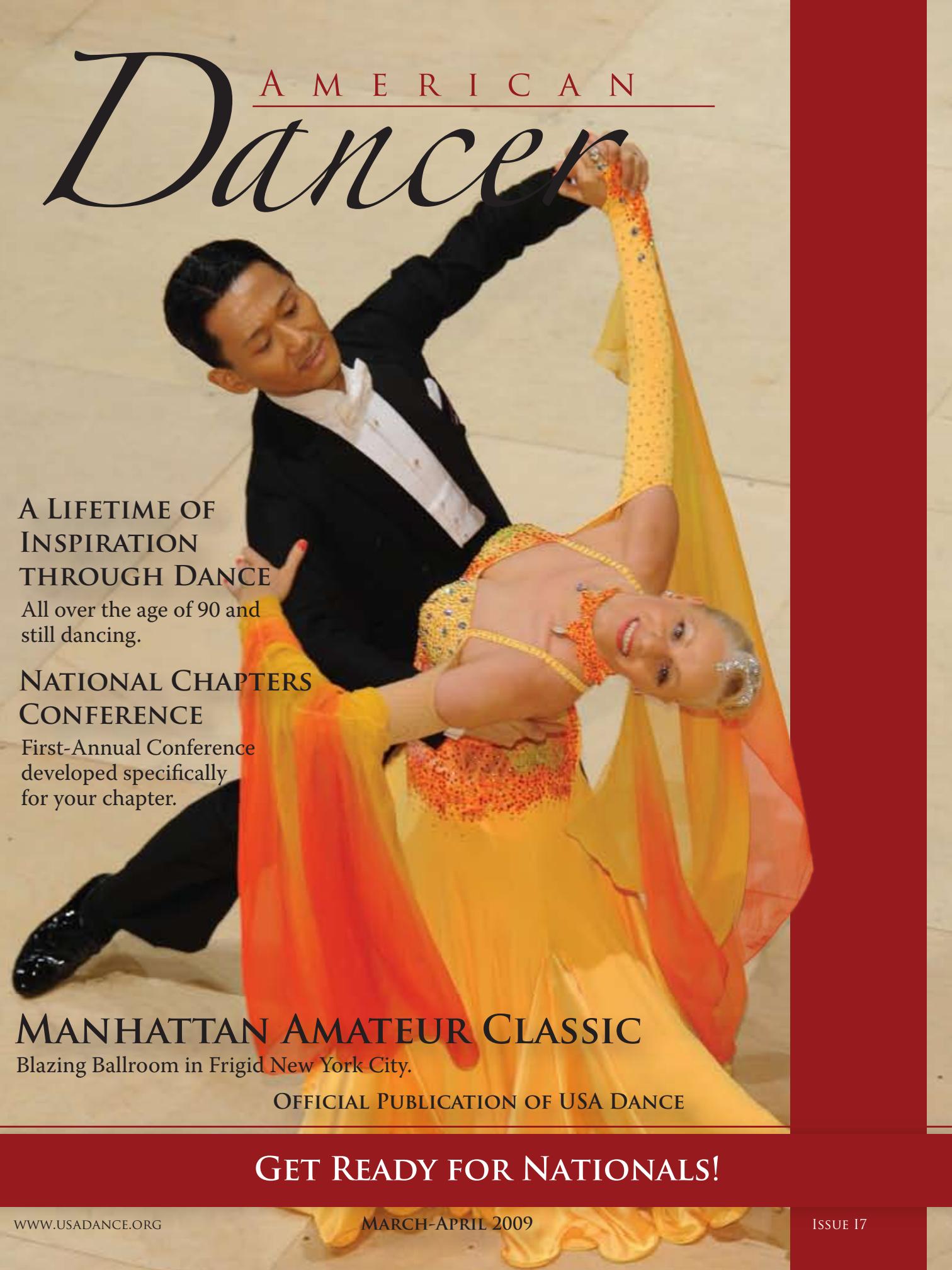


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"The field was wide open, and it was anybody's guess as to who would win." –Yang Chen



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CURTIS PREVOST AND OLGA CURD

PHOTO COURTESY OF CURTIS AND OLGA

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAPTER #3007

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DANCING WITH THE CELEBRITIES IN PITTSBURG

President's REPORT



I have always felt that January should be a quiet month, with time and space to recover from the excesses of the holiday season and to contemplate the year ahead. But no such luck in this organization.

The second weekend saw Ken Richards and me at the National Dance Council meeting in Fort Lauderdale. In addition to the normal program of meetings, we met with the potential organizer and host of the 2010 IDSF World Latin Championship, and discussed the basic issues and TV requirements.

The following Friday I drove up to Orlando for the inaugural National Chapters Conference. This brought together volunteers from all over the East Coast, and from as far away as Arizona, Chicago and Seattle. Shawn Fisher was there, representing *American Dancer*.

The weekend was a stunning success. The participants seemed like family members at a big reunion, and it was obvious that the weekend would be a success from the word "go." The days were filled with well-attended seminars on all aspects of chapter activities, and the evening dances and social get-togethers were marked by their total cordiality. As I told the delegates, I got far more out of it than they did. Many thanks to Jean Krupa and her team for a great weekend. Good luck with planning a West Coast version.

The last weekend marked the Royal Palm Winter Frolic—a well organized competition that is always a pleasure to watch. The Goldcoast Ballroom is a great facility: good floor, great music, nice food and a most receptive audience. Well done, Royal Palm!

Last year, our Fort Wayne Chapter and Vivian Hans started a major outreach venture to help with the Special Olympics. This year it will continue and expand to other chapters. Other opportunities are also opening up. Colleen Parker and the Azalea Coast Chapter are running the Wounded Warriors Appreciation Ball in the Marine Corps base at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina. Other chapters have followed suit, and this is a very worthy cause—particularly in these troubled times. Ida and I will be there, and hope that many of you will choose to join us. I have asked Colleen to set up a President's reception where all of us can get together, and I hope to see y'all there.

Finally, I hope to see hundreds of you at our Nationals in Baltimore in April. We are staying in Baltimore this second year in a truly fabulous venue. On top of all the wonderful events of 2008, we have two major new features. One will be the announcement of a new program of Life Memberships for those who have served USA Dance so well over the years. The inaugural member of this elite group will be our retiring treasurer, Leland Andrew, CPA, who has guarded our finances so faithfully for 16 years. The Governing Council bade Lee farewell last November. Now it's your turn. People like Lee do not seek the spotlight, but their contributions are invaluable. God bless and God speed, Lee!

But Lee will not be the only recipient, and we are also honoring our older members. USA Dance has 21 members over the age of 90. Some of them are still competing, and some of them will be at Nationals. We must be doing something right!

