and just couldn't pick up what I shot. I chose life over death. I also rode a horse at one time when one of my children was learning to ride. Fran had horses for her children too, but I didn't ride one of them. Both of these activities were easy enough to learn and to do.

What about dancing? As these almost eight years of columns have shown, it took a while. If I had caught the addiction to competition, it would have taken much longer. But I have acquired enough skill at dancing that I can do what gentlemen of the 1860s did, go to a dance and ask for a lady's hand. Then dance well enough for both of us to enjoy it.

There is one major difference between gentlemen dancing then and now. In the old days, one brought one's wife to the dance, danced the first dance with her, and no more until the last dance. Dancing was local, and dancing with others was the best way to learn news, and gossip, from one's neighbors. Now quite often I will dance almost exclusively with Fran. If she wants a break, I will ask a lady for her hand. I also like how dancing has changed because now ladies are expected to ask us to dance. I always say yes. ■





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USA DANCE BOARD ELECTION 2014

Meet the Applicants!

The USA Dance Minnesota #2011 Board Elections will be held this fall. There are nine USA Dance Board positions to be filled. All positions are two-year terms starting January 1, 2015.

Fourteen (14) candidates have made application, or submitted petitions, to the Nominations & Election Committee for inclusion on the ballot. The vetting process continues in October; some applicants may not be on the final ballot.

Here's what you need to do to vote in the election:

1. You must be a member of USA Dance Minnesota #2011 to vote, so make sure your membership is current.
2. Ballots will be mailed to all USA Dance Minnesota members in good standing.
3. When your ballot arrives by mail, fill it out. You may vote for as few as one (1) person, or as many as nine (9) people, but you may not vote for more than nine (9) or your ballot will be invalid, and none of your votes will count.
4. Return your ballot in the envelope enclosed with your ballot by the deadline.

Be sure to cast your vote for the volunteers who represent your local dance interests!



ED SOLTIS

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Currently serves as USA Dance Minnesota web administrator, responsible for content updates and maintenance. (www.usadance-minnesota.org)

Employed as a Principal Software Engineer with a large storage computer firm.

Has danced since 2008; both pro/am and am/am competition experience.

Lives in Minnetonka, MN.

Prior dance board experience as a board member with Café Bailar Dance Club.

"I'm passionate about ballroom dance and have been a member of USA Dance Minnesota since 2008. My love of dancing started many years ago with Dean Constantine; I've had lessons and coachings with studios and instructors all over Minnesota. I enjoy social and competition dancing with my wife/dance partner Bonnie Burton. It's important to me to continue supporting the mission of USA Dance by promoting the quality and quantity of ballroom dance in the Twin Cities."



KAREN MALDONADO

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Current USA Dance Board Member. She is coordinator of the Project Dance initiative. (The USA Dance Sunday afternoon free dance lessons.)

Enrolled as a senior in the nursing program at the U of MN.

Elected Vice-President of the U of MN Ballroom Team this year.

Lives in Mendota Heights, MN.

"I would like to continue work on the USA Dance Board by continuing to coordinate Project Dance; including developing the program by bringing in more people to the Project Dance team. My interest in dance spans from the activity itself, to competitions, to the community at large. I am a qualified candidate for the USA Dance Board due to my dependability. I have learned to do quality work, on time. In my past work as a teacher's assistant and in the clinical setting, I have been a reliable and trusted team member."

USA DANCE BOARD ELECTION 2014



JOYCE THOMPSON

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Volunteer coordinator experience; and planning and organizational skills; including USA Dance Tea Dance committee member, 2014.

Provided music, with partner, for dance events including social dances, competitions, studio events, for 14+ years.

Retired; has time to assist USA Dance.

Lives in Shoreview, MN.

"I have been a USA Dance member since the early 1990's, and have been a past board member, which will provide a historical perspective. I'm retired and have time to assist USA Dance meet the goals of the organization."



DAN FITZGERALD

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Current USA Dance Board Member; serves as co-coordinator of the Project Dance initiative. (The USA Dance Sunday afternoon free dance lessons.)

