

DANCER

A M E R I C A N

AD EXCLUSIVE: INNA BRAYER
Discusses Dancing With the Stars

HOLIDAY HOT SPOTS

The best places to dance this holiday season

BALLROOM AT MARYLAND

The program behind DC DanceSport Inferno

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA DANCE

COVER STORY: NATIONAL BALLROOM DANCE WEEK



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ON THE COVER

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14 AD EXCLUSIVE: INNA BRAYER

"The people are so great — like a family... It's so hard to go back to reality and be a real person."

33 BALLROOM AT MARYLAND

The program that began with two classes now hosts one of the largest collegiate competitions on the east coast.



RI CHAPTER # 3010 MEMBER GAIL ROMANOVICH & AUDIENCE MEMBER
PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA SOCCI, PRESIDENT RI CHAPTER # 3010.

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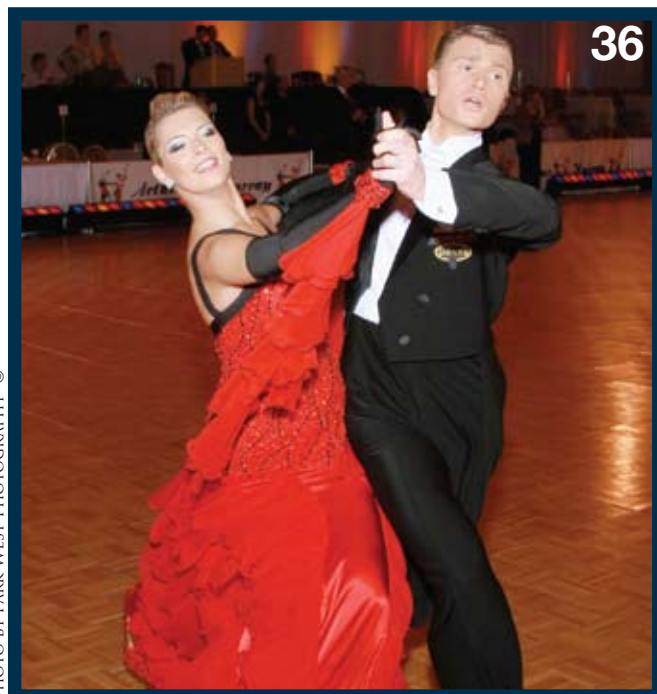


PHOTO BY PARK WEST PHOTOGRAPHY ©

IGOR MIKUSHOV & ANNA DEMIDOVA

President's REPORT



One of the goals I announced almost a year ago was to improve the timing of *American Dancer*. I think you will all agree that there has been a major improvement, both in quality and timely publication. We are not yet where I believe we could be, but thanks are due to Shawn and his co-workers, and to Angela Prince for achieving this goal. The postal service seems to have difficulty in getting the magazine to the West coast in a timely fashion, and this often results in a delay of about two weeks in delivery. We will be examining how to eliminate that in the months ahead.

As we come towards the end of my first year back in office, I can look back with considerable pride in the performance of your leadership teams. Although we have lost several team members for business reasons, their replacements have stepped in with enthusiasm and commitment. In

November, at our various Board meetings in Columbus, we are preparing the business plan and budget for 2009. Our financial situation is extremely satisfactory, and as we say goodbye to our long-serving Treasurer Lee Andrew, CPA, we welcome a familiar face as his replacement, Esther Freeman. She has been working on our financial data for several months already, and I am extremely pleased with what we have already accomplished in that area.

As part of the 2008 budget process I asked for additional funds for advertising, and for improving the image of USA Dance. Never was money better spent! Our coverage in print, radio, television and electronic has soared this year, and the enormous amount of work by Angela Prince cannot be overstated.

For the first time for many years our National Championships were run by an organizing committee of individuals appointed by the Governing Council. The results were very impressive. Ken Richards and Daphna Locker assembled a great team of volunteers in a magnificent venue, and ran an event that exceeded our expectations. We are returning to Baltimore in 2009, where we will again provide activities for non-competitors and for our DanceSport athletes. The hotel is on the historic Harborfront and shares a building with fine stores and eateries. Don't miss Nationals 2009!

Looking further ahead, USA Dance has obtained the rights to run the 2010 IDSF World Latin American DanceSport Championships. USA Dance has sanctioned Mr, Sam Sodano as the organizer of this Championship at the Ohio Star Ball in November 2010.

I wish you all a joyous Holiday Season, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Peter Pover



Member Organization
of the United States
Olympic Committee

American Dancer

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please include your name, city and state. Names will appear in full unless specified otherwise.

CHAPTER NEWS

Please include chapter name and number, contact information and any photos with caption information that you might have.

PHOTOS

Must be high resolution, print quality digital photos. 300 dpi.
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WAYNE CROWDER

Wayne is a Championship Adjudicator and a member of the United States Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing with the following certifications: Licentiate International Standard, Licentiate American Smooth, Licentiate International Latin and Licentiate American Rhythm.



ANDER HYDER

Ander Hyder, graduate from UCSB (University of California, Santa Barbara), and writer/editor for HardMagic Publishing Company. Ander also works as a proofreader/editor for the history publishing company ABC-CLIO, both headquartered in Santa Barbara, CA. She resides in Santa Barbara with her husband, Kenny.



JEAN KRUPA

Jean Krupa currently serves as the Social Vice President for USA Dance. In 1999 she served as the Regional Vice President for the Daytona Ballroom Dancers Club, which she helped organize in 1990.



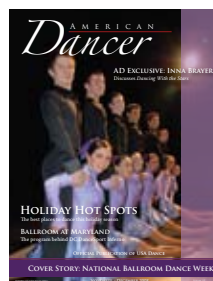
JACK LEBO

Jack has followed and written about the Big Bands of America for years. His Big Band Report appears in many issues of *American Dancer*. Jack is retired and lives in Lewittown, PA with his wife.



DAPHNA LOCKER

Daphna is currently a member of the Greater NY Chapter of USA Dance #3004. For the last year and a half, Daphna has been the Chair of the National Organizing Committee and the registrar for the National Collegiate DanceSport Challenge.



COVER PHOTO BY: KATIE MECHAM

National Ballroom Dance Week participants, Pacific Ballroom Dance Team from Seattle, WA.

www.pacificballroom.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NQE CIRCUIT COUPLES

The following couples and individuals are firmly on their way to being the first recipients of our Treasured Tiers: National Qualifying Events Circuit at the Ruby level (4 or 5 NQEs, See pg. 32).

These couples only need to attend another two NQEs to receive the following thank you gifts.

- lapel pin with a red ruby (faux) stone
- one free entry at nationals (the entry is for the couple and both members of the couples must have attended at least 4 NQEs)
- one free program/couple
- the couple's name listed in the National program
- the couple's name listed in the AD following Nationals

Please note: This is not a complete listing, for a more complete listing please go to our website: www.usadancenationals.com. The list on the website will be updated on a regular basis.

Michele Boyer and Daryl Schmidt

Ann Caudle and JC Caudle

Sarah Coates and Scott Coates

Renee Dapore-Schwartz and Samuel Dapore-Schwartz

Christina Goebelt and Christopher Temple

Mary Lou Herndon and Dennis Porch

Flo Jackson and Burt Jackson

Jennifer Jones and Royce Bramlett

Theresa Kimler and Nels Peterson

Janis Merluzzo and Daniel Fugazzotto

Kelly Morgan and Chirag Shah

Marie Osterland and Thomas Osterland

Marilyn Paterson and Roger Paterson

Cynthia Pellin and Richard Pellin

Martha Southard and Robert Southard

Patricia Tuttle and Warren Tuttle

Daniela Varva and Dalibor Varva

Wanda Wilson and Wayne Wilson

Vanessa Rogers and Bob Hohn

Stephen Lucas

Darry Martin

MISSION STATEMENT

To increase participation in the highest quality of ballroom dancing for all Americans and to support our country's DanceSport athletes in achieving competitive excellence.

ORDERING CN8 DANCESPORT CHALLENGE VIDEOS

Please follow these simple instructions:

- 1) Send a written request that includes:
 - Your name
 - Your address
 - The name of the CN8 show you are requesting
 - The date you saw the show or the show topic

For sporting events, please include:

- The name of the sporting event
- The teams involved
- The date you saw the sporting event on CN8

- 2) Include a check payable to CN8 for \$30 to cover taping expenses.

- 3) Mail your written request and \$30 check to:
 - CN8 Tape Offer
 - CN8
 - 800 Rahway Avenue, Building D
 - Union, NJ 07083

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. If you have any further questions, please visit <http://cp.cn8.tv/misc/contactinfo.asp?lChannelID=603&subhead=contact> & click on "To Request a Tape of a CN8 Show"

HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER OF USA DANCE?

- 1) Check out our website at www.usadance.org. On the left side of the main page is a sidebar. Click "Membership" and then "Join/Renew." Or type in usadance.org/membership, or

- 2) Download a membership application form, also available on our website. Mail the completed form with your check to: USA Dance – Membership Dept., P.O. Box 126, Southampton, PA 18966-0126, or

- 3) Find a chapter near you. Go to the main page of our website, check out the sidebar. Click on "Chapters & Regions," then click on "Find a Local Chapter." Contact information will be available for the chapter nearest you.

