

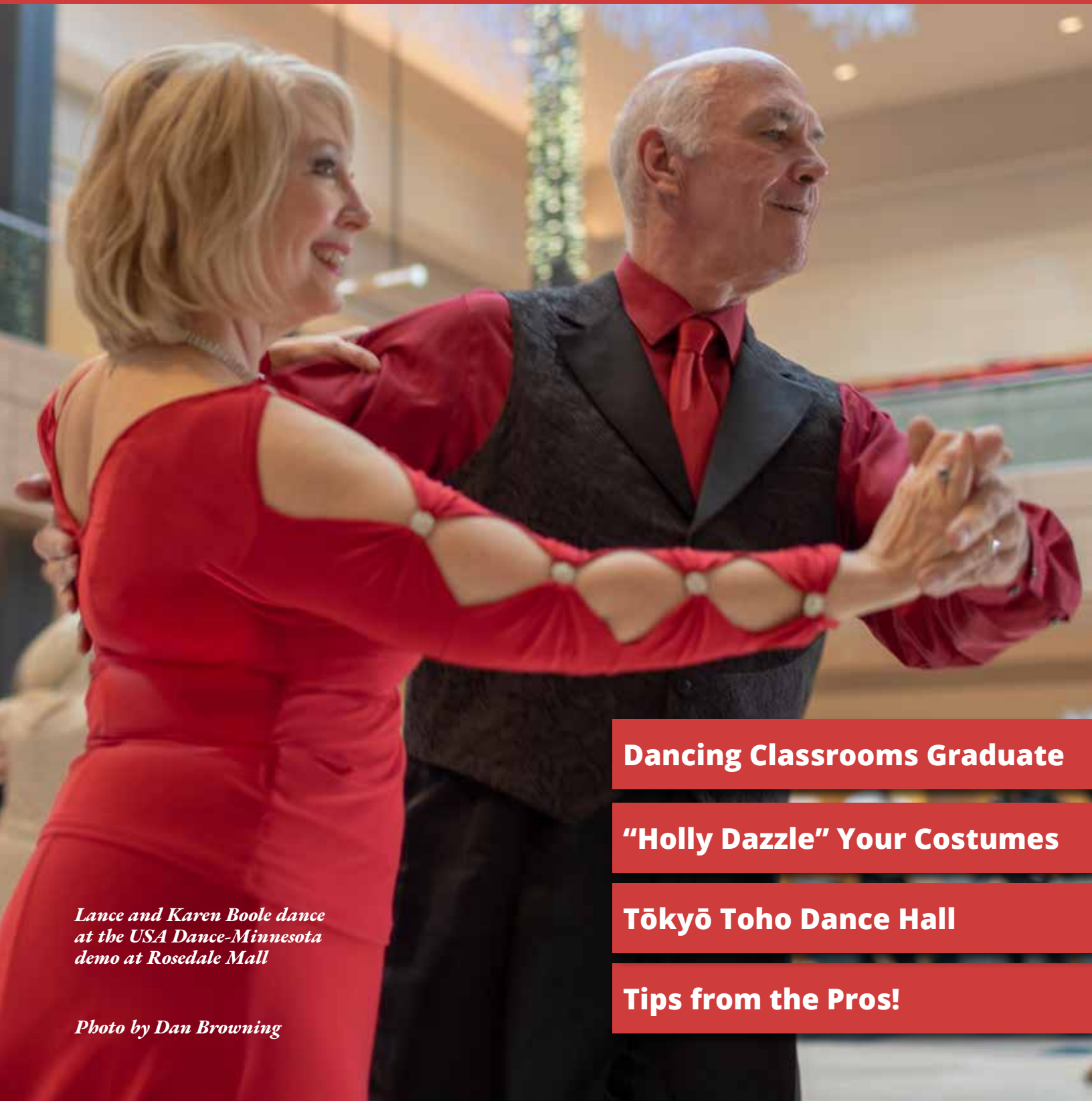


MINNESOTA

December 2018

DANCER

An Official Publication of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



*Lance and Karen Boole dance
at the USA Dance-Minnesota
demo at Rosedale Mall*

Photo by Dan Browning

Dancing Classrooms Graduate

"Holly Dazzle" Your Costumes

Tōkyō Toho Dance Hall

Tips from the Pros!

Minnesota Dancer



An Official Publication of
USA Dance-Minnesota
Chapter #2011

USA Dance: Who Are We?