A few nights ago, I had the enormous pleasure of chatting by telephone with Carrie Ann Inaba, of "Dancing With the Stars" fame. Ms. Inaba has graciously accepted Ken Richard's invitation to come to Baltimore as our guest, and to act as a celebrity judge. When we talked, Carrie Ann confided how much she admired ballroom dancing, and was looking forward to meeting competitors and our members in Baltimore. She will be looking at some non-traditional factors of judging, and will present separate awards for her choice of couples, who may not even be finalists. Further details to follow.

Stop the press! Take notice, Florida! 2010 Nationals will be at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando!
See you in Baltimore!



AMERICAN Dancer

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RATES & PRICES

American Dancer is published bimonthly as a service for members and is included in membership annual dues.

SUBSCRIPTION

Individual Non-Member \$25

Canadian Air Delivery \$32

Overseas Air Delivery \$36

Library Subscription \$9

ADVERTISING

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SUBMISSIONS

American Dancer welcomes submissions of letters, articles and photos. All submissions are considered the property of *American Dancer*. Submission does not guarantee publication. Articles and letters may also be edited for length and content without notice to the author. Photos and other materials are not returned.

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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.
Send to editorial office:

e-mail: office@usadance.org

or mail to: American Dancer Magazine
PO Box 462
Rexburg, ID 83440-0462

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Check our Web site - www.USADance.org

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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.



DAPHNA LOCKER

Daphna is currently a member of the Greater N.Y. 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.



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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 Levittown, Pa. with his wife.



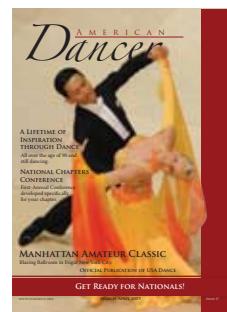
LANA DAVIDOVICH

Lana is a social dancing enthusiast and a contributing member of the MASSABDA Chapter #3002. Lana's contribution to this magazine is inspired by her son Steven Varshavsky. Lana resides in Sharon, Mass., with her husband and son.



MATT HACKNEY

Matt is the founder of MOVFitness—a fitness company specializing in fitness for dancers. Holding over 20 certifications and a ballroom dance instructor, Mr. Hackney brings expertise in a variety of fields. He is the author of the book "The Fire Within."



COVER PHOTO

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Xingmin Lu & Katerina Lu
The MAC, Manhattan
Amateur Classic, a USA
Dance 2009 National
Qualifying Event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARRIE ANN INABA HONORARY JUDGE

Peter Pover, President of USA Dance, has officially announced that ABC-TV's "Dancing with the Stars" celebrity judge Carrie Ann Inaba has accepted USA Dance's invitation to become an honorary judge at the upcoming 2009 Nationals in Baltimore to provide supplemental critique outside of the traditional judging process, to USA Dance DanceSport couples, providing additional evaluation of their special performance and personality skills during competition.

As Mr. Pover announced –
"In addition to all of the major championships, workshops and social events, the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships will explore a new major initiative in the critique of DanceSport and its public appeal.

USA Dance is proud to announce that Ms. Carrie Ann Inaba, the celebrity judge of ABC-TV's "Dancing with the Stars," has graciously offered to assist in the first stages of the review by USA Dance of competitive ballroom dancing in the modern era. Her input will be outside that of the traditional judging panel and will be focused on important aspects of performance and personality that may escape normal judging standards. USA Dance will present awards to couples being judged successfully in these areas. In addition, Ms. Inaba will conduct a Masters Class for top U.S. couples.

USA Dance President, Peter Pover, in welcoming Ms. Inaba's commitment, said that her experience and reputation provides an opportunity for the first time to create a bridge between ballroom dancing and the wider dance community.

Ms. Inaba expressed excitement at the opportunity, and that she was honored to be invited. She added that the opportunity for a two-way exchange of ideas, and that the dedication and discipline of DanceSport couples could provide a good example to dancers in other disciplines.



PHOTO BY FELIX MACK



2009 RULEBOOK

The 2009 Rulebook has been released and is now available for free download from the official Web site, www.usadance.org. Notice that all new or revised sections are in bold-italic print. Pay close attention to the new anti-doping rules, the rules for sanctioning competitions, and the order of Latin dances: Starting with the MAC, multi-five-dance Latin events will run as samba, cha cha, rumba, paso doble, and jive. Any other multi-dance Latin events that include both cha cha and samba will commence with samba. The purpose for this rule change is to match what is done and has been done in all other IDSF countries and events globally. Note: NDCA organizers may still run cha cha first, so be advised when you choose to dance in these events.

CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.USADANCE.ORG

Membership - to update personal information or renew, just click on "membership."

Social Events Calendar (under Social Dance)

Special fundraisers, dances and workshops scheduled by chapters. **DanceSport Calendar (under DanceSport)** Upcoming dancesport events and includes contact information. **Find a Chapter (under Chapters & Regions)** Lists all chapters across the country-great to contact them as you travel. **Collegiate DanceSport Calendar (under Youth & College Dance)** Collegiate competitive events with contact information for details.

Articles about Dancing and the Benefits it Provides

See link on home page under "what's new."

Qualifying Events for USA Dance 2010 National DanceSport Championships



Oskar Wojciechowski & Milena Jasionek / Photo by Carson Zulling

NJ DanceSport Classic "Summer Sizzler"
Hackensack, NJ
June 13-14, 2009

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

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

Northwest DanceSport Championships
Seattle, WA
October 24-25, 2009

Manhattan Amateur Classic
Manhattan, NY
January 15-17, 2010

Chicago DanceSport Championships
Chicago, IL
February 20-22, 2010

For More Information visit www.usadance.org

Dancing with the Celebrities in Pittsburgh Chapter #3007

BY: HANNAH HENNIS

USA Dance Chapter #3007 in Pittsburgh recently sponsored a “Dancing with the Celebrities” event to bring their passion for social dance a little closer to home. Just like the popular TV show “Dancing with the Stars,” local studio dancers and coaches teamed up with Pittsburgh celebrities to train and compete.

There were 13 different couples that made their mark on the dance floor, mostly radio and news media personalities coupled with independent professional dancers. After months of practice, the final competition was held at the David Lawrence Convention Center on Dec. 6, and drew 500 people. It included exhibitions, a cha cha lesson, and a dinner complete with taped interviews of the celebrities and their trainers so the audience could get to know them before they saw them perform. They heated up the dance floor with original routines in tango, salsa, jive, hustle, samba, merengue, bolero, waltz, and, swing.

The Pittsburgh Chapter was one of about 10 different sponsors that made this event possible. They were an important part of the advertising campaign, and were even able to attract some new members through this event. They bought one table of 10 and all in all contributed \$1,500 to the fundraiser.