Membership for social dancers is \$25. Special rates may apply for college students and youth.

A n n o u n c i n g t h e

USA Dance NATIONAL CHAPTER CONFERENCE

DATE

January 15-18, 2009

LOCATION

Radisson Worldgate Resort
Kissimmee, Florida

SCHEDULE

Thursday

Welcome Dance 8 p.m.

Friday

Seminars: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Seminars Resume: 1 - 3 p.m.

Dinner/Dance: 7 - 11 p.m.

Saturday

Seminars: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Seminars Resume: 1 - 3 p.m.

Dinner/Dance: 7 - 11 p.m.

Sunday

Travel home or bring the family;
There's a lot to see and do in the
Orlando area

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is designed for all officers, board members and those interested in running for office in your USA Dance chapter.

Get ready for a trendsetting Chapter Conference. This first of its kind conference is designed to help you acquire the skills needed to run a successful chapter. Nowhere else will you be able to gain skills and have an opportunity to meet and share ideas with National Officers and Chapter Officers from across the country.

MEALS & LODGING

The registration includes your hotel Thursday, Friday and Saturday plus all meals on Friday and Saturday only.

NOTE

Chapters are encouraged to budget funds to reimburse the president for travel and one nights lodging to assist them in funding their attendance to this once a year event for networking of chapter leadership.

SEMINAR TOPICS

How to be a Better Chapter, Working with Volunteers, Motivating Members, How to Start a Chapter or Satellite Chapter, Getting into the Schools, How to Groom your Next President, Officer Training, How to Put On a Competition, Ballroom Line Dancers, Successful Mixers and more.

I look forward to meeting with you, come and enjoy the conference. For more information contact me or go to our website at www.usadance.org for a social dance events calendar and a registration form. Deadline for registration is December 5, 2008.

Jean Krupa, Vice President of Social Dance



PACIFIC BALLROOM DANCE TEAM

National Ballroom DANCE WEEK

REGION I SEATTLE CHAPTER 1004

Seattle Chapter 1004 rained down enthusiasm during National Ballroom Dance Week, saturating its diverse city with new experiences and love for ballroom dance. The festivities kicked off on Sept. 20 with five hours of performances, lessons, and dancing at the Seattle Center — all free to the public.

“Just seeing the participation was amazing,” said Chapter President Sharon Wolf. “People just getting up out of their chairs — all ages and ethnicities, a variety of socioeconomic levels. Some couldn’t afford a dance if they saved for weeks. I got to see them touched by the music and performance.”

Some of the biggest reactions were in response to the Pacific Ballroom Dance Youth Team, who traveled to North Seattle to perform at the Crystal Ball competition that same night.

“People are in awe of the performances by the youth,” Sharon observed. “It’s part of the beauty of ballroom dancing — kids learning so many life skills like how to win and lose.”

More kids and adults attended the eight kickoff lessons that collectively spanned all the major types of dance.

“It was a pretty good time had by all, I think,” said Jeffrey Meaders, chapter vice president and NBDW events coordinator.

Several local dance studios supported NBDW the following week by offering the public free or discounted dance lessons.

“Hopefully we’re getting better relationships with studios, so next year will be even better,” Jeffrey commented.

Also hopeful, Sharon expressed her pleasure at seeing ballroom dance delight and comfort so many, “kids and oldsters alike.”

“In the challenging times we have today, what more incredible time to get on the dance floor and leave the worries of the world behind,” Sharon said. “You’re connecting with your heart, so your head can go away for awhile.”

HIGHLIGHTS

BY: ANDREA KNIGHT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

REGION II CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER 2001

By Jean Barbour, Chapter 2001 Director at Large

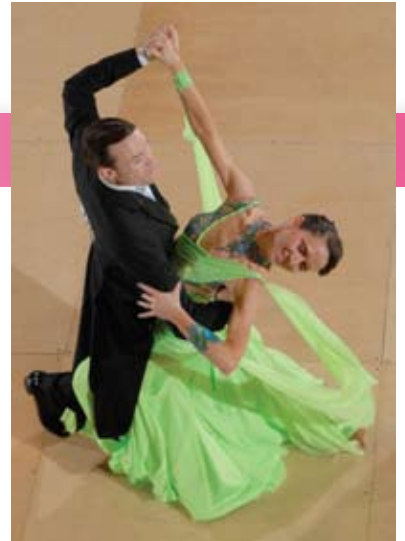
Chicagoland Chapter 2001 National Ballroom Dance Week celebration concluded with our monthly dance that was exciting, challenging and filled with fun dancing. Our challenge for the evening was the Chicago weather — 10 inches of rain flooded streets, bridges, underpasses and basements. However, 93 daring dancers found a way around the flood waters and danced the night away!

Our chapter members, admitted free of charge, were treated to a mini-show (performed by our chapter's competitive amateur couples in costume), tasty snacks, and a tantalizing tango lesson by Norman Landrum. We broke a record by registering 17 new members, and our debonair DJ, Jim Finn, turned up the heat with the best-ever music to dance away our storm cares.

Our special show featured Alan Burns and Kelly Batchelor performing an enticing tango. These two were USA Dance Theatre Arts national champions in 2006 and 2007 and recently won Championship Standard at the Colorado Star Ball.

Brandon Segovia, 16, and Serena Pav, 15, danced a sassy samba. Brandon and Serena have been dancing now for nine years, placing 3rd in the under-21 category at the USA DanceSport Championships.

PHOTO BY CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER 2001



ALLEN AND KELLY

Kim Joiner and Antoinette Gonzales performed a cool and classy cha-cha. Kim and Antoinette are a new partnership that performs at local showcases and dances. The two have competed separately over the years with both professional and amateur partners and still compete in Pro-Am today.

Coming up, our annual Autumn Gala Dinner Dance and Show is Nov. 8, 2008, featuring Igor Mikushov and Anna Demidova, current U.S. Standard Champions; and Lonny and Susie Tsang, current USA Dance Standard Senior II and World 4th-place Champions.



CESAR AND AUDIENCE MEMBER (FRONT) &
STEVE BRANCH AND MARIE SACCUCCI (BACK)



STEVE BRANCH, TREASURER AND AUDIENCE MEMBER

REGION III

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER 3010

The chapter enjoyed many perks from its sponsor, ABC 6, including an upcoming commercial on ABC during *Dancing With the Stars*, not to mention the *Dancing With the Stars* posters adorning the chapter's booth.

"It was very exciting because of all the exposure we got," Linda commented.

This exposure of modern ballroom was followed up by a celebration of the classic on Sept. 19. The chapter honored USA Dance National Treasurer Lee Andrew, one of its "founding fathers."

"Lots of people from the original chapter came. The mayor even put forth a proclamation naming that day Lee Andrew Day," Linda said. "[Lee] has been a friend of ballroom for years. It was a very warm event, and I think he was very touched."

Last of all, the R.I. Chapter set up a booth at Macy's Customer Appreciation Day the following afternoon.

"We had an info table and a great lesson," Linda said. "The whole thing was a great opportunity to come together to celebrate the sport of ballroom dancing."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER 3010

The Rhode Island Chapter 3010 overachievers stretched National Ballroom Dance Week into an entire month of diverse ballroom dance exposure.

Chapter President Linda Succi made publicity the name of the game at the grand re-opening of the Dunkin' Donuts Center on Sept. 6. More than 50,000 people went through the building, passing a booth set up by the Rhode Island Chapter.

"We had lots of performers — soloists, spotlights, lessons, formation teams — and people couldn't help but stop and stare," Linda said.

REGION IV

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER 4018



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER 4018

RICKY AND ASUKA

Although local competition and a precarious economy make supporting events such as National Ballroom Dance Week difficult, Region IV's USA Dance members still find other opportunities to let their love of ballroom shine.

"There are about 10 ballrooms just in [the Orange County Chapter's] immediate area," said Chapter President and Regional Vice President Bill Rose. "There is just too much pressure economically on people to pull these dances off."

Nevertheless, the Orange County Chapter 4018 traditionally stages a ballroom exhibition at the Orange County Fair. However, this summer's installment ran into some serious snags.

"[The new organizer] wanted us to perform Wednesday or Thursday morning instead of Saturday or Sunday afternoon. That just wasn't working," Rose said. "Most of our people work during the day."

Undeterred, Rose contacted the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona — one of the biggest county fairs in the country — and made plans to perform there instead.

"The woman I spoke to was delighted to have us perform," Rose said. "I thought it was a perfect opportunity to make it a Region IV exhibition involving at least three or four chapters."

Rose got his wish. With dancers from Orange County, Inland and Palmdale, the 45-minute production included dancing from all levels, including two dancers in their 80s doing Argentine tango, a team doing social cha-cha, and a young professional couple, Ricky Sun and Asuka Kondoh.

"We had everything from social dancers to skilled pros," Rose said. "People loved it."

Rose plans to make a new tradition out of this year's event, rekindling enthusiasm for ballroom dance in as many members as possible.

"I'll be soliciting dancers from at least Orange County, Inland, Palmdale and L.A. Maybe even Ventura and San Diego," Rose said.

REGION V

HOUSTON CHAPTER 5003

To celebrate National Ballroom Dance Week in true Texas form, Houston Chapter 5003 delivered a night of real ballroom elegance — fancy dresses, suits, live band and all — to a Texas-sized crowd of over 400 people.