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

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

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

December Holiday Gala!

Saturday December 15
Cinema Ballroom
1560 St Clair Ave, St Paul
7-8 lesson-Viennese Waltz
Instructor: TBD
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

January

Saturday January 19
DanceLife Ballroom
4444 West 76th Street
Edina
7-8 lesson-Mambo
8-11 pm Variety Dance
Instructor: Shinya McHenry

February

Saturday February 16
Dancers Studio
415 Pascal St., N.
St. Paul
7-8 lesson-Quickstep
8-11 pm Variety Dance
Instructor: Kate or Gordon Bratt

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

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

Dancer's Night Out

USA DANCE

3rd Saturday Variety Dance, December 15, Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul. Lesson 7–8 pm and dance 8–11 pm. Lesson–Viennese Waltz. Instructor: TBD.

Tapestry–Social Dance with USA Dance, 2nd Friday, December 14, DJ Leland Whitney, lesson is Bolero II, instructors are Tom and Anne La Tourelle, lesson 7–8 pm, dance 8–11 pm.

Project Dance–No Project Dance in December.

WEEKLY DANCES

American Classic Ballroom–Fridays, lesson 6:30–7 pm, Dance 7–9 pm.

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

Ballroom & Latin Dance Club–Fridays, lesson 7–8 pm and dance 8–10 pm.

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

Costa Rica Ballroom–Wednesday, Practice Party, 8:15–9 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom–Fridays, Variety Dance, lesson 7–8 pm, dance 8–9:30 pm.

Dancers Studio–Thursdays, Variety Dance, 8–9:30 pm.

OTHER DANCES

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

Café Bailer Dance Club–Saturday Variety Party, 2nd and 4th Saturdays, December 8, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30–8:30 pm and dance 8:30–11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom –Holla-Day Dance, December 21, dance lesson (Foxtrot and Cha Cha) from 7–8 pm and variety dance from 8–10 pm.

Cinema Ballroom–Sunday Night Dancing with Jerry O'Hagen and His Orchestra, December 9 and 23, 6:15–10 pm.

MN West Coast Swing Dance Club–2nd and 4th Fridays, December 14 and 28,

B-Dale Club, Roseville, 7:30 pm lesson free with admission and 8:30 dance.

Tapestry–Variety Dances 1st and 3rd Sundays, December 2 and 16, dance 6–9:30 pm.

Touch of Grace Studio–Hutchinson-Friday Variety Party, December 7th, dance 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Twin Cities Rebels–WCS and Variety Dance, December 2 and 16

SHOWCASES

Cinema Ballroom–A Nutcracker Winter Showcase, December 1, Saturday, showcase from 5–9:45 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom - Winter Showcase–December 8, Saturday, from 6 to 10 pm.

Dancers Studio–Winterfest Ballroom Dance Showcase, December 14, Friday, showcase from 7–10:30 pm.





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*Check out our blogs

◀ *Frank and Sue dancing at the USA Dance-Minnesota demo at Rosedale Mall.*

Photo by Julie Johnston



USA Dance-Minnesota #2011
cordially invites you to our

Holiday Gala Dance

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Performances
Refreshments & Fun!

7 pm Lesson
8-11 Variety Dance

CINEMA BALLROOM
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul, MN





USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 October 2, 2018

Submitted by Leslie Whitney

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Attendees: Lee Whitney, Joyce Thompson, Jane Phipps, Gary Stroick, Bonnie Burton, Stephanie Clausen, and Leslie Whitney.

1. Agenda: Approved.
2. Confidentiality Statement
3. Board Minutes: Approved.
4. Treasurer Report: Approved.
5. Special Projects Report:
 - a. Flash Mob practices have been productive and great fun. Sunday morning breakfast and practice warm up planned prior to MOA performance.
 - b. Will ask chapter members about posting monthly dance and project dance information on meet up sites.
6. Communications Coordinator Report:
 - a. Minnesota Dancer: The chapter website is undergoing improvement. Communication report accepted.
 - b. Website, Facebook, Constant Contact-Thank you Bonnie for the improved look.
7. Social Dance Coordinator Report
 - a. Monthly Dances: 2nd Friday Dance, October 12th, 2018 co-hosted with Tapestry; October 20, Dance With Us America Studio-Rumba (Theme: Halloween); November 17th, Dancers Studio-Night Club 2 Step (Theme: Food Drive); December 15th, Cinema Ballroom Studio-V. Waltz (Theme: Holiday Gala).
 - b. Project Dance
 - c. November (3 Sundays) Dancers Studio, Night Club 2 Step with Troy Lerum,
 - d. December- No Project Dance.
8. College Ballroom Dance Coordinator Report
 - a. Ongoing communication with college Ballroom Dance Clubs.
 - b. Looking for college ballroom dance performers for the December monthly dance.
9. K-12 Report:
 - a. Dancing Classrooms- Joyce will write an article for Minnesota Dancer about a young person who has progressed to studio dancing.
10. Membership Coordinator Report:
 - a. 2017 September 30: 264 members
 - b. 2018 September 30: 274 members
11. 2018 Chapter Board Elections: Applications on the chapter website.
12. Our Chapter will submit an application to Nationals for Volunteer of the Year.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Next meeting: time 6 pm at Byerlys' St. Louis Park, MN, on 10/30/18.