One of the instructors, Luanne O’Brien, owner of Integral Ballroom and current member of the chapter, took second place with her partner Gino Chiodo. The event raised a grand total of \$60,000 for research on juvenile diabetes. Also, since a lot of the celebrities were involved in the local news and radio, there was quite a bit of media coverage on the event, bringing the beauty of dance to everyone’s attention. “It was probably the number one dance event of 2008 in the Pittsburgh area,” said Joe Aiken, Pittsburgh Chapter president.

But throughout the year, the local chapter puts on plenty of other dance events. In October, they had a “More Formal than Normal” dance, which as the name implies included not only formal wear, but also everything else from hors d’oeuvres to a live swing band, “Five Guys Named Moe.” This event attracted close to 200 people, and yet another one took place in early February.

The Pittsburgh Chapter also sponsors monthly dances at nearby Chatham University, featuring different themed dances and local studio instructors every time, many of whom also participated in Dancing with the Celebrities. In addition, monthly raffles are held and the proceeds support competition scholarships. The chapter awarded about \$2,000 just last year. With close to 200 members, they have something for everyone.

The chapter president and board members agree that their number one goal is to improve membership and spread the word about dance. ■



DANCERS AT A DANCE ORGANIZED BY
THE PITTSBURG CHAPTER

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE AIKEN

Building A Chapter: *Joe Aiken*

President, Pittsburgh Chapter #3007



JOE AIKEN & JENNIFER BORGESI

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE AIKEN

BY: **HANNAH HENNIS**

If you're ever in the Pittsburgh area and want to go ballroom dancing, then you will definitely want to meet Joe Aiken, the energetic president of Chapter 3007. It's true, he's a die-hard fitness and movie buff, but his love of dance is an inspiration all its own.

Aiken started learning to dance more than 11 years ago at the Pittsburgh Arthur Murray Studio. His new hobby officially began after he saw a couple dancing the cha cha at a wedding, and everyone else got off the floor to watch them move. "I said to myself, 'I need to do this' and I signed up for six lessons at Arthur Murray thinking that was all I needed to dance," he said. Many years later, he admits he's still learning to dance.

For the past three years, Aiken has served as the Pittsburgh chapter president, and "sharing his love of dance with everyone he can," he said. During that time they have been able to have top-notch professionals instruct their members, maintain a great venue for their activities, and improve their quality of dance as a chapter. Last year alone, they awarded over \$2,000 in competition scholarships and free admissions for students.

"My favorite project," said Aiken, "has been building a functioning board and using the talented gifts of board members to build up USA Dance Pittsburgh."

His sense of humor and leadership philosophy reveal his belief that it is the people that make up a great chapter. And, he echoed this in his advice to others, "Look for people who want to improve the chapter and be on the board. Look at their talents and put them in the right positions. [You can make] the chapter better through communications and what you offer your membership."

With a great attitude and love for what he does, Aiken is bringing dance to the city of Pittsburgh—one step at a time. ■



JOE AIKEN & AIMEE MARSHALL

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE AIKEN

USA Dance Chapter News

By: Hannah Hennis

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MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER #3002 INAUGURAL GALA & A TELETHON

The Massachusetts Chapter #3002 put on an Inaugural Gala to bring in the New Year with style on Jan. 25. It was held at the beautiful Danversport Yacht Club from noon to 4:30 p.m. and included a buffet lunch and dance. A complimentary foxtrot lesson was taught by professional Bill Morganti, and was a great event all around.

A student-operated radio and television station, WAVM, at Maynard High School in Massachusetts held a 40-hour dance telethon to raise money for people in less fortunate areas of Massachusetts that subscribe to the Beacon Villager newspaper. The newspaper was a sponsor this year as

well as the Massachusetts Chapter of USA Dance. President Jim DiCecca, Aaron Katz and Sarah Holdaway worked with the students at the high school and taught merengue moves that were later televised. Katz and Holdaway also performed merengue, cha cha, rumba, and swing in support of the telethon. This is the second year that the Massachusetts Chapter has been involved.

The Massachusetts Chapter was also part of the U.S. Eastern DanceSport Championships on Feb. 19 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Not only did they have MASSabda participants dancing at the event, but those who attended enjoyed performances by Sejdiu and Alla Profatilova in Theater Arts, Max Kozhevnikov and Beata in Latin, and Jonathan Roberts and Valentina Kostenko in ballroom.



VIRGINIA BERNAL-PRICE AND COREY VINGI

PHOTO BY LINDA SUCCI

RHODE ISLAND

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER #3010 "DANCING WITH THE STARS" MONTH AND TOUR

Rhode Island celebrated "Dancing With the Stars" month in January. Chapter President Linda Succi and her partner Greg Duda qualified to compete with nine other professional and amateur couples in the Samsung Challenge at Mohegan Sun on Jan. 31 with the official "Dancing With the Stars" Tour.



SERGEY ONIK FROM N.J. WITH ALANA CHESTER FROM OHIO



PHOTO BY JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM

LINDA SUCCI, PRESIDENT R.I. CHAPTER, AND GREG DUDA

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

LOS ANGELS CHAPTER #4031 HOLIDAY DANCE TOY DRIVE

As part of their Holiday Dance on Dec. 5, 2008, the Los Angeles Chapter #4031 members sponsored a toy drive for the Starlight Children's Foundation. Over 100 toys were collected as holiday gifts for seriously ill children. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOS ANGELS CHAPTER

GIRARD, OHIO

OHIO CHAPTER #2024 "A DANCE TO REMEMBER"

The Ohio Chapter #2024 held "A Dance to Remember" on Feb. 12 in Girard. All proceeds benefited the Greater East Ohio Area Chapter Alzheimer's Association, and will fund research for treatment, prevention and diagnosis of the disease.

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The Importance of Renewing Your Membership



BY: JEAN KRUPA
SOCIAL DANCE VP

Pause for a moment to reflect on all the rewarding experiences you've shared this year and years past through your USA Dance membership.

Three words come to mind as we envision how USA Dance has changed our lives—friendship, confidence and exercise.

Don't you deserve lifelong friendships that are formed through chapter activities?

Don't you deserve to acquire confidence in your dancing skills that are developed while taking part in lessons or serving on your chapter board?

We think you do! These intangible benefits are truly the reasons why so many members continue to make USA Dance a part of their lives.

Reward yourself today by renewing your USA Dance membership. You deserve it!

RE-ACT TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF USA DANCE.

RE-WARD YOURSELF BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

RE-CONSIDER HOW MUCH YOUR USA DANCE MEMBERSHIP MEANS TO YOU.

By re-activating your membership you will once again gain the distinction of belonging to a respected and nationally recognized dance organization. An organization that continues to improve the standing of all ballroom dancers, be it social or competitive.

Your opinions and concerns are important to us. We try very hard to meet the needs of busy men and women who are balancing careers, education, family, and leisure activities. We want to know how to help our members—please let us know how.