“Obviously I always like to see such a nice crowd,” said Chapter President Yvonne Kubicek. “It’s important to me ... If people don’t want to come, it’s not a success.”

The night was a sensation, but it wasn’t easy to pull off. After their usual gala location was sold off and torn down, the chapter decided to use a large conference center and rent a dance floor.

“Finding a big ballroom is a challenge. I’m lucky I had a number of volunteers to help. The co-chairs — Ella Forel, Margaret Gaffin, and Janeil Bernard — really rose to the challenge,” Kubicek observed.

Co-chair Ella Forel made the most of the change in location. “I thought it went extremely well,” she said. “We were able to use a wonderful venue, and we made good use of a great, huge floor.”

PHOTO BY ELLA FOREL



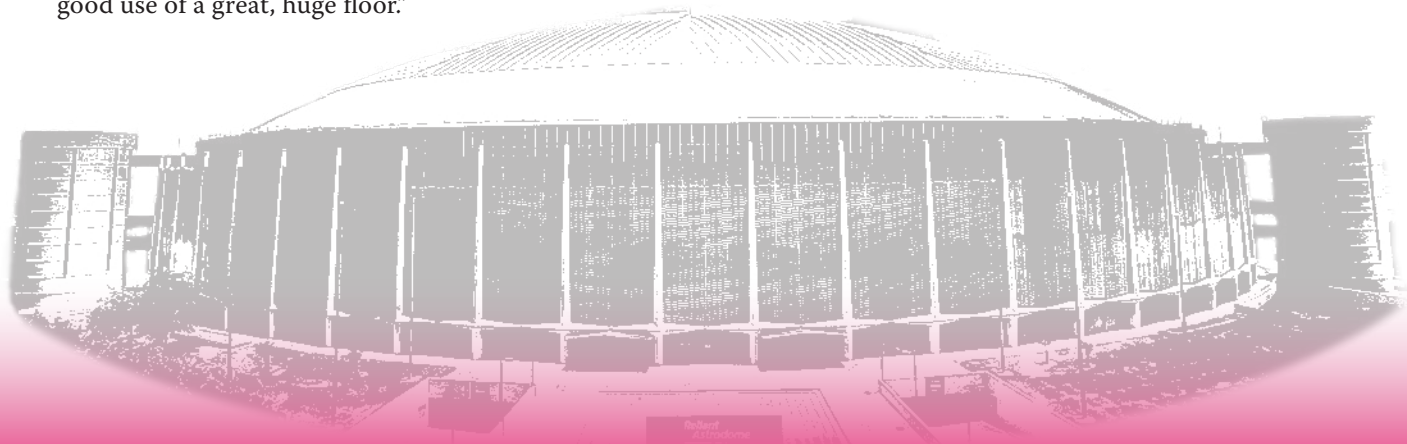
CRISTIANO CALLEGARI AND KATIA KUZNETSOVA

Those who attended the gala enjoyed the music of the Maria Williams Band, who played a wide variety of dance music. This, Yvonne said, is quite the asset when staging a large dance.

“Most bands usually play mainly foxtrots and swings,” Kubicek commented. “Even with those, the tempo isn’t really right — too fast, usually — and they don’t play straight tempo, so it’s very challenging for beginning dancers.”

Between the fantastic music, floor shows between the band’s sets, and classy ballroom dancing, this chapter threw one swanky party.

“I feel like [this experience] is good for the members and good for the community,” Kubicek said. “It gives an artistic outlet, and you meet lots of really nice people.”





CAROL DAVIS AND BILL WOODS

REGION VI FLORIDA CHAPTER 6049

With two local TV spots and a fabulous formal ball, Florida Chapter 6049's National Ballroom Dance Week events proudly promoted the full spectrum of ballroom dance.

First, Gregory Kurth of Rhythm and Motion Dance Academy did a short interview with Tracey Edwards of Fox's local morning show, Morning Blend, on Sept. 17. The pair followed this up with a quick waltz instruction, which Chapter President Carol Davis said put emphasis on the ease of social dancing instead of the "styling and glamour of TV."

"People always say, 'I could never do all that,'" Davis remarked. "I wanted people to know that there are different levels of ballroom dancers, and they all start at the same spot. Those beginners are those wonderful flowering buds. Each is a personal achievement."

This TV spot led to more exposure when local legend "Wild" Bill Woods decided to conduct an interview of his own less than a week later.

"We got six dancers up at 5:30 in the morning to film a 20-minute spot for Wild Bill's road show," Davis said. 'Wild Bill' is just that — a crazy and wild guy. He actually showed how fun it could be clowning around

with a 'dance frame bar' for our dance posture. ... We were very lucky to be on his agenda of his last road shows."

This Florida chapter finished up the week with a formal dance, attended by more than 100 dancers, all decked out in their most elegant attire.

"Florida is very casual, so letting the ladies get all dressed up in their ball gowns is a big deal around here," Davis said.

Davis also wanted to give a big thank-you to the dance studios sponsoring her chapter: Aki's Studio, 1st Danz, Rhythm in Motion Dance Academy, and X'Trickly Rumberos Company. ■

Holiday

HOT SPOTS 2008

BY: ERICA COLVIN

THE BARN: A SOUTH CAROLINA FAVORITE

"We were able to offer beginning ballroom lessons for \$3 per hour or two lessons for \$5. As you can imagine, we had a crowd, with our largest group of dancers being over 50 people! We offered swing, waltz, foxtrot, tango, rumba, cha-cha and salsa lessons to an extremely interested group who showed up every week wanting more.

Great venues are hard to find. This chapter has certainly found a gold mine.

Visit the Greater Columbia Chapter Web site at <http://usadance.us/> for holiday events.

Mike Verdone, President of the Greater Columbia, S.C., Chapter 6032 shares a favorite venue for ballroom dancing.

"The Columbia Chapter of USA Dance indeed has a favorite dancing location," Verdone said. "It happens to be the place where we hold our twice-monthly dances. The venue has the long title of The Hugh Dimmery Memorial Center, but its short title is The Barn.

"The Barn is owned by The American Square Dance and Education Association, ASDERA, dedicated to square dance, line dance and round dance," Verdone explained. "Our USA Dance Chapter was extremely fortunate to find this location over five years ago. The Barn has a 5,000-square-foot maple dance floor with a small stage.

"Although heavily utilized by direct members of ASDERA for round dance lessons, this past year we were fortunate to find that The Barn was open on Tuesday nights," Verdone continued.

CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

Many of Maryland's USA Dance members enjoy attending classes, workshops, and dances organized and taught by Amanda Showell Cook. Cook works throughout the area: Denton, Easton, Centreville, Salisbury, St. Michaels, Greensboro and soon in Cambridge. Admission to all dances is just \$10 for USA Dance members. Attire should be dressy casual. To see when these great dancing opportunities are scheduled, visit www.dancingontheshore.com.

For a special holiday celebration, Cook recommended the non-alcoholic atmosphere of the First Night activities. If you are looking for family fun this New Year's Eve, try your local First Night celebration. Over 3,000 people attend the First Night in Centreville, and 300-400 people attend the ballroom dancing venue from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Recommended by George and Mary Drake,
Easton, Maryland Chapter 6099.

Dancers
from Royal Palm Chapter
6016 enjoy dancing at the Goldcoast
Ballroom. Highly praised for its ambiance,
magnificent dance floor and incredible music, this
ballroom is designed and built just for you — ballroom dancers.

For this holiday season, the Goldcoast Ballroom has several exciting events to consider.

- 1- Christmas Day offers the 11th Anniversary White Ball, which costs \$10. The night goes from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Dress in white to celebrate a decade of dancing the Goldcoast Style. No reservations are needed.
- 2- If you are looking for a bash on New Year's Eve, Goldcoast Ballroom has it under control. Boasting up to 700 dancers attending, the New Year's Eve Party includes live music, festive lighting, and a fantastic oak floor. Dessert included.

Find this magnificent ballroom at 1415 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33063. You may also call 954.979.0770 with any questions and check out www.goldcoastballroom.com to confirm events and fees.

Recommended by Les and Patti MacDonald from
Palm Royal Chapter 6016.

GOLDCOAST BALLROOM

THE MAYFLOWER

It can be a daunting task to find the perfect ballroom dancing holiday event in the big city of Los Angeles. But if you are on the lookout for a great New Year's party, here is the key.

The L.A. Chapter 4031 is holding its New Year's Eve bash in the famous Mayflower Ballroom. This exciting event begins at 7 p.m. and goes through 11:30 p.m.

This venue has a lot to offer: great music from the Tanner Brothers Orchestra, cocktails, and a 9,000-square-foot dance floor. In fact, this dance floor is one of the largest in Southern California.

The Mayflower Ballroom is located at 234 Hindry,
Inglewood, CA 90231

For admission information, visit the L.A. Chapter website at <http://www.usadance-la.org>.

SSQQ, HOUSTON, TEXAS

If you are looking for the party of the New Year, we have found it! The SSQQ Studio — known as the largest social dance studio in Houston, Texas — knows how to throw a party.

Dress code is formal for the evening of this Dec. 31. Men are required to wear a coat and tie; ladies need a dress or dress suit. The dance begins at 9 p.m. and goes to 1 a.m., and admission is \$35 per person.

