



USA Dance, Inc. - a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quantity and quality of ballroom dancing in the United States

Rhode Island Chapter of USA Dance Newsletter

January, 2011

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Welcome New Chapter Members

A warm welcome to:

Laura Albanese of Cranston, social dancer and Special Express Volunteer

Alena Zapalska, social dancer of Quaker Hill, CT

Heidi Schweitzer of Cranston, Special Olympics DanceSport Athlete

Kim Tutunji of Warwick, Special Olympics DanceSport Athlete

Stephen Sousa of West Warwick, Special Olympics DanceSport Athlete

Elizabeth Morris of Hope Valley, Special Olympics DanceSport Athlete

David Worthen of Warwick, Special Olympics DanceSport Athlete

Special Express Team to Perform at Eastern Dancesport Comp in Boston in February

The Rhode Island Special Express Team will perform at the Eastern US Dancesport Championships on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at the Renaissance Harbour Hotel in Boston. A big thank you to Competition Presenter Mark Nocera who will donate admission and entry fees for the team.

Our chapter also thanks Kathy and Bryann Soscia of K&S Music who graciously donated a portion of their hall space for a Silent Auction for the benefit of the team, and donated the proceeds of a 50/50 raffle. The funds raised will sponsor ten Special Olympic Dancesport Athletes. K&S invited our Team members to attend the K&S Holiday Dance and perform during the show. Attired in holiday costumes, they danced a lively Meringue to *Felice Navidad*.

Thanks to all of you who donated and/or purchased auction items and for your interest and support. In recent weeks the team has grown to 34 members: 17 Special Olympic DanceSport Athletes and 17 Unified Sports Partners (volunteers.)

RIUSADance is one of only two chapters in the US that sponsor a Special Olympics Ballroom Dance program.

Rhode Island Roundup

The beginning of 2011 is brimming with fabulous dance opportunities. Visit <http://www.riusadance.org> and click on "Local events" to get all the details about the following happenings and much more. Here's just a sampling of some of the events scheduled.

Tryouts for ***So You Think You Can Dance New England*** are scheduled for April 1 & 2 at Studio One Rhode Island. All styles of dancers are encouraged to audition. The event is sponsored by the Women's Center of Rhode Island. <http://www.womenscenterri.org/events.htm>. Email studiooneri@cox.net for additional information.

K&S 20th Anniversary Dance this weekend, Saturday January 22. Admission is only \$1 for this special occasion. <http://www.kandsmusic.net>

Studio One is starting a **Challenge Dance Team**: Two Step, West Coast and Line Dance. Meeting this Saturday, January 22 2:00 - 4:00 pm. <http://www.StudioOneRI.com>.

Performers are needed for Brown University's annual "Dancing with the Profs" charitable event on Friday, February 11, 2011. The Brown Ballroom Dance Team is looking for three or four couples or groups to perform during the intermission between acts. If you are interested please email vivianne_andersen@brown.edu and cc dancingprofs@gmail.com by this Saturday, January 22.

East Bay Ballroom is creating a **Formation Team** beginning Monday, February 7. <http://www.eastbayballroom.com>

Plenty of **Valentine Dances** are scheduled. Look at the February events list on our website and the individual studios' websites as well. If you love to waltz, check out the Sunday, Feb 13th afternoon valentine dance hosted by **Mostly Waltz RI**.

Rhode Island College performing Arts Series will present a one night only (Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 PM) performance of **Tango Buenos Aires**, an ensemble "known throughout Americas, Europe and the Far East as the most authentic and uncompromising representative of the Tango." \$35 pp. RIC Box

office 401.456.8144.

For anyone who has never seen a Ballroom Dance competition and would like to watch for free, the Boston Ballroom Cup, Sheraton Hotel, Boston, January 29, 2011 is offering free admission for spectators. Visit

<http://www.bostonballroomcompetition.com> for details.

Also, please visit the Eastern US Dancesport Competition website

<http://www.easterndancesport.com> for information about the February 18-20 comp in Boston, the showcase with Canadian Champions, Dance Camp with world class pros, and music, jewelry, shoes and costume vendors.

Chapter News

The position of Secretary is vacant on the Rhode Island Chapter BOD as well as several Committee Chair positions. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an inquiry to riusadance@gmail.com.

Competitors, the 2011 Dancesport Rule Book is available online at www.usadance.org.

If you are not yet a member of RIUSADance, please consider joining our organization with chapters all across the United States committed to promoting and supporting ballroom dance. You can join online at www.usadance.org with credit card or download an application form, fill it out and mail to the address on the form with your check.

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Rhode Island Chapter of USA Dance | 121 Sagamore Road | Cranston | RI | 02920