Owner/Operator of a cleaning & restoration business for 35 years.

Has enjoyed dancing for over 10 years; has competed in pro/am and am/am events.

Lives in Minnetonka, MN.

Participates and volunteers in the social and church community.

"I am currently a board member, involved in Project dance. I want to continue to help further dance projects and to uphold the values that have been established in our community"



LESLIE WHITNEY

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Current Secretary of USA Dance Minnesota, since 2010.

Volunteers with numerous USA Dance activities including regularly attending monthly dances, newsletter committee work (proofreading; generating content and articles); assistance with special events, such as the Tea Dance.

Has danced and competed for many years; has both pro/am and am/am competition experience.

Lives in St. Paul, MN.

"I want to have the opportunity to continue to guide and support USA Dance Chapter #2011. I believe I have been a valuable board member and hope to share my experience with new members of the board. I love and respect our dancing community and if elected, I would like to explore bringing dance to the K-12 population."

USA DANCE BOARD ELECTION 2014



MICHAEL KASINKAS

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

Volunteer work includes: Founder/Head Chair of MN Ballroom Blast; former officer of U of MN Ballroom Dance Club.

Employed as a Statistical Analyst for medical device firm.

Competition Ballroom dancer for 4+ years

Lives in Plymouth, MN

"I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance."



ROSEMARY O'CONNELL

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

Served as officer of the U of MN Ballroom and Carleton College Ballroom Teams.

Dances competitively and has volunteered for dance related events since 2010 .

Ph.D. Candidate in Mathematics, U of MN; also a mathematics teaching assistant.

Lives in Minneapolis, MN.

"I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance."



ANDY NORDBERG

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

Lives in Golden Valley, MN

No additional information provided other than the statement below.

"I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance."

USA DANCE BOARD ELECTION 2014



TOM CRABLE

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Interested in volunteering with special events (tea dance, dance competitions); the monthly dances; and assisting with the membership database items that need to be maintained.

Has danced for 20+ years doing American smooth and rhythm; social, competitive, formations and solos. Has been active in various social dance groups.

Lives in Bloomington, MN

"I'd like to be a board member because I can view dancing from various viewpoints: competing at events, social dancing, being in a formation group and solo dancing. I would like the USA Dance Minnesota organization to involve different groups of ballroom dancers into one big group, such that members could try all types of ballroom dancing. Now it seems that the social and competitor dancers are separate and the dancing community of the Twin Cities is split between the U of MN and other dancers.



TAYLOR WALL

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

Volunteer work includes: former President of U of MN Ballroom Dance Club; founding member of U Partner Dance.

Employed as Dance Coordinator for major local dance studio.

Competition ballroom dancer for past 3+ years; Female Athlete of the Year, U of MN.

Lives in Minneapolis, MN

"I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance."



LELAND WHITNEY

Application submitted to USA Dance Minnesota Nominations & Election Committee.

Current President of USA Dance Minnesota, since January, 2013.

Serves as USA Dance District #2 Director for the national USA Dance organization.

Educated as a research scientist; owner of an optical design/analysis software company.

Lives in St. Paul, MN.

Has been dancing since 2003, has extensive competition experience with both pro/am and am/am dancing.

"I am strongly committed to: the USA Dance mission of increasing the quantity and quality of ballroom dance; increasing the enjoyment of all participants in chapter activities; seeking out suggestions from the entire dance community; being all-inclusive in chapter activities; continuing and improving the Minnesota Dance publication; supporting and obeying the national by-laws; building and maintaining ethical standards; avoiding any and all inappropriate actions that would use our board to harm others in the community; continuing the rapid growth of our chapter that was achieved this year."

USA DANCE BOARD ELECTION 2014



CATHY DESSERT

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

Current USA Dance Board Member; has served for 6+ years.

Trained as a Special Ed teacher.

Lives in Vadnais Heights, MN

“I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance.”



DANIEL O'CONNELL

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

Current USA Dance Board Member; actively involved in various dance related volunteer activities.