What about the music? Never fear, the Bayou City Swing eight-piece orchestra will be playing ballroom and swing tunes throughout the evening. Western and Salsa music will also be offered in adjoining ballrooms.

In the past, the SSQQ New Year's Party attracted about 200 people, so be prepared to meet new friends and have a great time. Better yet, it is a friendly, comfortable and smoke-free environment.

SSQQ is located at 4803 Bissonnet, Bellaire, TX 77401
To learn more visit <http://ssqq.com/information>.

Thank you to all the members who submitted great holiday-dancing hot spots. We received an overwhelming number of venues and studios that help ballroom dancers celebrate the holidays. We appreciate each of your contributions. ■

SNOWBALL CLASSIC | 2009

The DanceSport Destination



Competitor Entry

Register for competition online at www.snowballclassic.com starting November 22, 2008 until the entry deadline of January 9, 2009.

Tickets

Tickets go on sale December 1, 2008 through ticketstonight.ca, by phone at 604-684-2787, or at Tickets Tonight booths in Vancouver. Please see www.snowballclassic.com for presale and other information.



Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

The Sheraton is centrally located in the heart of downtown Vancouver, providing easy access to shopping, amenities, tourist attractions, transit, and the fabulous surrounding ski hills.

The Sheraton is offering special room rates for SnowBall Classic participants. Make your reservation through www.snowballclassic.com.

Advertising

Program advertising and vendor display tables are also available. Please visit www.snowballclassic.com for details.

Contact us for more information

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**IDSF World Cup Latin at the
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(Just prior to the 2010 Winter Olympics)

Preliminary Schedule *subject to change

Friday

February 13, 2009

- IDSF International Open Latin
- IDSF Open Rising Stars Standard
- Senior Latin syllabus
- Adult Latin syllabus

Saturday

February 14, 2009

- IDSF International Open Standard
- Senior Standard syllabus
- Adult Standard syllabus
- Senior II Open Standard
- Senior I Open Latin
- Showcase of Champions

Sunday

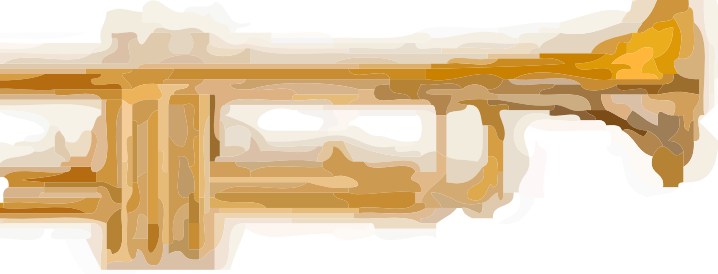
February 15, 2009

- Kids' Standard
- Kids' Latin
- IDSF Senior I Open Standard

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Dance photos by
Nelson Wong & Andrew Leung



JERRY DRAKE

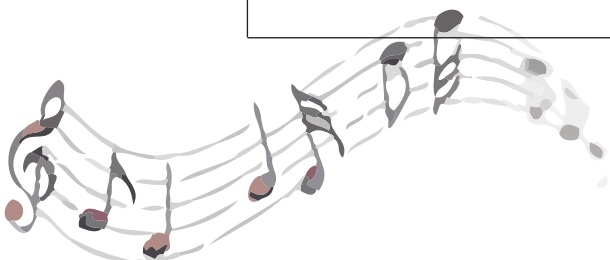
JERRY & JAZZ... PERFECT TOGETHER

BY: JACK LEBO

Maspeth, NY – Jerry Drake’s interest in music began when both his parents played piano. His dad played by ear, and his mom played only if the music was in front of her. His parents, learning that he had an ear for music, hired a piano teacher, for 11-year-old Jerry.

Prior to that, as a young child, Jerry played in a park across the street from a trumpet studio. His love for the sound of a trumpet, eventually influenced him to switch from piano lessons to trumpet instruction. During that time, he also sang in the chorus in school.

According to Drake, “In my late teens, I began playing in local bands in New York City and Long Island. Most of the musicians in these bands were much older, giving me the opportunity to learn the tunes of the 30s and 40s. At age 19, I added valve trombone to my performances. In 1961, the draft board caught up with me and I was drafted into the Army, and spent the next two years playing tuba and trumpet in the Army band.”



BIG BAND REPORT

Following discharge, Jerry spent five years as a music student in Chicago, graduating in 1970 with a Masters in Music Education from DePaul University. His teaching career began then and continues today. In 1973, he launched a four-piece cover band playing in clubs, private parties and special events. The personnel grew to six pieces in the 70s and 80s, and so did the variety of music. The group played standards, Latin, disco, rock, and a variety of ethnic music.

After playing 150 to 200 gigs annually, for over twenty years, and teaching full-time for the New York Department of Education, Drake took a 2-year break and did free-lance work, exclusively. In 1995, he helped organize and also fronted the New York Big Band, which continues today. This is a repeat performance for Jerry. In 1987, he helped organize, and also fronted The Serenaders in Blue Big Band, which also is active today in the New York area. ■



Jerry Drake

Contact Jack Lebo

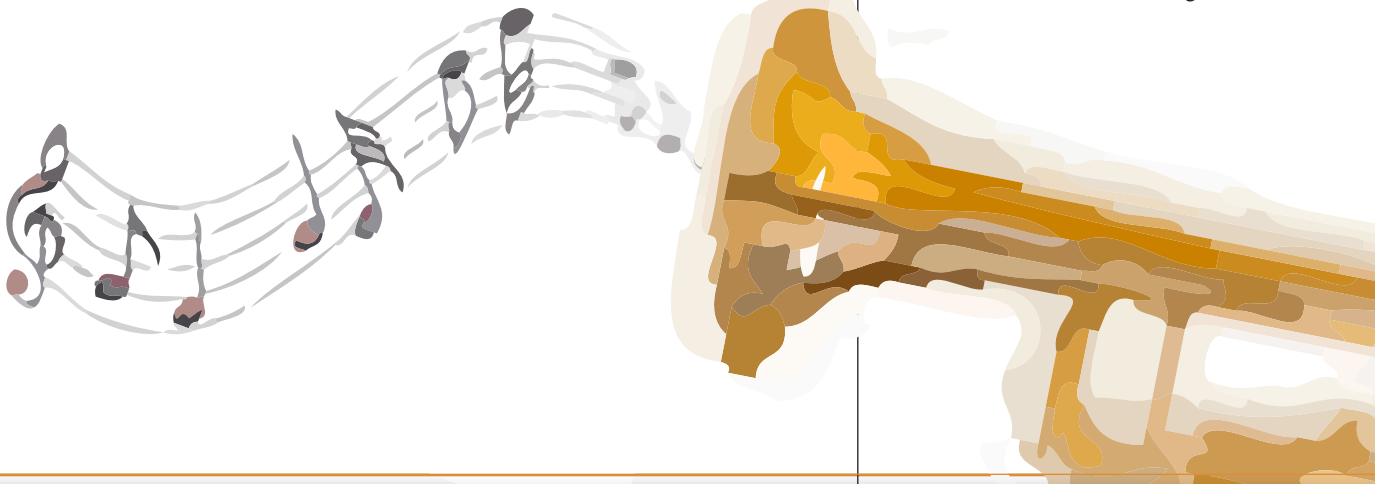
Big Band Report
37 Locust Lane
Levittown, PA 19054
(215) 943-8870
jlebo@earthlink.net.

Let's Hear from You...

There are hundreds of bandleaders, vocalists and musicians throughout the nation who have never appeared on these pages of AMERICAN DANCER. We'd like to tell our readers about you and your musical activities.

Erica Colvin

editor@americandancer.org



USA Dance Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships

January 30 - 31, 2009

A National Qualifying Event

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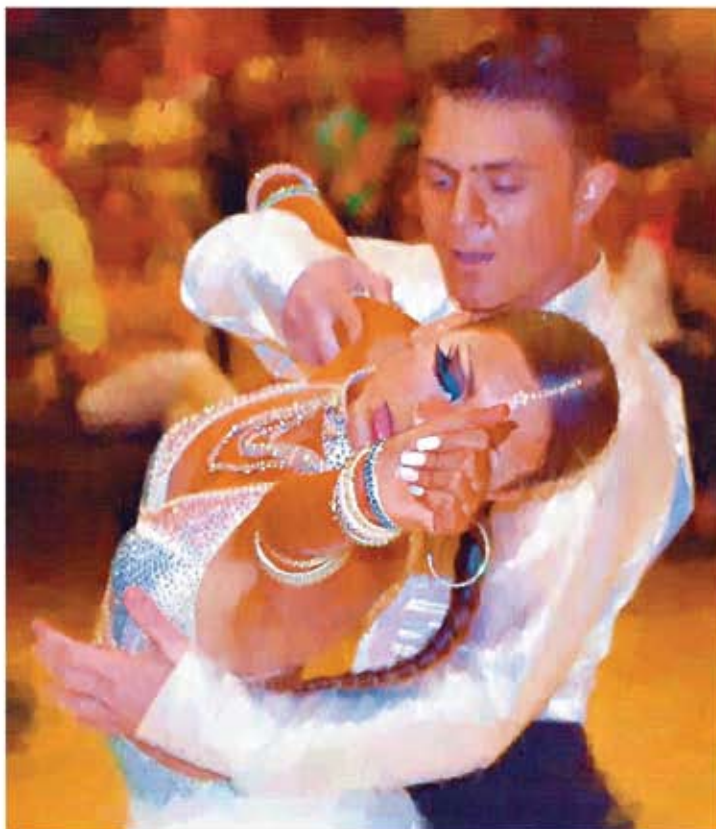
Organizer:

Tim McGhee

Ph: (865) 386-7843;

E-mail: [tmcghee@
usabda-knoxville.us](mailto:tmcghee@usabda-knoxville.us)

Information:
www.usabda-knoxville.us



Photograph by Oana Harrison

Hosted by:

USA Dance Chapter #2060
The Greater Knoxville Chapter

AMERICAN DANCER EXCLUSIVE

inna brayer



INNA BRAYER. PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC TELEVISION

USA Dance member and recent addition to *Dancing With the Stars*, Inna Brayer said her time on ABC's *Dancing With the Stars* has transformed her career — or at least her perspective.