E-mail Jean Krupa at social-vp@usadance.org ■



NATIONAL CHAPTERS CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AT AN EVENING DANCE
PHOTO BY CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

National Chapters Conference

BY: ERICA COLVIN



USA DANCE SOCIAL VP JEAN KRUPA AND JEAN BARBOUR FROM CHAPTER 2001 ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILL.

First-Annual USA Dance Chapters Conference—Dynamic Opportunity to Learn & Grow

The First-Annual USA Dance National Chapters Conference held Jan. 15-18 at the Radisson Worldgate Resort in Kissimmee, Fla., united chapters around the country for essential networking and training.

In the words of event organizer Jean Krupa, National Social VP, "All I can say is wow! We had 32 chapters represented at the Conference. By regional count, we had 20 from Region 6, two from Region 5, one from Region 4, three from Region 2, and two from Region 1. The weather turned chilly outside, but that didn't hamper the attitude and temperature inside. It was hot!"

The major goals for this first-annual conference were essentially helping chapter officers gain more confidence in their roles to create successful chapter programs and strategies, to share ideas through chapter networking, and to build lasting new friendships.

Sharon Wolf, president of Seattle Chapter #1004, who attended the event, confirmed, "This was a launching pad for future conferences. There is a wealth of information. It really helped me feel more connected to people that I never would have met otherwise."

At the conference, training workshops were specially developed for chapter officers. Key topics included Motivating Members, Working with Volunteers, Marketing, Budgets, Dance Music, as well as Successful Fundraising.



GROUP PHOTO OF CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Motivational speakers included Barbara Wally, Region 5 VP; Mike Johnston, President of the Florida Southern Star Chapter #6038; Bobbi Jo Gamache, Region 2 VP; Esther Freeman, National Treasurer; Darlene Siciliano, Dance Instructor; and Jean Krupa, National Social VP. USA Dance President Peter Pover was a keynote speaker and resource to all.

As Jean Krupa said, "It was an honor to have our National President, Peter Pover, attend and address the members with his opening remarks on Thursday and Friday evening." Chapter officials were also able to meet the "infamous Mary Schaufert" of the Central Office.

The Conference's line-up of many speakers meant a full schedule for attendees. But as Wolf commented, "Having different [officials] give the presentations was very interesting. They all had different styles. I liked making connections with people."

The full day of seminars and workshops really inspired the many chapters in attendance, noted Shawn Fisher, Executive Editor of *American Dancer*, who attended the Conference. "It was a great conference. Hats off to Jean Krupa for making it happen."



ATTENDEES AT AN EVENING DANCE HAVING FUN DOING THE FOXTROT MIXER

After a full day of meetings and networking, the Conference sponsored a fun social dance each night for everyone, with John Davis, President of the Orlando Chapter, arranging for several outstanding dance showcases on Friday evening (Benny Maquiera and Carol Burkett) and Saturday evening (Harmony High School).

If you missed the Conference in Florida this year . . . don't worry, Jean Krupa is planning another conference next year on the West Coast. As she explained, not only should chapter presidents attend, but the opportunity is there for any chapter officer or chairperson. ■

ALL PHOTOS BY CONFERENCE ATTENDEES



DANCING FROM THE *Heart*

Dance is the hidden language of the soul.
- Martha Graham

BY LANA
DAVIDOVICH

During the worst snowstorm of the season in New England, 10 young adults braved the elements to give back to their community through the art of dance.

It's New Year's Eve in Boston and performers from the Dance Republic Show Dance team, under the direction of Olga Kinnard, are scheduled to perform at the Fox Hill Retirement Center. Approximately 250 guests are anxiously awaiting the young couples to showcase their talents in ballroom dance, for a gala celebration.

Costumes are steamed, shoes are polished, but the weather forecast is getting more ominous—the storm is in full force and some towns have declared a state of emergency. But as they say “the show must go on.”

Familiar with the thrill of competition and performing at their personal best, the young dancers are now filled with anticipation of a different kind. They are to perform in front of hundreds of people as one team, taking care to remember their individual numbers. But most importantly—they must work together to pull off a seamless show.

Braving thick snow and traffic jams, the dancers finally arrive. Introductions are made; music begins to play—it's show time, folks. One by one they make their entrance onto the stage and perform their routines.

Fierce dancesport competitors, these couples have amassed a number of noteworthy accomplishments despite their young ages. All of them have placed at the

top of their age categories, representing Massachusetts in both Regional and National competitions.

But each performance has its crisis. Shortly before the performance, Yuliya tore a ligament in her ankle. Committed to her team (and against doctor's orders), Yuliya traded her soft cast for dance shoes. Dancing through her pain, Yuliya, David, and the entire Dance Republic team delivered a stellar performance.

Behind every successful dancer stands a teacher who inspires him or her to reach beyond individual potential. “Determination, tenacity, hard work, and the ability to captivate an audience is what makes a great dancer,” says Olga Kinnard, who hand picked the team. “Our mission is to use our gift of dance as a way of bringing people together while challenging ourselves, but most importantly as a way of giving back to our community. “I try to instill in the kids a sense of commitment not only to their individual partners but to the whole team. I am extremely proud of their competitive accomplishments, but above all, I am proud of their sense of commitment to charitable causes. From cancer research to the issues supporting the environment, these kids are willing to donate their time and talent to make a difference.”

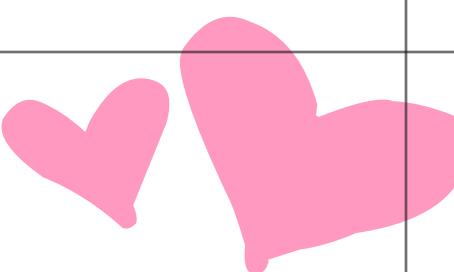
Founder of Dance Republic, Kinnard has managed to give something extraordinary to these kids—the value of using their talent not for self-fulfillment or competitive advantage, but rather as a gift that should be used for a greater good. ■



Bella Berlin and Andy Dunaevsky



Founder of Dance Republic, **Olga Kinnard** 2007 North American Professional International Latin Vice Champion, World Championship Showdance Finalist and U.S. Open and National Rising Star Champion.



Sam Ludin and Leeza Reyzin



Josh Brusilovsky and Sonya Ludin



Steven Varshavsky and Sarah Linkova



David Kalenjian and Yuliya Kiperberg

Bella Berlin and Andy Dunaevsky have danced together for three years. Both are only 10 years old and have a long list of accomplishments. Both kids play piano and study Russian. 2008 North Amerian Pre-Teen Champions.

Sam Ludin and Leeza Reyzin, both 13 years of age, have danced together for over a year. Sam plays the drums and Leeza plays piano. 2008 National Junior Finalists.

Josh Brusilovsky and Sonya Ludin are both 10 years old and both study Russian. 2009 Manhattan Amateur Classic Junior finalists.