Owns a software consulting firm, specializing in logistics and execution of projects.

Lives in Minneapolis, MN.

“I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance.”



THERESA KIMLER

Petition submitted to be placed on the USA Dance Minnesota ballot.

President/Owner of an engineering firm.

16 year volunteer/sponsor of many local dance related events.

Multi-year USA Dance Champion in rhythm, smooth, 9-dance.

Lives in Oakdale, MN.

“I believe in developing the future of dance in the State of Minnesota. Ensuring that USA Dance gets good at encouraging more people to dance and improving dance for those who dance now is important. Myself and eight others are running because we believe the current board of USA Dance Minnesota lacks the combined knowledge, experience and resources we hope to bring to the board to accomplish the mission of USA Dance. To accomplish the mission of USA Dance, we believe the following actions should be taken: run free dance lessons with an outward-facing marketing plan that attracts new dancers to the community each month, collaborate with organizations, groups, and events that focus their attention on the future of dance, and actively seek grant funding and sponsorship to develop the initiatives that advance the mission of USA Dance.”



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DANCE PARTNER WANTED ADS

Looking for a practice partner? Compose an ad letting potential partners know what you're looking for and how to contact you.

Submit ads to newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org. Please include area code with any phone number.

► **Vee Hammond 651-206-9890** vee.hammond@comcast.net

Follow, 5' 2", seeks practice partner for bronze/some silver-level Latin and smooth styles. Takes private lessons periodically. Loves to perform. Possible lesson sharing, showcases, or competitions.

► **Justin Sundberg 612-964-1741** justin@jdsundberg.com

Lead, 5'10", 28, seeks practice partner for smooth, rhythm, and WCS. Open to all styles and possible lessons or competition. 3 years' experience. Will provide floor time at a major studio.

► **Luz Taaca 952-232-8958** luztaaca@yahoo.com

Follow, 5' 4", seeks practice partner for bronze/some silver-level smooth and rhythm. Takes private lessons. Loves to perform. Available for try-out. Possible lesson sharing, showcases, or competitions.

► **Yeun Chou 651-738-1506** yeunchou77@hotmail.com

Lead, 5'7", seeks practice partner for Standard and Latin, any level up to open gold, possible lessons or competition. 7 years' experience. Will provide floor time at a studio.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

COMPETITION RESULTS

Oct 3–5, 2014

Carolina Fall Classic – NQE

WDSF Senior I & Senior II Standard & Latin

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder in Charlotte, NC

Oct 31–Nov 2, 2014

Chicago DanceSport Challenge – NQE

Hosted by Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001, Chicago, IL.

Nov 15, 2014

California State DanceSport Championships – NQE

Hosted by NorCal USA Dance Chapter #4004, San Jose, CA.

Nov 22–23, 2014

National Collegiate DanceSport Championships

Hosted by USA Dance National, Columbus, OH

Jan 10–11, 2015

The Snow Ball DanceSport Competition

Hosted by Donna Edelstein, Minneapolis/St Paul, MN

Jan 18, 2015 (DATE NOT YET FINALIZED)

Manhattan Amateur Classic (MAC) – NQE

USA Dance Chapter #3004 at Manhattan Center in Manhattan NY

Jan 24, 2015

PDX Ballroom Classic—NQE

Hosted by USA Dance Chapter #1006 in Portland, OR

Jan 31, 2015

Winter Frolic

Royal Palm USA Dance Chapter 6016 in Coconut Creek FL

Feb 14–15, 2015

Mid–Atlantic Championships – NQE

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

Mar 27–29, 2015

2015 National DanceSport Championships

To be held in Baltimore, MD.

July 9–11, 2015

Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Hosted by Scott and Amy Anderson in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Oct 30–Nov 1, 2015

Chicago DanceSport Challenge – NQE

Hosted by Chicagoland USA Dance Chapter #2001, Chicago, IL.