“Dancing is usually about personal professionalism, but it’s different for *Dancing With the Stars*. You have to teach someone to act the way you normally would, do what you would do,” Inna said. “No matter how your body feels, you have to go out there and ... give your best performance, which is really demanding for someone with no experience.”

Inna said her connection with her partner, Ted McGinley, helped the teaching process immensely. While some of the other celebrity partners were known to give their teachers grief, Inna said the only time Ted made her cry was when she laughed too hard to hold back the tears.

“We’re polar opposites — from opposite ends of the country, decades apart — but he is so cool, has such a

young heart. We definitely had more fun than anyone else there,” Inna said.

Today Inna finds herself teaching and dancing more than ever with her partner, Pasha Pashkov.

“I don’t think I was on the show long enough to make Hollywood permanent, like lots of [the other dancers] do,” Inna said. “But the publicity for me and Pasha has been great.”

While she appreciates this career boost, Inna said she knows she’ll miss DWTS if she doesn’t get to return.

“Once you’re there, you know what you’re missing,” Inna said. “The people are so great — like a family — and the staff treats you so well. It’s so hard to go back to reality and be a real person.” ■

BY: ANDREA KNIGHT

The Public Eye

We are in the News! Go to these links to read more!!

Adventures in YouTube-ing

If last issue's story on the Fort Wayne Special Olympics left you wanting more, take a peek at the event's video on www.youtube.com/usadanceinc or www.usadance.org. While you're there, check out our new YouTube playlists, vintage videos, and vids from kids who auditioned for the youth/pre-teen segment of ABC's *Dancing With the Stars*.

It's a good thing the temperatures are a-droppin' outside, 'cause these videos have got the heat!



DR. KAY PICART

Peter Pover on the Dr. Kay Picart Show

Peter Pover and Rick and Cindy Pellin represented USA Dance in an interview with Dr. Kay Picart on her radio show Sept. 5.

According to Peter Pover, the idea of ballroom dancing becoming an Olympic sport isn't always seen as far-fetched. The group discussed ballroom dancing and its Olympic possibilities as well as the Pellin's competition experiences.

"We did a presentation to the whole Executive Committee and the whole Athletes Commission of the International Olympic Committee, and at the end of that, we got an outstanding reception," Peter said. "Most of all, a man came up to me, threw his arms around my neck, and hugged me, and said, 'If this isn't a sport, I'm not an athlete.' That man was Kip Keino (a Kenyan distance runner with four Olympic medals). And all of the athletes there recognized that."

Rick and Cindy Pellin were introduced on the show as "Tallahassee's most consistently top ranked competitive Amateur couple," and have been competing since January of 2005. Rick and Cindy are an inspiration to anyone who would like to dance. In the interview, the Pellins shared what they love about USA Dance.

"We like to compete, when we go to a competition we like to have a lot of couples to compete against, and we are up to the challenge," the Pellins said. Check out the interviews at www.youtube.com/user/DrPicartshow.

USA Dance in *Accent* magazine

A ballroom article with a USA Dance focus appeared in the October issue of globally distributed *Accent* magazine. Writer Donald Charles Richardson illustrated ballroom's recent resurgence of popularity.

Richardson quoted Angela Prince, USA Dance National Director of Public Relations, who explained that, "Hundreds of thousands of people are dancing." These statistics, also included in Richardson's article, illuminate ballroom dancing's TV revival:

"Eight to ten million people never miss America's Ballroom Challenge on PBS. Over 20 million tune in to *Dancing With the Stars* on ABC, and Comcast now broadcasts the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships," said Richardson.

Richardson further explained that ballroom dancing can be taken up at any stage of life, using as an example Paul and Louise Giuliano. This couple danced in the USA Dance 2008 National DanceSport Championships and represented the United States at the World Senior Latin Championship in 2004.

"Paul and Louise Giuliano from Albany, New York, have been married for 38 years, and didn't start dancing until their 25th wedding anniversary," Richardson wrote, then quoted the Giulianos: "'The kids were older then. We'd worked and taken care of them. We were finally in a comfortable spot. We clipped a coupon from the paper for a dance studio.'"

Richardson even introduced *Accent* readers to the idea of finding and attending USA Dance dances and group dance lessons, a move that could be very beneficial for our chapters.

"USA Dance holds frequent social dances all over the country, and everyone from high school students to senior citizens attend."

Melanie LaPatin, award-winning dancer and owner of a New York City studio also participated. "Anyone who experiences ballroom or partner dancing for the first time at any age feels the joy, intoxicating intrigue, challenge and power within moments," LaPatin said.

Thank you, Donald Charles Richardson and *Accent* magazine, for your magnificent coverage! ■



PAUL & LOUISE GIULIANO FROM NEW YORK. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COUPLE.

Dancing With the Stars

BY: ERICA COLVIN

Dancing With the Stars welcomes back its Junior Competition. Once again, USA Dance members are hitting the spotlight with stars and pros alike. Five of the six couples selected for this season are USA Dance competitors.

Kirill Skipalskiy & Hannah Sverdlov
from New York

Mitchell Leyzerzon & Maria Khasminsky
from Pennsylvania

Anthony Kinevsky & Alisa Gerstein
from California

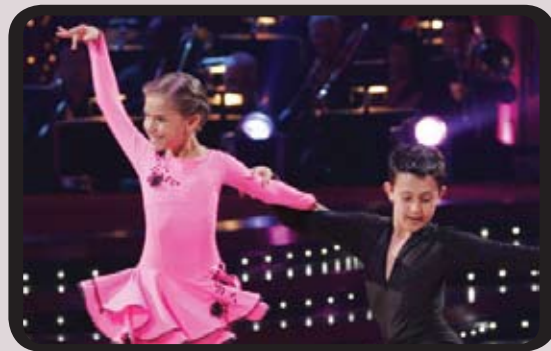
Craig & Samantha Abaya-Campos
from New Jersey

Simon Orlovskiy & Lucy Chibukhchyan
from California

Each of these young dancers has worked hard to be the best. What does it feel like to find out that it has paid off? *American Dancer* interviewed one of the contestants, Anthony Kinevsky for an inside look.

“I felt really excited and started jumping up and down. It was like a sugar rush. I started shouting, ‘I am going to be on *Dancing With the Stars!*’” Anthony said. “My favorite part about being on *Dancing With the Stars* was behind the scenes when the camera is shooting, meeting the pros and stars.” ■

To check out full episodes, photos and more information visit www.abc.go.com. Photos courtesy of ABC Television.



KIRILL & HANNAH



MITCHELL & MARIA



ANTHONY & ALISA

Note: At the time of press, Craig & Samantha Abaya-Campos and Simon Orlovskiy & Lucy Chibukhchyan had not yet competed. Look forward to our January-February issue for complete coverage of all couples.

2008 New Year's Eve Extravaganza

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COMPETITION CALENDAR

november **8, 2008**

**California State DanceSport
Championship- NQE**

NorCal Chapter #4004. Oakland, CA

november **15, 2008**

Quest for the Best

Seattle Chapter #1004. Seattle, WA

january **16-18, 2009**

Manhattan Amateur Classic- NQE

Greater New York Chapter #3004.
Manhattan Center, Grand Ballroom

january **24, 2008**

**Royal Palm Winter Frolic
DanceSport Extravaganza**

Royal Palm Chapter #6016. Coconut Creek, FL

january **30-31, 2009**

**Smoky Mountain DanceSport
Championships- NQE**

Greater Knoxville Chapter #2060. Knoxville, TN

february **7, 2009**

Southwest DanceSport Championships- NQE

NorCal Chapter #4004. San Jose, CA

february **20-21, 2009**

2009 Triangle Open

DanceSport Championships

Wayne & Marie Crowder, NCSU Dancing with
Wolves & Carolina Heartland Chapter #6092.
Raleigh, NC.