Steven Varshavsky and Sarah Linkova both 13 years of age have competed together for two years. Steven is a black belt in karate and Sarah is an aspiring artist. Grand DanceSport Cup 2008 Junior Champions; 2009 Northeastern Open Invitational Youth Champions.

David Kalenjian and Yuliya Kiperberg have competed in the youth category for over a year. David Kalanjian and Yuliya Kiperberg 2008 National and 2009 Manhattan Amateur Classic Youth finalists.

A Lifetime of Inspiration Through Dance

BY: JUSTIN LOVE

For many, ballroom dancing is a lifelong pursuit, a passion that one can embrace forever. Some call dance their “fountain of youth” because regardless of age, dance can inspire every one of us to be more physically fit, more mentally engaged and aspire to live healthier lives. I recently had the special opportunity to chat with some of our most distinguished dancers in the Eastern United States—every one of them more than 90 years of age—a testament to their love of dance and longevity.

George Harris of Haverford, Pa. has been dancing ever since he can remember. His first experiences with dancing were in carnivals and musicals on the stage. Eventually, he joined a dance club in his hometown, which as he admits, was partly to meet girls, but mostly just for the fun of it. That's why he still dances once a week—this time with his daughter. “It's very good recreation,” he said.

Although Harris likes all forms of dance, he admitted to having a favorite style. “I love the tango—the timing of it. It has a strong beat to it.” Harris will be celebrating his 102nd birthday in October of this year.

When 97-year-old Mary Sheneuer of Rochester, Minn. was asked how long she's been dancing, she laughingly replied, “Oh, I've been dancing all my life!”

Even though she says she doesn't do any “fancy twirling” anymore, Mary still dances as often as she can. The local chapter where Sheneuer attends reports that whenever there is a guy sitting down and she isn't already dancing, she'll simply march right over and

pull him out onto the floor. As Sheneuer admitted, “I dance just for fun, but it's also good for your brain, keeps you going places and meeting new people. I attribute being fit today to dance.”

Charles Rainey from Tamarac, Fla. feels the same way. “Oh, I still go to the gym, but dancing is the primary way I keep fit. I still move pretty well even at 91, but I don't tell my dance partners my age anymore, because I'm afraid they'll think I'll drop dead onto the floor.”

Rainey also loves the social aspect about dance. “I'm alone, but not lonely 'cause I have a lot of dance friends.”



MR WASSER DANCING WITH CORA ELLIOTT

PHOTO BY CHUCK SUGENT - PRES. CHAPTER 6098

Don Wasser, now 95 years old, reminisced how dancing helped him to court his wife. “We used to go swing dancing all the time. It wasn't how we met, but it definitely solidified the situation.”



PHOTO BY RICHARD DORBIN

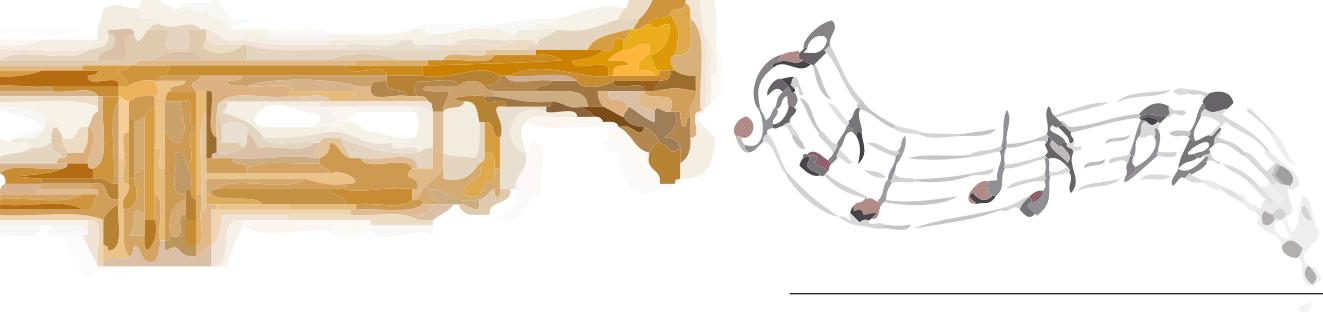
EVERETT MARVEL AND JANE POGUE

Today, swing is still his passion as he dances in Salisbury, Md. "It lets me release my energy for one thing—and I have some left. The swing music is just like medicine to me." And, according to Wasser, "dancing has always made every Saturday night memorable."

Everett Marvel, who lives in Easton, Md., joined the local Cotillion Club two years after it was formed in the 1930s. The club, which is known today as the Talbot Dance Club, held a 75th anniversary party wherein they gave special recognition to Everett who has been a loyal 73-year member. Today at 92 years of age, Everett recalls what a "wonderful experience [it was] to give a few remarks about the club and dancing over the years."

Editor's Note: As I spoke with all of these wonderful dancers, I noticed that they all share an infectious enthusiasm for life, love, learning, friends and family. The common bond they share is their joy of dancing. At the end of our interview, Mary Schenewer reminded us to "just keep on dancing. That's my motto: keep on dancing." ■





DEMERLE BEST ALL-AROUND DRUMMER

BY JACK LEBO

The late Harry James said: "Les DeMerle is the best all-around drummer I've ever had, and that's saying a lot when you remember that drum virtuosos like Buddy Rich and Louis Bellson manned that post before him."

Les DeMerle, world-renown drummer, bandleader, clinician and author was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He began playing drums at age 11, which launched him into the New York jazz scene with his own all-star jazz group. He performed with traditional jazz legends Tony Parenti, Henry "Red" Allen, and Jazz Vibes' great, Lionel Hampton, all before age 17.

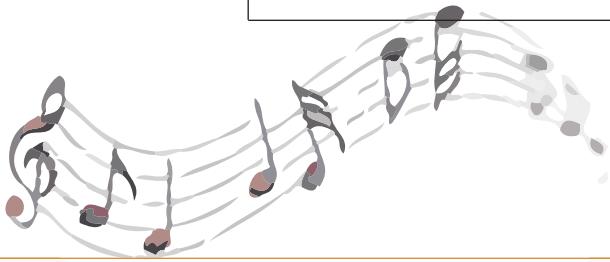
Les DeMerle is also known for his talents as a vocalist. DeMerle, in fact, is one of the few jazz drummers who has been able to sing and play drum simultaneously. Les toured for 12 years with big band jazz trumpet master, Harry James, and recorded three albums with him, including the Grammy Award-winning "King James Version."

Always enterprising in nature, Les had "all pots on the stove and cookin" during this period, when he moved to Los Angeles. As a clinician, he appeared in most major music stores in the U.S. and Europe.

As a club owner, bandleader, jazz innovator, and teacher, Les owned and operated The Cellar Theatre/Creative Music Workshop. Featured artists in his nightclub included, not only Les' own cutting-edge jazz/rock/fusion band, Transfusion, with whom he recorded five award-winning LP's, but also showcased world-renowned jazz stars such as Chick Corea, Al Jarreau and Freddie Hubbard.

