

SO Dance Newsletter

USA Dance #1011

Issue Number Ninety-five <-> May/June 2009

www.UsaDance1011.org



Our Mission: To promote and facilitate dance as a healthful, enjoyable, community-building activity for all ages.

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UsaDance1011.org



WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, RUSH BEHNKE



I have recently been a volunteer for the "Hearts with a Mission" (HWAM) project, that is building a teen homeless shelter. It's hard to believe that we have between 150 and 200 kids who are sleeping in parked cars, under bridges, and under bushes.

We are second to Portland for the number of homeless kids. Currently there is no place for them to go. This home will have 17 beds and will allow the teens to stay for up to 120 days, or until they are placed in a safe home. It's a wonderful resource for these kids – maybe we should do a fund raiser for HWAM sometime?

With the rainy days behind us for a while, and lots of sunshine and warmer days ahead, it's a sign of the season to see people exercising more – coming out of what's probably the human version of winter hibernation. Dancing is my favorite exercise. It's so wonderful that after all these years of looking for a form of exercise that I enjoy, I found one that I love. I was over at the Grants Pass Dance Club's Friday dance a few weeks ago, and



it

was mostly seniors (nearly 100) having great fun and exercising. I hope that is me until I can't walk.

My role as president of SO Dance has been a wonderful experience, with many rewards, both for our chapter, and for myself. But change is the only constant in life, and I hope that at the end of this year, another USA Dance member will step up to be President. It gives new life to an organization to have new leadership every year or two. I feel at this point, I could better serve SO Dance by being on the Board of Directors.

I am excited about the Jazz Jubilee this year. The dance venue will be at the Medford Armory and there will be another dance contest. The Board of Directors wants to make the dance venue the highlight. The Medford Jazz Jubilee has always featured dancing with floors at most venues. This year, 2009 marks the second year a venue has been dedicated primarily to dancing. The dance floor is extra large and is placed center stage. There will be dance contests on Saturday, and there will be demonstrations and/or lessons throughout the weekend. More details to come – check out their web site at www.medfordjazz.org

Also, look for a great Hawaiian dance this August. June will run the dance and Don Knokey will run the golf tournament. Stay tuned for the date.

See you on the dance floor, Rush

Tip From the Pro's Judith & Jean-Paul

The “Heart” of the Matter

“Tango is about the embrace. If you dance ballroom, you hold your partner. But in Tango we embrace the partner.” *Hector Falcon*



All the great tango dancers emphasize that tango is an embrace and a way of walking with your partner to the music.



There is an undeniable “feeling” of connection that is palpable when watching a skilled couple dance tango. The unity within the partnership is unmistakable. The trained eye looks for how the music is being expressed through their bodies...the subtle movements, the syncopations and the overall musicality; whereas the untrained eye is impressed by the fancy figures with the feet and legs flying. What makes the Argentine Tango so special as a dance...at least to those of us who have fallen in love with it?

A good embrace is fundamental to tango. The embrace is an attempt to unite two dancers as one; to achieve one body with four feet. In order to do this, the arms must be firm and have a degree of “relaxed energy”. The embrace is the steering wheel of the partnership. The arms do not move independently but rather as a unit with the torso. The leader’s mindset in this embrace should be to feel, to protect, to guide and to support his partner.

Once the embrace is established, you must move, or walk, with the correct intention in harmony with your partner. This means moving from the torso (core), or as we say “the Heart”.

In tango, it is the leader’s ability to move from his heart and his partner’s desire to maintain her heart connection with him, that creates this magical connection. It is this heart connection that the leader uses to lead his partner’s steps. It is for this reason that the man’s steps are often different and independent from the woman’s. The development of the heart connection is where learning to dance tango should begin. It is simply walking, in harmony, with your partner. Something that is easier said than done!

If you have had the opportunity to watch a good follower being led by a good leader, she may appear to enter a trance-like state during the dance. As tango dancers, this is the ultimate place we are attempting to reach with each dance. This state has been compared to a meditative trance; but rather

than turning inward, the follower turns her attention outward towards her partner.

A good leader will provide the opportunity for his partner to enter this magical place; aka “tango’s peak experience”. It is the leader’s assertive confidence in the improvised movement, and the follower’s response to each nuance that facilitates the process.

Tango dancers aspire to maintain the “heart of the matter”. Each partner builds on the experience while maintaining connection, creating harmony with each other through the music, moment to moment. This is where the magic of the tango embrace begins to happen. It only gets better from there.