february **21, 2009**

Phoenix DanceSport Challenge

Phoenix Chapter #4033. Phoenix, AZ

february **21, 2009**

Chicago DanceSport

Challenge Championships

Chicagoland Chapter #2001. Chicago, IL

april **3-5, 2009**

USA Dance 2009 National

DanceSport Championships

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel. Baltimore, MD

june **26-27, 2009**

Gumbo DanceSport Championships- NQE

Louisiana Chapter #5031. Baton Rouge, LA

august **14-15, 2009**

Derby City DanceSport Championships- NQE

Greater Louisville Chapter #2021. Louisville, KY

february **20-22, 2010**

Chicago DanceSport

Challenge Championship- NQE

Chicagoland Chapter #2001. Chicago, IL

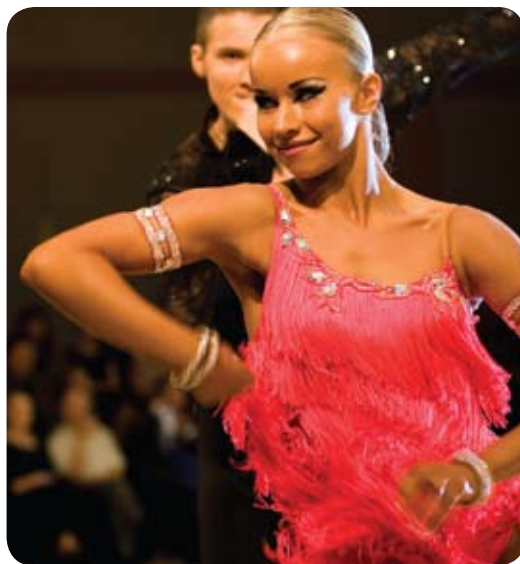
Look for future event updates on
<http://www.usadance.org/dancesport/competition-calendar/>

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- IDSF Open Rising Stars Standard
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dancing in the

Heartland

BY: NANCY L. DEW
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
TIM MCGHEE

Indianapolis, the amateur sports capital of the United States, hosted the 2008 Heartland Classic North Central USA DanceSport Championships, September 27-28 at the Adams Mark Airport Hotel. Organizers of the event were Nancy Dew and Ron Wright.

This was also the site for the 2009 National USA Dance Cabaret Championship which was won by Gary D. Burgess and Connie Bouchard of New York. Ken Richards, DanceSport Vice President, presented their awards. The world-class judging panel headed by Chairman Dan Calloway had a full weekend judging the highly accomplished dancers competing in the event.

The event began with a welcome dance on Friday night with time for dancers to practice on the seamless 42 x 72 ft. floor. Saturday started at 8 a.m. with American Rhythm and International Standard events followed by a lunch break featuring two world-class workshops by Bill Davies and Alain Doucet & Anik Jolicoeur.

Saturday afternoon continued the International Standard events. Saturday evening's championships event drew lots of spectators many of whom also took part in the "Open to All" Jack 'n Jill West Coast Swing and Hustle competitions.

Sunday began at 8 a.m. and lasted until about 4 p.m. with American Smooth and International Latin events.

Over 260 dancers ranging in age from Junior I through Senior IV (65+) from all over the United States competed in National Qualifying Events for \$2,600 in scholarships. Roger and Amy Greenawalt, founding members of Chapter #2022, from Indianapolis won the Senior II 9-Dance Championship. Roger Greenawalt also was the first president 15 years ago.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the competition and many compliments were received about the hotel since we have had most recent competitions in the Indiana Convention Center which is undergoing renovation for the 2012 Super Bowl.

AMY & ROGER GREENAWALT- SENIOR II 9-DANCE CHAMPIONS



KEN RICHARDS AND THE 2009 NATIONAL CABARET CHAMPIONS, CONNIE BOUCHARD & GARY D. BURGESS.

I am very happy that things went smoothly and people seemed to enjoy themselves immensely. We look forward to more competitors at the 2009 Heartland Classic at the Adams Mark, October 3-4, 2009 in Indianapolis. ■

World Report

BY: ERICA COLVIN



PHOTO BY CARSON ZOLLINGER

LONNY AND SUSIE TSANG

“Walking out on the floor, you don’t know what to anticipate. Once the music starts you are so focused.

Listen to the music, do what you trained for. We felt like this time we really prepared ourselves,” Susie said.

A huge “congratulations” goes out to our USA Dance Senior II Standard couples. Lonny and Susie Tsang recently returned from the World Competition in Belgium, where they placed a fantastic 6th place. Hans and Ans Stork also competed in Belgium, placing 39th. With over 160 couples competing from around the world, our USA Dance members did an excellent job. The Stork’s interview will be featured in American Dancer’s January/February issue.

“We are very proud and honored to live our dream. We never expected a moment like that to happen to us representing the U.S. in a world championship. It wasn’t in our expectations if you had asked us a few years ago. It was an unbelievable feeling,” Lonny commented.

Upon arriving in Belgium, the Tsangs got right to work, practicing and preparing for the big competition. Veteran competitors, the Tsangs danced in the same competition in Belgium last year. But this time, it was strictly dancing. “This year our reason to be there was for the competition,” Susie shared.

But no prize is won without sacrifice. The Tsangs commented that practicing for the competition was

often difficult. “Because of the distance from the practice studio, we cannot [make the trip] too often. We usually practice three – four times a week — every time for two to two-and-a-half hours,” Lonny mentioned.

The Tsangs travel anywhere from one to three hours one way to get to their studio. But the Tsangs are committed to excellence, often practicing after work, driving through rush hour just for a few precious moments on the dance floor.

When the deciding moment arrived for the Tsangs, they knew what they needed to do. “I always get nervous, but once on the floor you focus on your dancing, and then the nervousness is gone. Focus to do what you have to do,” Lonny said.

“Walking out on the floor, you don’t know what to anticipate. Once the music starts you are so focused. Listen to the music, do what you trained for. We felt like this time we really prepared ourselves,” Susie said.

Every competitor can learn from the hard work and dedication of this successful couple. Well done, Lonny and Susie Tsang. ■

Qualifying Events for USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships



Andrey Klinchik & Yulia Klinchik / Photo by: Carson Zullinger

Manhattan Amateur Classic
New York, NY
January 16-18, 2009

Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships
Knoxville, TN
January 30-31, 2009

Southwest DanceSport Championships
San Jose, CA
February 7, 2009

Southeastern DanceSport Championships
Bethesda, MD
February 28 - March 1, 2009

Gumbo DanceSport Championships
Baton Rouge, LA
June 26-27, 2009

Derby City DanceSport Championships
Louisville, KY
August 14-15, 2009

For More Information visit www.usadance.org

Something New, Something Grand

at the 2009 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships

Last year, the USA Dance Nationals was the best and biggest one ever, thanks to all of you wonderful members. For this year, we've gone all out to make the 2009 Nationals even better! We've reduced both the entry and spectator admission fees, and we've added a new event and are introducing a great new way to thank our supporting members.

This will be the first year of the USA Dance Regional Team Championships. From the National Qualifying Events in each of our six regions, we will invite the top couples who live and compete in that region's NQE, to dance as a team that will officially represent their fellow members from that region. On Sunday night at Nationals, the 6 regional teams will go head to head. All the members of the championship team will (a) have bragging rights for the entire year, as will the winning team's entire region, (b) have their names entered into the Listings for

past Champions, (c) be highlighted in an article in the American Dancer following Nationals, and finally, (d) receive 2 free entries to the 2010 Nationals. We hope that all of you will come to cheer for your favorite team! The teams will compete in all four styles, but we will only be showcasing two dances in each style. The couples representing the regions will be those Championship Youth, Adult and Senior I couples who place highest in their respective NQEs. We will be showcasing two dances in each style.





This year, we're also introducing the Treasure Tiers as a way of saying thank you to all you dedicated USA Dance members who compete regularly; no matter what level you are, even if you've never won a single event! There will be three levels of awards:

Ruby tier, for couples who compete together in 4 or more NQEs:

- Two lapel pins with red ruby rhinestones
- Both names listed in the National program
- Both names listed in American Dancer following Nationals
- Invitations to the VIP party at Nationals
- Two free programs/couple
- One free entry at Nationals (worth \$90/couple)

Emerald tier, for couples who compete together in 6 or more NQEs:

- Two lapel pins with green emerald rhinestones
- Both names listed in the National program
- Both names listed in American Dancer following Nationals
- Invitations to the VIP party at Nationals
- Two free programs/couple
- Two free entries at Nationals (worth \$150/couple)
- VIP seating for one entire day of your choice (worth \$150/couple)

Diamond tier, for couples who compete together in 8 or more NQEs:

- Two lapel pins with white diamond rhinestones
- Both names listed in the National program
- Both names listed in American Dancer following Nationals
- Invitations to the VIP party at Nationals
- Two free programs/couple
- Three free entries at Nationals (worth \$210.00/couple)
- VIP seating for the entire weekend (worth \$380.00/couple)

Can't make it to Nationals? We'll send you your pins and souvenir programs with your names, though alas, we can't substitute the other items. But why would you want to miss all the fun?

We can't wait to see everyone in Baltimore, ■

Daphna Locker, Chair
2009 National Organizing Committee

Cross Training & Nutrition Just For You

By Ander Hyder

Imagine a beautiful lady, dressed elegantly in a ball gown, the silky fabric rippling like an Olympic torch to the graceful movements of the Viennese waltz. Satiny black shoes delicately wrap her feet like ivy, and red, bulky boxing gloves protect her hands from the impact of a jab. Hold on! Boxing gloves? That's right. Boxing is a very beneficial cross-training exercise for ballroom dancers.