There is no Project Dance in December

**Project Dance classes will resume
January, 2019.**

See you then!

Sponsored by USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011

USA Dance Minnesota offers dance instruction to members for \$5. Non-members pay \$10.

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

www.usadance-minnesota.org

info@usadance-minnesota.org

Follow us @USADanceMN



"Holly Dazzle" Your Clothing and Costumes for the Holidays!

© Deborah J. Nelson/Satin Stitches Ltd.

With all the showcase events around town, and with many of our social dancers on a limited budget, how about advice on how to enhance evening wear to "glam" it up for a ballroom showcase performance? Ideas such as putting rhinestones on belts, or adding fur or feathers to sleeve or dress hems come to mind.

'Tis the season for attending holiday parties and presenting holiday dance performances. And unless you plan on purchasing entirely new outfits for these upcoming, festive events, you can bedazzle and be-deck your current clothing and costumes with holiday cheer and save some cash!

"You can add glitz and glamour to your every-day apparel or holiday togs by adding a scarf."

You can also purchase a special accessory or additional wardrobe piece rather than an entire garment. Purchase a basic red, green, black, gold, silver or white sweater or top, and then accent it with similarly colored rhinestones or beaded/sequined appliques. If you love the 'ugly sweater' look, then the more garish your trim, the better! But if you love a more subtle style, keep your trimming tasteful.

Stylish sweaters, ponchos or draped garments worn over simple dresses or pant ensembles will show off your holiday spirit whether they incorporate holiday motifs or are simple a holiday color. You can get DIY crafty or you can purchase holiday pins and simply attach them to your garments.

Holiday themed do-dads such as Christmas trees, ornaments, stockings, or wreaths and stars create a festive look. All these can be added with a WOW factor or subtle 'touch' of glitz.

Scarves are currently very popular again. You can add glitz and glamour to your every-day apparel or holiday togs by adding a scarf. Just a pop of holiday color can translate your wardrobe into 'festive holiday' apparel.

Adding holiday jewelry is also a perfect way to telegraph your holiday spirit – whether inexpensive costume jewelry with a Santa, Christmas tree or even an elf motif, or with more sedate, simple red or green gems. Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, broaches and even hair adornments are all out there for you to discover!

Remember that if you are at a dinner party, the most festive part of your apparel should be above your waist, as this is what is seen by others. If you are out dancing or at a cocktail party, your entire ensemble will be noticed. Maybe add sassy pair of red shoes to telegraph your holiday spirit! Don't dismiss adding a holiday belt or trim set at your waist, if you have a lovely defined waistline. (If you don't, then feature a special decoration on your upper bodice and hems of your sleeves.) And fun rhinestoned, decorative motifs can also be added to the hemline of a dress.

A belt is an accessory that can 'dress up' a costume or outfit, either worn as purchased, or get your DIY going, and bedazzle or bedeck a belt with holiday cheer! Feathers and (faux) fur accessories can also provide that 'Wow' factor without a huge investment. Or sew on feather boas to a dress hemline or add tufts of feathers anywhere on a costume or garment.

If you are presenting a special holiday dance performance, holiday colors will show off your holiday style. Adding lights or garlands may even be appropriate (yes to your clothing)! Rhinestones can be subtle or garish – your choice! If you want a snow man, Santa's helper or a stack of gifts on your



Deborah Nelson is the Founder and Head Designer of Satin Stitches Ltd, a custom performance costume manufacturer in Minneapolis. Deborah is a leader in the fashion/costume industry with 40+ years of professional design, fitting, alterations, and patternmaking experience. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Major: Fashion Design) degree and is a former instructor at The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD). For more information about Satin Stitches, visit their website at: www.satinstitches.com

chest, go for it! Or if you simply want to emphasize a feature, such as a collar or floral design, get out your Bedazzler!