Waltz Ball

By Cori Grimm



Thanks to all who attended the Rogue Valley Waltz Ball on Saturday, March 14 at the Ashland Armory. Nearly 100 guests, dressed in their finest, swirled and twirled to an amazing 27-member orchestra, sponsored by the Evergreen Ballroom. One visitor from the Portland area, Nelson Bridwell, expressed sincere appreciation for the orchestra, the size and quality of the dance floor, and the skill of the dancers. Nelson has hosted Waltz Balls in the Portland area. If we host another ball next year, he's hoping to bring a crowd.

This ball was the fourth annual Waltz ball to be held in our area. The first three were hosted by the Rogue Valley Symphony. This was the first one thrown by dancers for dancers. Most of the organizers and volunteer helpers were USA Dance members, including both of the Waltz Ball

performance groups and our event photographer extraordinaire: Tara Behnke. (You can view some gorgeous pictures of the ball at www.photographybytara.net.)

So when's the next ball? We are currently looking for a 'music' partner. To be a viable annual event, we really need to attract more of the general public. I've approached the Youth Symphony to see if they would be interested in a joint venture as a fund raiser for them. We'll keep our fingers crossed! If that shouldn't work out, we will still have some priceless memories to share. I'm grateful for that and for those who made the ball a magical moment in my life

The Dance Factory

The Dance Factory has a new location – and it’s not too far from where it was – downstairs!

The Dance Factory has a beautiful new location on the corner of 6th and Front Street in Medford. - next to Woody's Bar and Grill. The new studio offers a 700 square-foot dance floor and dance lessons every night, and of course, as always - lots of fun!

Classes include Thursday Ballroom, Friday Salsa and Saturday WC Swing. There is a Salsa dance party on Friday nights, and a West Coast Swing dance party on Saturday night. Starting in May, The Dance Factory also started special Singles classes. Sounds like there’s something for everyone!



For more information, and the schedule, check out their website at www.dancefactoryinfo.com.

The Pear Blossom Competition

The Pear Blossom Competition for ballroom dancing was held as part of the Pear Blossom Scholarship Pageant on March 28, 2009 at North Medford High School. Four local dance couples were finalists and wowed the packed audience with their skills and energy. The winning couple was Jackson Minear and Linnaea Funk. Second place went to Adam Kightlinger and Kaitlyn Strong, third to Jonathan Williams and Rachel Warren, and fourth to Maverick Varner and Achlyn Voorhees. Cash prizes were awarded: \$400, \$300, \$200, and \$100 respectively. Those dancers in the audience were very proud of these fine young dancers!!

June Kranenburg trained the young dancers, whose ages ranged from 14-19.

The judges used the following criteria:

- Execution (technique, style, variation, timing)
- Showmanship (costumes)
- Difficulty of routine
- Connection with partner



Seem like they were all winners! Congratulations!!

Evergreen Ballroom Spring Showcase



We hope you were able to attend the special event that only happens twice a year: The **Evergreen Ballroom Showcase**. If you missed it, the next

Evergreen Ballroom Showcase will be held on Friday, January 15th, 2010 (some of us like to plan ahead!) The evening dance party began with a foxtrot lesson, and continued through the evening with demonstrations, a mixer, shoe sales, cake and



lots of dancing. It was the Evergreen Ballroom's way of showcasing what their teachers have been teaching and giving the students a chance to show off what they've learned. And did we see some wonderful demonstrations! There was a lot of variety: Two Viennese Waltz team presentations; an intricate Polynesian stick dance; two West Coast Swing solos: a display of great connection and lifts by Jerry and Michele Slaughter, and a very entertaining duet routine with split second timing by Donn & Karen Knokey, Mike Anderson & Molly Northcraft; a sassy Salsa by Jack Baumgartner & Laurie Foutz and friends; a Ladies Group presentation of Latin moves, high spirited solos from Pear blossom finalists Jonathan Williams & Rachel Warren and Jackson Minear & Linnaea Funk; a Modern Dance group showed incredible balance and strength in their graceful presentation, some of the Thursday night West Coast Swing folks demonstrated their lead and follow skills, Bill & Marilee Grimm gave a romantic Night Club 2 Step solo; John Ourant and Cori Grimm lead the "Flying" Slow Waltz presentation with a solo and were joined by tuxedoed gents and ladies flying in with beautiful gowns on loan from USA Dance; and the evening presentations concluded with a Quickstep/Jump Swing team dance demonstration that made you want to get out and join them!