As an author, Les wrote two best-selling educational drum books, "Jazz-Rock Fusion, Volumes I and II," published by Hal

The 2009 Amelia Island Jazz Festival with the Dynamic Les DeMerle Big Band will be held Oct. 4-11. For more info, check out: AmeliaIslandJazzFestival.com and www.LesDeMerleMusic.com.



BIG BAND REPORT

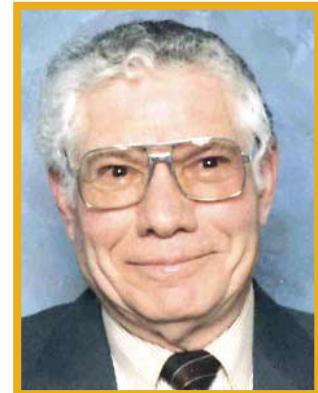
Leonard. With his most recent educational release, a two-part drum video, "Rock/Fusion Drum Applications, Part I and II," Les continues to impart his knowledge to drummers everywhere through his videos. He also teaches private lessons and drum clinics whenever his schedule permits.

In his diverse musical career, Les DeMerle has performed with many world-class acts. Les toured for three years and recorded with Las Vegas star Wayne Newton. He also toured and recorded with Grammy award-winning jazz vocal group The Manhattan Transfer and appeared with many other musical greats including, Lou Rawls, Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Mel Torme, and Joe Williams.

In 1991, he and his wife, vocalist Bonnie Eisle, were invited to the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island to become "House Band Leader," and to entertain nightly in the Lobby Lounge, as a trio or a quartet, and to expand his ensemble in various sizes up to the Dynamic 17-piece Les DeMerle Big Band. Hotel functions included private parties, corporate events, and others. Les has made Amelia Island, Fla., his "home base."

He continues making music at various venues playing at many private parties, festivals, concerts and clinics in the southeast, across the United States, abroad, aboard cruise ships and recording six best-selling CDs.

ABOUT BONNIE – Bonnie Eisle, wife of Les DeMerle, is the featured vocalist with the Dynamic Les DeMerle Band. She has appeared with the organization at a number of popular jazz clubs, including Somerset's in Singapore; City Jazz in Orlando; The Jazz Corner in Hilton Head, S.C.; and Arturo Sandoval's in Miami. She has also toured the U.S. and Europe with the Chicago Free Street Theatre and Dance Group. She studied music and dance in Brazil on a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship. ■



Jack Lebo

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 influential 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 musical legends who've influenced dance.

Write to USA Dance

office@americandancer.org



The Mambo King Remembered

BY: JOYCE LUHRS

“Mambo King” Pedro (Pete) Aguilar left a lasting legacy to the ballroom and social dance world. Hailed as “the greatest mambo dancer ever” by *LIFE* magazine, musician Tito Puente. Aguilar died at age 81 on Jan. 13, 2009 in Miami, Fla. Many dance titles were bestowed upon this Puerto Rican dance giant: “King of the Latin Beat,” the “Maestro of Mambo,” “The Prince of the Palladium,” and “Cuban Pete.”

USA Dance member Barbara Craddock, Aguilar’s dance partner for the past 11 years, compared his dance technique with Fred Astaire’s. “He had an exquisite sense of rhythm and impeccable timing. He was able to dance inside the music; his footsteps would syncopate exactly with the clave: the rhythmic structure of Latin dance and music. When you watched Pete dance you could see the music in his steps. It wasn’t just steps. Very, very few dancers did it. Fred Astaire could do it, and I called him the Fred Astaire of Latin dance,” she said.

Craddock learned from Aguilar. “His timing was unbelievable. Sometimes I would dance with him en clave. He didn’t count. He danced to the exact rhythm of the clave. Sometimes he would break out, and I could come back in. I could see the clave in his feet. He taught me that, too,” she said.

Aguilar believed that authentic Latin music and dance were art forms to learn and pass on from one generation to the next. In the documentary film “La Epoca,” Aguilar discussed the great period of authentic Latin music and dances that were performed at the Palladium Ballroom in New York that he thought were forgotten today.

Throughout his life, Aguilar was a man of many firsts. With his dance partner and future wife Millie Donay, he broke the color barrier in the 1950s dancing on the stage with her at the Palladium. “He was the first ‘man with a tan,’ as Pete used to say, to dance with a



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA CRADDOCK

PAGE FROM LIFE MAGAZINE'S DEC. 20, 1954 ISSUE THAT SHOWS PEDRO AGUILAR DANCING WITH HIS THEN PARTNER AND FUTURE WIFE, MILLIE DONAYDONAY.

Aguilar believed that authentic Latin music and dance were art forms to learn and pass on from one generation to the next.



PEDRO AGUILAR AND BARBARA CRADDOCK

PHOTO BY: JOE LARONGA.

white woman...At the Palladium Ballroom, you were judged by how well you danced, not by your race, color, or your skin. If you could dance, you were in," said Craddock.

His accomplishments were numerous. Over 100 dance steps are credited to him, including the Latin cross body lead, Susie Q, the porpoise, the Savoy turn, the prayer, and the kick tap tap. *LIFE* magazine featured him and Donay in Dec. 20, 1954 at a time when bi-racial couples were rarely seen in public.

The Mambo King entertained audiences throughout the world appearing at the Apollo Theatre, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and many other stages.

Dignitaries such as Presidents Eisenhower and Johnson, Prime Minister Ben Gurion of Israel, and Queen Mary of England saw him perform.

He was a choreographer and consultant for the hit movie, "Mambo Kings" and with Craddock, made

history, serving as choreographic consultant and instructor to preserve clave, the Latin "metronome," for the Miami City Ballet's new work, "Mambo No. 2 a.m." They developed and choreographed "Latin Magic," an original mambo ballet for the University of the Arts School of Dance in Philadelphia. With Craddock, he established the first lecture series about Latin dance history at the university level.

Aguilar was busy dancing and working on new projects until the end. In 2008, he appeared with Craddock in the film, "Latin Music Project USA," and appeared at the West Point Latin Music Legends event at the Thayer Hotel, N.Y.

He received numerous awards for his contributions to Latin dance. His work is archived at the Smithsonian Institute and the RAICES Latin Music Museum for future mambo enthusiasts to enjoy and learn. ■

The Archie Hazelwood Fund

Making a Difference Today

BY: ERICA COLVIN



ARCHIE HAZELWOOD PAST
PRESIDENT OF USA DANCE

USA Dance's first-ever National Chapters Conference was held in Orlando, Fla. in January. Chapters responded enthusiastically, but in today's economy, there were concerns about traveling expenses, which would prevent many chapters from the Midwest or West Coast from attending. But thanks to the Archie Hazelwood Memorial Fund, nearly a dozen chapters from all parts of our country had their airfare paid and were able to represent their members nationally.