If Holiday shopping doesn't inspire you, check out Pinterest for lots of ideas, besides the various commercial online websites such as eBay and Etsy. But really, just a walk through the holiday décor at your favorite department or specialty store should present many ideas on how to accentuate your holiday spirit! Think 'outside' the box for your holiday cheer!

Other articles to refer to:
Rhinestoning 101: Embellishing Tips from Satin Stitches!
Transforming Off-the-Rack Garments for Dancing



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94 & Century. Cut through the parking lot between Green Mill & Caribou Coffee. Stay right to the backside, enter building 6063.

Tricia Wood - Owner/Instructor

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Live music provided by The Pat McLaughlin Band!

Dance Venue Report: Tōkyō Toho Dance Hall



By Paul Stachour

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, I danced at Toho Dance Hall, located at Toho Twin Tower Building 7F in Tōkyō-Ginza. It is a dance hall with a 30 feet x 70 feet dance-floor of sprung wood and seating area for 200. Parking is not easily available and public transportation is via the Hibiwa subway station. The general atmosphere is high-class and the temperature was splendid. Food is available at a café on along short wall and beverages at a bar along long wall. The handicap accessibility is an elevator to 7th floor, and the toilet facilities are modern, separate, clean, well-lighted.

The dancing time was 1 pm - 10:30 pm and the music was by the house band. There was a no lesson associated with the dance. There were about 80 dancers there when I arrived, and I would characterize them as mostly partners, with a lead/follow ratio roughly even.

This was my first time ever to dance in Nihon (Japan), though ...I had been in Tōkyō once before. I had been on a business trip to Vietnam, and decided to stop in Japan for a short vacation on the way back to the US. I began looking for

a dance venue with a net-search about three weeks in advance. I identified five potential venues and sent each venue an e-mail, written both in English and in the romanji character set of Japanese, asking them to confirm the date/time/place/price I found on the web-site.

None of the venues answered me. However, I asked the concierge at the place I was staying to call Toho and confirm their information, which he did. When I arrived at Toho around 3 pm, I was met at the desk by a very elegantly (tuxedo) dressed gentleman who inquired if I had been there before. When I said no, he inquired if I had dance shoes with me. When I again said no, he informed me that the price was 2500¥ with an additional 300¥ to rent dance shoes, which are required at Toho. [\$1 US dollar is ~110¥] I was also informed that paid dance partners [taxi dancer, a dancing partner available for a fee] were available for rental at 2000¥ for 30 minutes. There were more than a dozen paid female followers [PF] and around a dozen paid male leaders [PM] available for rent.

Sitting in the café area required deposit of 2000¥; I did not find out if that was cover-charge or minimum purchase. I was also informed that to sit at the bar, one had to make a purchase there. So I sat in the chairs along the other long wall. This also meant that I was forbidden to enter the café area to ask someone to dance. I had dressed in “good business casual”; this meant that I was one of the poorest dressed persons there, since almost all of the males were either wearing a tux, a suit, or sweater with tie. However, my dress attire did not seem to be a factor when I asked someone to dance. I just said “dance please”, in Japanese, and the usual response was either “yes”, or to point at the person sitting next to them, thus indicating that they already had a reserved dance partner for the evening. My attempts at conversation were mostly failures, as my Japanese and their English were usually insufficient for much more than to introduce oneself to the other person.

Continued on next page

Not too long after I arrived, there was a waterfall mixer. However, it was very different from any I have ever done. There were two lines on each side of the room, two for leaders and two for followers. I did not see anyone other than “the usual gender” in the lines. One line was for the regular dancers like me, the other for the paid (PM or PF) taxi dancers. Thus, during the mixer, I danced only with the PF dancers. I am supposing that the reasoning was that this was how one decided which paid dancer it was that one would want to rent. There were only two PF I felt comfortable with during the mixer. When I asked about them later at the rental desk, they were already fully booked up. I did notice that there were a few females who danced with other females, including both some of the PF taxi dancers and some of the regular dancers. As the crowd dwindled to around 25 people after 6 pm, I noticed one female practicing the leader role all by herself during one of the waltzes. So (you know me), I just walked across the dance floor to where she was, positioned myself in front of her, and held up the follower (right) hand. She looked quizzically at me, and said “female”. I responded, “yes”, and she took me in her arms, and we did the waltz together. As a matter of fact, we did six dances in a row together, swapping the leader and follower role each time. Then her dance partner came and (rightly so) stole her back. Since the attendance had dropped to about 15 people by this time (7pm), I said “good night” and left.