KANSAS CITY DANCESPORT CLASSIC

Kansas City, KS

September 6, 2014

Minnesota Competitors

Michael Kasinkas & Taylor Wall

1st (of 1) Adult Pre-Champ Smooth

1st (of 1) Adult Novice Smooth

2nd (of 3) Adult Silver Standard

1st (of 1) Adult Gold Standard

1st (of 1) Adult Pre-Champ Rhythm

1st (of 2) Adult Novice Rhythm

Edward Soltis & Bonnie Burton

7th (of 16) Senior II Silver Smooth

5th (of 13) Senior III Silver Smooth

1st (of 5) Senior II Bronze Standard (W,Q)

1st (of 4) Senior II Bronze Standard Foxtrot

1st (of 6) Senior III Bronze Standard (W,Q)

1st (of 3) Senior III Bronze Standard Foxtrot

Greg Warner & Jill Smith

12th (of 16) Senior II Silver Smooth

4th (of 13) Senior III Silver Smooth

6th (of 10) Senior II Silver Rhythm

5th (of 12) Senior III Silver Rhythm

Leland Whitney & Leslie Whitney

1st (of 2) Senior II Pre-Champ Smooth

2nd (of 4) Senior II Championship Smooth

2nd (of 4) Senior III Championship Smooth

1st (of 2) Senior II Pre-Champ Rhythm

2nd (of 3) Senior II Championship Rhythm

2nd (of 2) Senior III Pre-Champ Rhythm

2nd (of 3) Senior III Champion Rhythm



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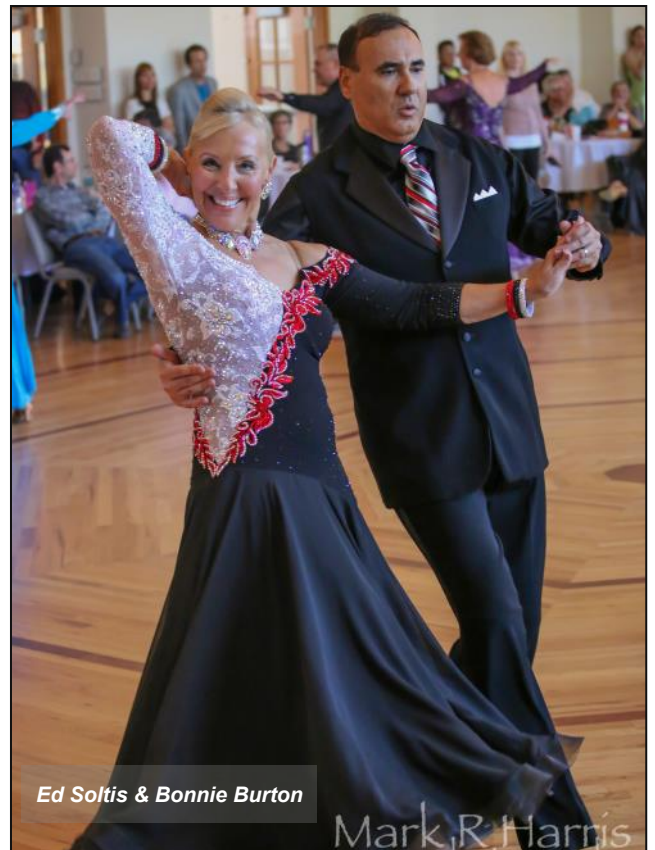
701 St.Germain St.W.Suite 201

LAST LOOK Minnesota Competitors at the Kansas City DanceSport Classic

Photos by Mark R. Harris Photography



Michael Kasinkas & Taylor Wall



Ed Soltis & Bonnie Burton



Greg Warner & Jill Smith



Leland & Leslie Whitney

DANCE CONTACTS

A collection of businesses and clubs of interest to Minnesota dancers.

If you'd like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to newsletter@usadance-minnesota.org.