Cross Training

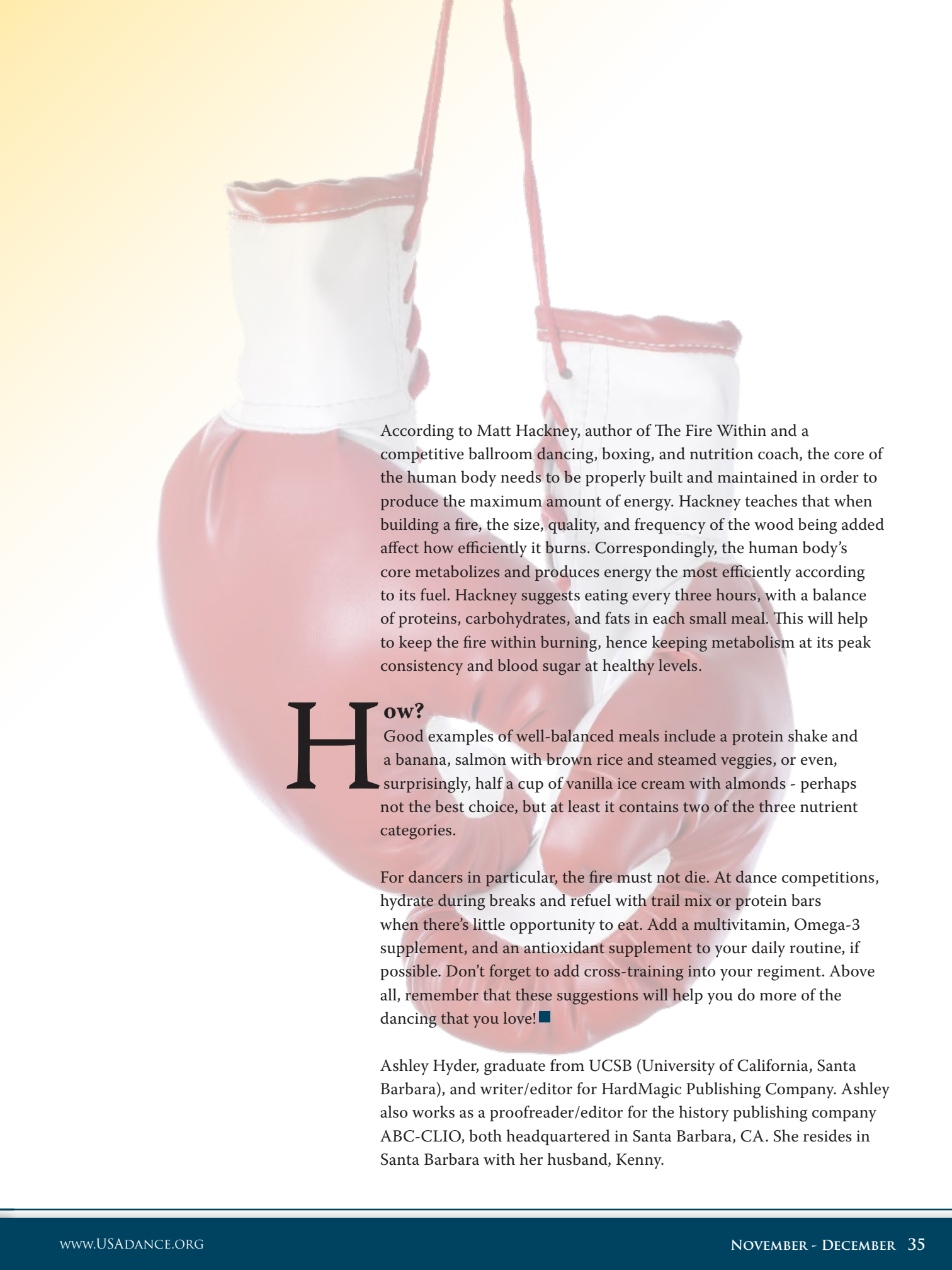
Many professional baseball players cross-train with ballet—why can't ballroom dancers cross-train with boxing? A competitive boxer jumps into the ring for an intense three minute round, then rests for three minutes, then returns to the ring.

Likewise, competitive ballroom dancers have spurts of intense exercise with rest in between dances. Fitness boxing strengthens the core and aerobic and anaerobic systems, valuable assets for dancers. Boxing also provides an interesting and challenging alternative to dancing.

Other worthwhile cross-training options for ballroom dancers include kettlebell training and weightlifting. Instead of only dancing to get in shape for competitions, expand your knowledge and ability with one of these workouts to become a multidimensional dancer.

Nutrition

To enhance dance training, cross-training, and even on your days off, nutrition is vital. To get in prime shape, a ballroom dancer's lifestyle should focus 20% on training and 80% on nutrition. This formula delivers a stronger, longer-lasting dancer; one who can dance the night away.



According to Matt Hackney, author of *The Fire Within* and a competitive ballroom dancing, boxing, and nutrition coach, the core of the human body needs to be properly built and maintained in order to produce the maximum amount of energy. Hackney teaches that when building a fire, the size, quality, and frequency of the wood being added affect how efficiently it burns. Correspondingly, the human body's core metabolizes and produces energy the most efficiently according to its fuel. Hackney suggests eating every three hours, with a balance of proteins, carbohydrates, and fats in each small meal. This will help to keep the fire within burning, hence keeping metabolism at its peak consistency and blood sugar at healthy levels.

How?

Good examples of well-balanced meals include a protein shake and a banana, salmon with brown rice and steamed veggies, or even, surprisingly, half a cup of vanilla ice cream with almonds - perhaps not the best choice, but at least it contains two of the three nutrient categories.

For dancers in particular, the fire must not die. At dance competitions, hydrate during breaks and refuel with trail mix or protein bars when there's little opportunity to eat. Add a multivitamin, Omega-3 supplement, and an antioxidant supplement to your daily routine, if possible. Don't forget to add cross-training into your regiment. Above all, remember that these suggestions will help you do more of the dancing that you love! ■

Ashley Hyder, graduate from UCSB (University of California, Santa Barbara), and writer/editor for HardMagic Publishing Company. Ashley also works as a proofreader/editor for the history publishing company ABC-CLIO, both headquartered in Santa Barbara, CA. She resides in Santa Barbara with her husband, Kenny.



2008
IDSE
Grand Slam

The 2008 IDSF Grand Slam Competition was held in Irvine, Calif. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Aug. 28 – Aug. 30, in conjunction with The Embassy Ball, organized by Brian McDonald.

The IDSF (International DanceSport Federation) Grand Slam has a tradition of excellence as a series of competitions held all over the world. The IDSF only holds ten Grand Slam events in a year – five Latin and five Standard.

But in order to achieve greatness, certain requirements must be met in order to hold this auspicious event – a fact that many participants don't know.

Organizer, Brian McDonald, explained that the number of judges and competitors attending is vital. 22 different judges are necessary – 11 judges are needed for Standard and 11 judges needed for Latin. Each judge must also be from a different country. This year boasted 46 judges from all over the world, including Ireland, Norway, Australia, Spain, Russian Federation, Italy, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, United States, and many more.

The top 12 competitors in each division throughout the world are invited – bringing the world's best couples to the United States. This year over 80 couples competed in Standard, 60 competed for Latin, from 18 countries. As the best competitors attend the Grand Slam events, they are awarded points. The top twelve couples then become qualified to compete in the final event.

Many USA Dance National Officers attended the event including President, Peter Pover, as well as Ken Richards, USA Dance DanceSport Vice President. "USA Dance is thrilled to be able to, once again, partner with Brian McDonald and the Embassy Ball in bringing this double IDSF Grand Slam event to the United States. Having a competition of this magnitude with the number of high-ranking foreign competitors is a great training ground for our U.S. couples to experience the quality and standard of dancing found at the major international events," Richards said.

Master Scrutineer, Ava Kaye, commented, "It was exhilarating to see that many really good couples competing in the U.S. and at such a high standard.

Many major officials of the IDSF were also in attendance including Carlos Freitag (Switzerland), Marcos Sietas (Spain), and Heinz Spaeker (Germany), to name a few.

Clearly, a lot of work goes into organizing an event of this magnitude. McDonald shared his reasons for being involved, "This event brings the best dancers in the world and provides a truly international scope." ■



ALEX SPENCER AND KATARZYNA HERINK

Our Top Competitors

Standard	
18th	Igor Mikushov and Anna Demidova
31st	Ronen Zinshtein and Mariam Izmailova
32nd	Andrzej Bator and Angelika Orent
Latin	
5th	Valentin Chmerkovskiy and Valeria Kozharinova
15th	Pavel Balykin and Natalia Barantseva
18th	Stan Faynerman and Daniella Karagach

USA Dance had nearly 60 talented competitors representing the United States at the IDSF Grand Slam Event. We congratulate all our competitors who work so hard to succeed worldwide.

BY: Erica Colvin
 PHOTOS BY PARK WEST PHOTOGRAPHY©
www.parkwestphoto.photorelect.com



IGOR MIKUSHOV AND ANNA DEMIDOVA

DanceSport fundamentals

By Wayne Crowder

In dancesport competition, it is not enough to dance your routines without errors. To succeed, you must demonstrate a quality of movement that sets you apart from the rest of the field.