My general impression of the site and the evening was: not very many available partners for a walk-in dancer like me. I would try harder to find one of the other venues next time.

Further information about the venue can be obtained via their website at <http://www.tohodance.co.jp/info/english.html>, or by contacting their managing director in Tokyo at 03 (3504) 1763.

[The original article submitted to Minnesota Dancer included some words in Japanese hiragana characters which were removed by the editors for licensing reasons. We hope this didn't diminish your enjoyment of the article.]



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(CD)

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検索

Tips from the Pros: Michelle Haley Hudson

From the Archives, October 2010

Interviewer Unknown

Michelle says, "ballroom dancing discovered me." It happened at the right time and in the right way. Here are some tips to make the most of your dancing experience.

Dancers can make the most of their lessons by discovering what kind of a learner they are and structuring their lessons accordingly. Also, mind what you do before and after your lessons to make the most out of the actual lesson time.

Be mentally and physically prepared for the lesson. Don't arrive stressed out from work or not stretched, if you need to be. Afterwards, make some sort of reminder; whether written, audio, or video, about what you learned to help you remember. They will be like your progress notes.

When taking a group lesson, Michelle says to attach the appropriate expectation. Most often, group classes are pattern classes. Use it as an opportunity to practice your own technique, what you are working on in your private lessons.

On having a successful partnership, Michelle feels the key is finding a coach you trust. A good coach will teach you how to structure your practices and set long and short-term goals. Her coach of choice for achieving these goals is Toni Redpath.

Michelle says, "Dancing can begin at any age!" For parents who want to help their children, treat it as a sport and find a good coach. Educate yourself so you can support your child and make good

decisions. If you are not competing and you are just looking to teach the social aspect of dancing, still educate yourself and find a good coach for your child. These are two different aspects of dancing that both require research before starting.

Michelle's advice for those who compete or aspire to compete: You won't be a success unless you enjoy what you are doing! Surround yourself with people and coaches you trust and set goals and enjoy!

Michelle's best tip to find the right teacher to bring out the best in you is: Figure out if you are getting what you want out of your instruction and if you are happy in your dancing, then you have the right teacher.

Angel Wings

- Dave Tsang -

*For in the night how could I know,
The thunderstorm drowned out my cry,
I could not hear your song,
In the darkness I could not see what was real,
With the winter cold I could no longer feel your essence,
In the turbulence I could not find peace,
How would I know this would be our last dance,
In the end what once was can never be.*

*But in the night there is the promise of the morning sunrise,
And in the springtime showers I will kiss the rain,
In the healing tear drop rains I will learn to cry again,
For in my darkest moments my light from within will shine,
I will let our dance gently fade away in the whispering breeze,
And in the wind - forever I shall fly,
Not for days of yesteryear nor the promise of tomorrows not yet here,
But for this moment - I will fly towards the light,
My faith and God have given me angel wings of prayer,
For what was my loss is never truly lost,
And in my heart we will dance again on angel wings.*

Lynne's Dance News

Dance events for
every day of
the week.

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www.lynnedancenews.com

The Next Step for a Dancing Classrooms Graduate

By Joyce Thompson, USA Dance-Minnesota Board Member

Photos by C.J. Hurst.

When Ellie heard her school was going to have ballroom dance classes, she was not excited about it. Her school was one of the first schools to participate in the Dancing Classrooms 8th grade curriculum. After the 2nd week of class, or four lessons, it started to be fun and her thoughts about the program changed. Ellie participated in the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match and announced "It was great!"

I first met Ellie when she came to a Friday night party at DanceLife Ballroom with her grandmother and cousin. Her grandmother mentioned to me that Ellie just completed the dance program. I asked her a few questions and learned it was the Dancing Classrooms Program. Her cousin told me that the program had a major impact on Ellie. Ellie is an introvert and is shy. She came out of her shell, despite being in a new learning arena.