The fund was established in memory of Archie Hazelwood, former national president of USA Dance. Hazelwood took our organization from 13 chapters to well over 100 and worked hard to gain recognition for DanceSport from the U.S. Olympic Committee among other important accomplishments. He is also remembered by members as a kind-hearted man who devoted all of his waking time and energy to the cause of ballroom dancing.

"Archie was a social dancer. He believed social dance was the foundation for all styles of dance," said Esther Freeman, USA Dance national treasurer. USA Dance was his passion and his life.

At the time of Hazelwood's death in December of 2004 Esther Freeman, serving as Senior Vice President at the time, became the new president of USA Dance and organized the Archie Hazelwood Memorial Fund. Because chapters held fundraisers, individual members contributed, and other organizations Archie was involved with donated, the Hazelwood legacy will continue to impact the lives of dancers throughout our country for many years to come.

As Sharon Wolf, Seattle Chapter #1004 President said, "It tells me that USA Dance cares about what we are doing. I think it is important because sometimes we lose the perspective that we are part of a larger organization." Wolf also stated that she would really encourage more events like this and greater participation from chapter officials.

USA Dance members are welcome to contribute to the Hazelwood perpetual fund and also to consider establishing a memorial fund with USA Dance in the name of a loved one.

For information on how that works, contact Mary in the USA Dance Central Office, central-office@usadance.org.

- presenting *Taka Dance Fashion*, sponsor of *Bryan/Carmen* and *Jonathan/Katusha*



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THE PUBLIC EYE

BY: ANDREA KNIGHT

Washington Post

A major metropolitan newspaper recently helped USA Dance write its way once again into the limelight. *Washington Post* writer Vicky Hallett wrote an article on the fun and fitness of ballroom dance, published Jan. 13. As Hallet said, "... even an hour or two a week can result in some benefit, whether it's in improved coordination or a trimmer waistline." She quoted Angela Prince, USA Dance's director of public relations, who compared dancing to other sports, "You can work at it as any athlete would ... The requirements are the same: mental and physical fitness, stamina, endurance, balance."

Charlotte Living magazine

In Charlotte, N.C., *Charlotte Living* writer Julie Degni Marr in her recent article "Give It a Whirl" explored the effect of media on ballroom dancing. "The huge spike in interest," she wrote, "can be traced back to 2000, when dance first came into our living rooms via shows like 'So You Think You Can Dance' and the current smash 'Dancing With the Stars.'" She called local USA Dance member Angela Prince for insights. Prince agreed that,

"In the United States, it's a fact that things become popular through media exposure."

Throughout the country, many local publications are "catching the fire" of ballroom dancing popularity. Chapter members are doing a great job creating publicity opportunities.

NOTE: If your chapter is planning an event or project, don't forget to contact your local media. If the local media in your area are working on a ballroom dancing story and want to interview a national USA Dance representative, please contact PR Director Angela Prince at publicrelations-dir@usadance.org.

"Dancing With the Stars" Announces a New Age Bracket

ABC-TV's "Dancing With the Stars" has added a new age group for this season's Junior Competition—13 to 17. Once again, USA Dance was asked by ABC-TV to submit auditions. This season, 39 of our couples responded to our Audition Alert, sending in photos, videos and bios for the final audition.

We ask all of our members to please watch and vote for your favorites on the competition nights-April 14, 21 and 28 and then May 12 for the Semi-Final Round. The Final Results night is still to be announced.

From all submitted entries (which also include several USA Dance couples submitted by the professional dancers on DWTS), ABC-TV will narrow the field to approximately 20 couples. Then, after careful review, the group is reduced to 10 semi-finalists. And, then to the final six with two couples selected as backups should a finalist couple have to cancel.

DWTS has been a “chance of a lifetime” experience for our dancers. Many of the USA Dance couples who’ve previously competed on DWTS have continued to receive invitations to perform all over the country, from professional sporting events, charity fundraisers, and television shows to hometown pep rallies. And, to measure the popularity of our dancers, please visit the blogs on all the dance sites and www.abc.go.com following each show to see the responses from fans worldwide.

Maksim Chmerkovskiy and Karina Smirnoff

“Dancing With the Stars” has provided more than fame for some of its professional coaches. USA Dance alumni Maksim Chmerkovskiy and Karina Smirnoff have also found love, which they made official when Chmerkovskiy popped the question this New Year’s Eve. “I’m in love and so is she,” Chmerkovskiy told *People* magazine. “Everything is beautiful.” Currently on tour with the DWTS cast, the couple reportedly plans to return to the show for its eighth season, which premieres March 9. ■

DWTS HAS BEEN A “CHANCE OF A LIFETIME” EXPERIENCE FOR OUR DANCERS.



We want to hear from your chapter!

Has your chapter been in the news lately? Have you been featured in the paper, on TV, or online?

Send us the latest happenings of your chapter to be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Public Eye*.

When submitting, please keep in mind the following:

- 1** High quality, digital photos relating to the event at 600 dpi or higher
- 2** Photo caption, or names of persons
- 3** Photo credit
- 4** Articles should be a maximum of 175 words

Send submissions and questions to
office@americandancer.org

USA DANCE NATIONAL SPONSORS



Thank you for your support!



COMPETITION CALENDAR

march 8, 2009

N.J. DanceSport Classic "Spring Fling"

Battista Dance Studio in Hackensack, N.J.

www.njdancesportclassic.com

april 3-5, 2009

USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel.

Baltimore, Md.

www.usadancenationals.org

may 16, 2009

Quest for the Best*

Seattle, Wash. Chapter #1004

<http://www.dancequestforthebest.org/>

june 13-14, 2009

N.J. DanceSport Classic

"Summer Sizzler"-NQE

www.njdancesportclassic.com

june 26-27, 2009

Gumbo DanceSport Championships-NQE

Louisiana Gumbo Chapter #5031

For information contact Ann Durocher-Steven
phone 985-853-0030, e-mail: fliprann@aol.com

july 4-5, 2009

Fort Wayne DanceSport Championships

Fort Wayne, Ind. USA Dance Chapter #2046

Event run concurrent with the Special Olympics Indiana Championships for Ballroom Dancing
<http://fwdancesport.org>

july 25, 2009

Southern Star Mid Summer Classic*

Southern Star Fla. Chapter #6038

<http://southernstarusabda.org>

august 14-15, 2009

Derby City DanceSport Championships-NQE

Greater Louisville Chapter #2021. Louisville, Ky.

www.lousabda.org

september 26, 2009

Quest for the Best*

Seattle, Wash. Chapter #1004

<http://www.dancequestforthebest.org/>

october 3-4, 2009

The Heartland Classic, The Indiana State DanceSport Championships

Heartland USA Dance Chapter #2022 – Ind.

www.indyusadance.org

october 24-25, 2009

Northwest DanceSport Championships-NQE

Seattle, Wash. USA Dance Chapter #1004

<http://www.nwdsc.org>

REGISTER FOR NATIONALS TODAY!

www.usadancenationals.org

**Online Registration Open Thru March 7, 2009
Late fee applies when registering after March 7th**

Events listed with the * do not accrue proficiency points

NATIONALS 2009

April 3-5 In Baltimore

BY: DAPHNA LOCKER

CHAIR 2009 NATIONAL
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

By now, I imagine that all of you have been practicing your routines, have decided on the perfect outfit, have made your hair appointments (and if not, go to the Nationals Web site and contact Antoinette), and have made your hotel reservations. And if you somehow have lost track of the dates, I expect that I'll soon hear from you, begging me to let you register for the greatest event in this year's dance calendar—the USA Dance 2009 National DanceSport Championships. Good luck to everyone!