I was recently judging a competition, and the Standard Championship couples came onto the floor. The music began and my eyes were almost immediately drawn to the winners of the waltz. It was like a breath of fresh air, a pure pleasure to watch as this couple moved across the floor. While the other couples struggled to get through their open choreography, taking risks to impress the judges and audience, my winners clearly demonstrated an ease of movement, a special quality that separated them from the rest.

So many competitive couples get caught in a trap that ends up being their demise. Understandably, novice dancers love to demonstrate open choreography that is fun, dramatic, and awe-inspiring, especially among the athletes themselves. They see this as a rite of passage that moves them from a syllabus dancer into the realm of the truly great — the Championship level. The thrill of new choreography can inspire the dancers, renew their interest in practice, and revive their souls. The “step hog” mentality, usually developed as a beginning dancer, is hard to break. This compulsion to move past the fundamentals is a curse to the competitive dancer.

“

Insist on the basic
fundamentals of dance.

Your instructor will
respect you for it . . .

”

Focus on the fundamentals of good dancing. The mark of true mastery of skill is the ability to perform the common uncommonly well. The dancer needs to train the body to move with quality. Focusing on the execution of figures does not constitute the training of the body to perform the task. If your practice sessions do not incorporate basic movement drills, then you are not training for excellence.

Are you being trained by your dance teacher, instructor, or coach; or have you trained them? It is natural to want to teach students advanced figures. The urge to quickly move away from the basics arises out of the natural desire to entertain the student. It is easy to see the excitement on students' faces when they are being taught new and exciting figures, as opposed to the moans and groans they emit when they're being taught the basic transference of weight in a forward walk. This is a huge mistake for both the instructor and the student that will delay advancement and progress in the long term. Insist on the basic fundamentals of dance. Your instructor will respect you for it, and your movement skills will improve.

Dancesport is truly a sport. Train your body in the basic fundamentals of your sport. Take pride in mastering your dancesport skills. Enjoy the process! ■

COLLEGIATE COMPETITION CALENDAR



november 1-2, 2008

DCDI (DC DanceSport Inferno)
Hosted by University of Maryland
- College Park

Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://www.ballroomatmaryland.com/dcdi/>

november 21-23, 2008

USA Dance National Collegiate Challenge
Hosted by USA Dance - YCN
Registration Deadline - TBD

<http://cdcusabda.accessdance.com/>

november 1, 2008

Brown Competition
Hosted by Brown University Ballroom
Registration Deadline - TBD

[http://www.brown.edu/Students/
Ballroom_Dance/comp/](http://www.brown.edu/Students/Ballroom_Dance/comp/)

january , 2009

Intercibtubebtak Dace Camp & Festival
Registration Deadline - TBD

<http://idfusabda.accessdance.com/>

november 9, 2008

**Stony Brook University Ballroom
Competition**
Hosted by Stony Brook University Ballroom
Registration Deadline - TBD

[http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/
ballroom/home.html](http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/ballroom/home.html)

february 10, 2009

**University of Michigan Ballroom Dance
Competition**
Hosted by University of Michigan Ballroom
Registration Deadline - TBD

<http://www.umich.edu/~umbdc/home.htm>

november 14-16, 2008

Purdue Ballroom Classic
Hosted by Purdue Ballroom Club
Registration Deadline - TBD

<http://classic.purdueballroom.org>

february 10, 2009

Clover Star Classic
Hosted by University Pennsylvania
Registration Deadline - TBD

[http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~ballroom/
cloverstarclassic/](http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~ballroom/cloverstarclassic/)

november 15, 2008

2008 Yale Ballroom Dance Competition
Hosted by Yale Ballroom Dance
Registration Deadline - TBD

<http://yaleballroom.org/comp/>

february 21, 2009

**8th Annual Boston Universtiy Terrier
Dancesport Cometition**
Hosted by Boston Universtiy

Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://people.bu.edu/ballroom/index.htm>

february 21, 2009

UC Berkley Classic
Hosted by Berkeley Ballroom Dance
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://ucbd.org/classic/>

april, 2009

North Western Ballroom Classic
Hosted by North Western Ballroom
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://groups.northwestern.edu/ballroom/comp/classic.php>

2009

Dance Revolution 2009
Hosted by Binghamton University
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://www.devildancesport.com/>

april 4, 2009

Irish DanceSport Gala
Hosted by Notre Dame
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://www.nd.edu/~ballroom/ndcomp08.htm>

march 7, 2009

UC San Diego Dance by the Shores
Hosted by UC San Diego Ballroom Dance
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://ballroom.ucsd.edu>

april 11, 2009

UC Riverside Orange Blossom Ball
Hosted by Dancesport of UC Riverside
Registration Deadline - TBD
www.orangeblossomball.com

march 10, 2009

Caltech - Dance of the Roses
Hosted by Caltech
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://ballroom.caltech.edu/comp/>

april 17, 2009

UN Las Vegas Desert Challenge
Hosted by UN Las Vegas Ballroom Dance
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://usadance.unlv.edu/desertchallenge.html>

march 14, 2009

10th Annual Holy Cross Ballroom Dance Competition
Hosted by Holy Cross
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://hcballroom.com/competition/>

april 25, 2009

Stanford Cardinal Classic
Hosted by Stanford Ballroom Dance
Registration Deadline - TBD
www.sbdtd.org

april, 2009

RPI Ballroom Dance Competition
Hosted by RPI Ballroom
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://ballroom.union.rpi.edu/>

april 25-26, 2009

MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition
Hosted by MIT Ballroom
Registration Deadline - TBD
<http://ballroom.mit.edu/comp/>

Look for future event updates on

<http://www.usadance.org/youth-and-college-dance/ycn-events/>

BAM

BALLROOM AT MARYLAND

BY: ERICA COLVIN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BAM MEMBERS
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Ballroom at Maryland, the ballroom dance program at the University of Maryland, has been influencing college students and changing lives for years.

According to Michael Shay, original founder, Ballroom at Maryland (BAM) was founded in 1994. When Shay arrived at the University of Maryland for his gradate program, there was no ballroom dance program established. “So I basically said, ‘Okay, I will have to start the darn club,’” Shay laughed.

“The first semester only had two classes, but the response from the students was much bigger than I thought it would be. We had 80 people per class. It became very clear that we were filling some kind of vacuum,” Shay said.

Today the BAM program has expanded to reach nearly 300 students per semester. From two classes, it has expanded to much more.

Sara Talvacchio, current President of Ballroom at Maryland explained, “We are a competitive team/sports club at the University of Maryland and a social dance club. We teach multiple lessons in several dance styles every week for free to university students and many others from the DC area. We perform and teach at many university functions in addition to our weekly lessons and practice spaces.”

“I think the reason BAM was so successful was the idea to offer classes to a large number of casual dancers,” said Shay.



But BAM's chief claim to fame is the D.C. DanceSport Inferno (DCDI) — the largest collegiate ballroom dance competition in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern United States.

Alumnus Ily Zislin currently works as organizer of the DCDI, along with Sara Kenney and Laura Anthony, also alumni. Zislin commented that 900-1000 competitors are expected to compete in this year's event.

"DCDI is a huge part of what BAM does," Zislin said. But BAM is much more than a ballroom dance program or competition host.

"[My favorite part of BAM is] the people and giving back to the team that at some point took me in," Zislin shared.

BAM embraces dancers of all ages and levels. Undergrads, graduates, post-doctoral and alumni dancers participate in the program. Members offer advice and go to great lengths to help each dancer reach his or her potential.

"I love being involved with BAM because I get to experience all of these different aspects — competition, teaching, practice, social dancing, and performances — within one organization. And the people in BAM have become my second family — we support each other in dancing and outside the dancing world too," Talvacchio said.

But don't take our word for it. Check out the D.C. DanceSport Inferno and see what a great program Ballroom at Maryland offers. ■



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Lovely Blueberry colored smooth gown with yellow draped accents. Asymmetrical top with one sleeve and one side fully stoned with stunning floral appliqués. Very eye-catching, newest style. Designed to hid any figure flaws it will fit a variety of shapes & sizes 8-12+. Photos available to email. \$1000. Anne LaTourelle 612-280-7818 or annelatourelle@comcast.net [1]

Standard Gown

Breathtaking light pink standard gown. Long-sleeves, large beautiful pink floral wing that matches the skirt. Soft, feminine with beautifully stone floral appliqués. Photos available to email. Will fit a variety of shapes & sizes 8-12+. Only worn twice. \$1000. Anne LaTourelle 612-280-7818 or annelatourelle@comcast.net [1]

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Lady's ballroom shoes, 2 pairs of International ICS round-toe, single-strap with Diamante buckle, both fresh satin and 2-inch flared heel. 1 pair brand new, UK size 6 W; another pair UK size 6.5 W, worn for 1 practice session; both are in original boxes with shoe bags. See the shoe style picture at <http://www.dancesport.uk.com/shoes/index.htm>. [2]

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Brand new "Designs to Shine" Latin/rhythm by Maria McGill. One long sleeve and the other short. Size M. \$2400. Original cost \$3500. This eye-catching dress is turquoise and heavily stoned. Pictures available. Call Ann at 423-899-6703 or e-mail qfoxtrot@aol.com [2]

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