We hope you will all get out and join us on the dance floor!

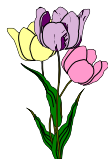
Shoes, Dresses, and Dancing, Oh My!

Shoes and dresses

A few dresses have now been donated, to the SO Dance Dress Collection. USA Dance members can reach Tara at 541-734-9312 to make an appointment to borrow a dress for that special occasion. After the event, the dress is to be returned to the collection, and a donation given for dry cleaning, if it is needed. If you have a dress to donate, please call Tara, and remember, it is tax deductible. We are also looking for more shoes if you have a pair you can donate (also tax deductible), and contact Cori Grimm and leave a message at 826-8000.



Dance demonstrations. Thank you to those who have contacted Marilee to be willing to do dance demonstrations around the community. We are still looking for more volunteers! A partner is not required, and demonstrations are usually “lead and follow” just to share the love of dance-at the mall, at a nursing home, or for community events. If you are willing to participate, please contact Marilee Grimm at bgrimm@connpoint.net and she will add your name to the list of volunteers willing to dance just for the fun of it and share it with others.



Outreach Dances

All right everyone, let's all get out and dance, dance, dance! The monthly Outreach Dances are So Dance Club's way of getting out there and supporting our local dance instructors, meeting new people, and seeing new venues- and supporting our So Dance Scholarship fund! Here's how it works: each month a dance given by one of our local instructors is designated as the Outreach Dance of the month. The instructors have agreed to give USA Dance members a \$1.00 discount (bring your membership card!) and to donate \$1.00/attending USA Dance member to our scholarship fund. It's a win-win situation. Please come out to these monthly Outreach Dances and show your support for our scholarship fund and have a great time dancing!

Here's the schedule:

- **Fri. Jul 10th, 2009** - 7:30-10:30 - Richard & Susan-Evergreen Ballroom
- **Thr. Aug 6th, 2009** - 7:00 – 9:00 West Coast Swing Group – Evergreen Ballroom
- **Sat. Sep 19th, 2009** - 4:30-6:00 Follow my Lead with Jerry & Darcy (band-Fabulous Fairlanes)
- **Fri. Oct 23rd 2009** - 7:30-10:30 June-Evergreen Ballroom
- **Fri. Nov 20th, 2009** - 8:00-10:30 Tina-Dance Factory
- **Fri. Dec 18th, 2009** - 7:30-10:30 Cori-Evergreen Ballroom (Christmas Party)
- **Jan. 8th, 2010** - 7:30-10:30 Richard & Susan-Evergreen Ballroom
- **Thr. Feb 4th, 2010** - 7:00-9:00 West Coast Swing Group – Evergreen Ballroom

Please see our website for details regarding individual dances; www.usadance1011.org

Support our Advertisers...

Advertising in the SO Dance Newsletter

Here's your chance to spread the word about your business and help support your local dance chapter at the same time! It's a win-win situation. Check out the first ads in this issue.

Advertising Rates:

USA Dance Member rates:

Business card size - \$7.50 per issue
¼ page - \$12.00 per issue
½ page - \$20.00 per issue
Full page - \$34.00 per issue

Non Member Rates:

Business card size - \$11.25 per issue
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Full page - \$51.00 per issue

Please send electronic files to charlene_100@msn.com
or hard copy to:
Southern Oregon Dance,
PO Box 1750, Jacksonville, OR 97530

This newsletter is sent via email to all members with an email address and a copy is mailed to members who do not have email.

Chapter NEWS

Monthly Board Meetings are held at Marie Calendars. Call Rush for details.

Don't forget to keep your membership current. Renew on line at UsaDance.org



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USA Dance #1011 - Individual Membership Application

Please print clearly

Name _____	Date of Birth _____
Street Address _____	City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Email: _____	Phone(s) _____

Is this a renewal application? No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, Member # _____ # _____

Additional Information:

Profession and/or hobbies: _____

Are you willing to help USA Dance as a volunteer? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, at what level? Chapter ☐ Regional ☐ National ☐

How are you willing to help: _____

Name of chapter I wish to be assigned to: Southern Oregon #1011(or other) _____

Individual Membership Categories:

Ballroom Dancer	\$ 35	\$ _____
Social Dancer	\$ 25	\$ _____
Social Youth	\$ 10	\$ _____
Social Instructor	\$ 50	\$ _____

Make Check payable to:

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Mail to: POB 1750 – Jacksonville, OR 97530

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Coming in August - Hawaiian Dance
Coming in September - National Ballroom Dance Week!