STUDIOS

AMERICAN CLASSIC BALLROOM

550 Market Street, Chanhassen
952-934-0900
www.acballroom.com

ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE STUDIO

534 Selby Avenue, St. Paul
651-227-3200

BALANCE POINTE STUDIOS

5808 W 36th Street, St. Louis Park
952-922-8612
www.balancepointestudios.com

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLUB

1103 W. Burnsville Pkwy, Burnsville
952-292-0524
www.ballroom-club.com

BLUE MOON BALLROOM

2030 Hwy 14 E, Rochester
507-288-0556
www.BlueMoonBallroom.com

CINEMA BALLROOM

1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul
651-699-5910
www.cinemaballroom.com

COSTA RICA BALLROOM DANCE STUDIOS

816 Mainstreet, Hopkins
952-303-3339
www.costaricaballroom.com

DAHL DANCE CENTER

4204 North Hwy 52, Rochester
507-252-1848
www.dahldance.com

DANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT

651-605-5784
tricia@danceandentertainment.com
www.danceandentertainment.com

DANCE WITH US AMERICA

10 Southdale Center, Edina
612-564-5483
www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCELIFE BALLROOM

6015 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis
612-345-4219, www.dancelifeballroom.com

DANCERS STUDIO

415 Pascal Street N, Saint Paul
651-641-0777
www.dancersstudio.com

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

2382 Hampden Ave, St. Paul 612-562-2733
www.millcityballroom.com

NORTH STAR DANCE STUDIO

Bloomington, MN
612-799-4147
[Facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio](https://facebook.com/northstar.dancestudio)

RENDEZVOUS DANCE STUDIO

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612-872-1562
www.theplacetodance.com

SOCIAL DANCE STUDIO

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612-353-4445
www.socialdancestudio.com

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www.studiojeff.com

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CAFÉ BAILAR

www.cafebailar.com

COTILLION DANCE CLUB OF STILLWATER

651-388-1231
paynter@charter.net
Contacts: Scott and Maggie Paynter

LADANZA DANCE CLUB

Stillwater, MN
651-439-3152
[Facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub](https://facebook.com/LaDanzaDanceClub)
Contacts: Mark and Wanda Bierbrauer

LAKESIDE DANCE CLUB

320-763-6432
danceclub@lakesideballroom.org
www.lakesideballroom.org

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB

651-636-9747
www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

MN WEST COAST SWING DANCE CLUB

651-487-6821
mnwestcoastswingdanceclub.com

REBELS SWING DANCE CLUB

952-941-0906
www.tcrebels.com

STARDUST DANCE CLUB

stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

SUBURBAN-WINTERSET DANCE CLUB

Woman's Club of Minneapolis,
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis
952-894-1412
www.suburbanwinterset.com

TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

612-224-2905
www.mntango.org

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER

3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis
612-722-2914
www.tapestryfolkdance.org

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BALLROOM DANCE CLUB

bdc@umn.edu
ls.gd/umnbdc

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

SERVICES

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

www.organizeronduty.com
Contact: Lynne Schulz
lmsdance@gmail.com
Services: Weekly listing of dance events

MADE FOR MOVEMENT

952-595-0003
www.made4movement.com
Contact: Marsha Wiest Hines
Services: Costume design, tailoring.

OH SEW SPECIAL

7300 South France Avenue, Suite
323, Edina
952-746-5539
www.ohsewspecial.net
Contact: Susan Richardson
Services: Tailoring, alterations, redesign

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Minneapolis
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INSTRUCTORS

Scott Anderson.....	612-816-4446
Wanda Bierbrauer.....	651-439-3152
Rachel Damiani	612-718-6823
Nathan Daniels	763-464-1021
Jennelle Donnay.....	651-357-2060
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
Julie Jacobson.....	651-261-6442
Jay Larson.....	651-387-3886
Kristina Lee.....	715.821.9039
Deanne Michael.....	612-508-9255
Monica Mohn.....	612-874-0747
Mariusz Olszewski.....	612-242-5159
Mary Rosenstiel.....	612-720-2584
Char Torkelson.....	612-709-6399
Lisa Vogel.....	651-208-0818
James Wood.....	651-605-5743



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