Attending a ballroom dance was a major step and a challenge for Ellie. The lesson was cha-cha which is not part of the 8th grade curriculum. She came from

learning a very specific pattern of steps in a circle. It was a major transition to learn other steps and to follow the lead. But she was brave and stepped in line for the mixer of foxtrot, waltz, and tango. It is not unusual to see Ellie ask a gentleman on the sidelines to dance.

Ellie's friends decided not to continue with the dancing. Meanwhile, Ellie has become bored with the beginner lessons and has moved to the intermediate group classes. She learns the steps easily. I have led Ellie and she has made an enormous amount of progress. I recall her being so proud when she was wearing her first pair of dance shoes. Her favorite dances are tango and cha-cha.

Another major step for Ellie was dancing in the September showcase at DanceLife Ballroom with another student from the studio. She and Wilson took two private lessons with Nelly, a DanceLife instructor, to work on technique and to learn how to look good on the dance floor. She was so proud, she was beaming, and says she had a great time. She was dressed to impress with a new



dress. A seamstress friend of the family assisted with sewing appliques and stones on the dress for that 'special dance look'. Her mother and sister attended the showcase to see her perform.

Ellie has found dance to be a sport she can participate in and have fun. Ellie has a congenital condition with decreased lung capacity which prohibits her from participating in other sporting activities, unlike her brother. She also has issues with anxiety and depression for which dance has had a very positive impact. Fortunately, she has a supportive group of family and friends. Ellie has taught her five-year old sibling how to dance the foxtrot and swing steps she learned in the Dancing Classrooms program. A friend of the family who had previous exposure to ballroom frequently brings Ellie to the Friday night dances. If you have an opportunity, talk to this young lady about dancing and watch her face light up!



USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 Elections 2018

USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 is pleased to announce the following individuals have been nominated and

elected to serve on the Board of Directors of USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011 during the 2019-2020 term,

beginning January 1, 2019. Thank you and best wishes to these newly elected volunteers!



Leland Whitney



Carol Post



Russell Alliev



Leslie Whitney



Stephanie Clausen



Joyce Thompson



Gary Stroick



Bonnie Burton



2019 COMPETITION CALENDAR

January

11-13

The Snowball DanceSport

Bloomington, MN

Hosted by Donna Edelstein

February

22-24

Mid-Atlantic Championships NQE

Bethesda, MD

Hosted by Mid-Eastern USA Dance Ch. #6001

January

18-20

**Manhattan Amateur Classic
(MAC)-NQE**

Jersey City, NJ

Hosted by Greater NY USA Dance Ch. #3004

April

12-13

**USA Dance National DanceSport
Championships**

Orem, UT

Hosted by USA Dance Nationals Org. Committee

January

25-27

**Southeastern DanceSport
Championships-NQE**

Birmingham, AL

Organizers: Wayne & Marie Crowder

May

4

**New England DanceSport
Championships-NQE**

Dedham, MA

Hosted by MASSabba USA Dance Ch. #3002

February

9

**Royal Palm DanceSport
Championships-NQE**

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Hosted by the Royal Palm USA Dance Ch. 6016

May

19

Go Wild DanceSport Competition

Bloomington, MN

Hosted by Donna Edelstein

2019 COMPETITION CALENDAR

May

17-19

San Antonio DanceSport Classic-NQE

San Antonio, TX

Organizers: Wayne & Marie Crowder

July

18-21

Twin Cities Open Ballroom Championships

Minneapolis, MN

Hosted by Scott & Amy Anderson

June

28-30

Gumbo DanceSport Championships-NQE

New Orleans, LA

Hosted by the LA Gumbo USA Dance Ch. #5031

July

26-28

OKC Dreamcatcher DanceSport Championships-NQE

Oklahoma City, OK

Organized by Wayne & Marie Crowder



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East Coast Swing Foundations

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Sunday, January 13 — 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 20 — 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 27 — 2:00 pm



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Dance Contacts

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to bonnieburton@comcast.net

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Lisa Vogel.....651.208.0818

ARGENTINE TANGO

Miriam Lea Ziven.....847-340-6854





Couple dances at the USA Dance-Minnesota demo at Rosedale Mall.

Photos by Dan Browning



The Sleigh Belle Dancers spread holiday cheer at Rosedale Mall performance.



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A woman with blonde hair, wearing a vibrant blue sequined dress with a large ruffled skirt, is captured in a dynamic dance pose against a solid black background. Her arms are raised, and her skirt is flowing outwards. She is wearing multiple bracelets on her wrists and a necklace. The text for the photography business is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

David Chin
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