USA Dance Champions VYING FOR WORLDS

We are anticipating an absolutely amazing Nationals. For the first time in awhile, there will be new champions chosen in almost all Adult, Youth, and Junior II events. This is a year of dramatic change—first a new and historic President and Congress and now, almost all-new championship couples for USA Dance. With few returning finalists, all the fields are wide open and all the judges will be looking for talent in every corner of the dance floor. The spectators will want to carefully observe each couple, since so many of them are new relationships and have never danced together at Nationals. This year, it could be anyone's title!

And what better time to cheer on your new favorite couples to victory.

Each year at Nationals, USA Dance selects the World Team Members who will compete at the IDSF World Championships in 2009-10. In the past, with the previous year's championship couples returning, most of these titles have been uncontested. So without a doubt, Nationals 2009 with its "new field" of future champions is going to be a very exciting event, and potentially full of great surprises.

Remember the top two DanceSport couples in each championship event will make the team, with the exception of 10-Dance couples, where only one couple is permitted to represent the USA.

UPDATE—NEW Regional Team Match

This year, for the first time ever, USA Dance will be crowning the first annual Regional Team Match winners. The Regional Team Match will take place Sunday night during the final session of the National Championships and will be an exciting finish to our Nationals weekend. Each competing team will be composed of each region's top couples that placed highest in their own regional NQE, or who had placed the highest of their regional peers in another region's NQE. At Nationals, the Winning Regional Team (and Region) will have bragging rights for an entire year, be officially listed as the 2009 Champions, and be highlighted in *American Dancer* magazine, following



JORGE AMESS GUZMAN AND ARIENE YU BY MARVIN MOORE
AT THE 2008 NATIONALS IN BALTIMORE

Nationals. In addition, each winning couple on the team will receive two free entries to the 2010 Nationals. Come cheer on your region.

As of the writing of this article, there are still two NQE's scheduled, so not all of the regional teams have been finalized. However, the following couples have qualified and have eagerly agreed to represent their region in the Regional Team Match:

NorthWest–Region I:

Terry Ianakiev & Mariya Staitchenok–Youth Standard
Dmitry Vorobiev & Kseniya Sovenko–Adult Latin
Simeon Stoynov & Kora Stoynova–Adult Standard
Alex Kalinin & Gaile Sherman–Senior I Standard
Daryl Schmidt & Michele Boyer–Senior I Smooth

NorthCentral–Region II:

Daniel Dilley & Yuehwern Yih–Adult Rhythm
Lonny & Susie Tsang–Senior I Standard
Chris Meyer & Janice Brooker–Senior I Smooth
Rog & Amy Greenawalt–Senior I Rhythm

NorthEast–Region III:

Marek Klepadlo & Angelika Dechnik–Youth Standard
Jason Dai & Patrycja Golak–Youth Latin
Boris Rudenko & Ekaterina Fedosova–Adult Latin
Ryan Kenner & Amanda Pytlik–Adult Smooth
Andrew Kerski & Ginarose McLeese–Adult Rhythm
David & Liva Wright–Senior I Standard
Jorge Guzman & Arlene Yu–Senior I Latin
Kurt & Mary Lemmer–Senior I Smooth
Dennis & Lori Urani Kania–Senior I Rhythm

SouthWest–Region IV:

NQE results not available at press time. Visit the Nationals Web site for details.

SouthCentral–Region V:

Irsan Tusnabudi & Cami Flaherty–Adult Latin

SouthEast–Region VI:

Jonathan Medlin & Malin Allert–Adult Smooth
Joseph Huesmann & Stacey Friedman–Adult Standard
Mike & Rose-Ann Lynch–Senior I Smooth
Albert Carballosa & Patti Rhodes–Senior I Rhythm

For any "missing" team members, please go to our Web site www.usadancenationals.com where the team members will be updated as they accept the invitations.

Please remember, couples dance their best because of spectator support, if you want your region's team to win, please make sure you are at Nationals to cheer them on.

New Program Treasure Tier Circuit

The Treasurer Tier Circuit has been received enthusiastically by participants. The following four couples have achieved the Ruby Tier–Scott & Sarah

Coates, Samuel & Renee Dapore-Schwarz, Daryl Schmidt & Michele Boyer, and Thomas & Marie Osterland. These couples will also receive one free entry to Nationals 2009.

Currently, one couple has already achieved the Emerald Tier—Robert & Lisa Renner—who will additionally receive two free entries at Nationals 2009 and VIP seating at one evening session of their choice.

Finally, we also are pleased to announce that two of our Nationals 2009 officials have also achieved Treasure Tier levels. Yang Chen, president of the Greater N.Y. Chapter, has achieved the Ruby Tier by emceeing at four NQE events. Dan Calloway has achieved the Diamond Tier, the highest level, for serving as Chair of Judges in six NQE events and will also chair Nationals in Baltimore. We hope our members will personally thank Yang and Dan for their dedication to USA Dance and all of our participating officials and volunteers.

What You Can Do In Baltimore

USA Dance Nationals has returned to historic Baltimore this year, the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel on the Inner Harbor provides a great facility and service to our dancers and we're just steps away from fabulous sightseeing, dining, shopping, and nightlife. But before you head out on these exciting excursions, make sure to check out the 12 vendors displaying new dance gear near the ballrooms.

- In addition to our exciting new Social Dance agenda at Nationals, note these “time away” excursions—
 - USS Constellation, built in 1854, this is the last all-sail warship built by the U.S. Navy and the only Civil War era naval vessel still afloat. History comes alive with hands-on demonstrations, activities and tours.
 - Maryland Science Center & IMAX Theater, one of Baltimore's premier locations for family entertainment. Offering three full floors of hands-on exhibits, IMAX films, planetarium shows, kids' rooms, observatory, science store, and a new café.
 - National Aquarium, stunning exhibits and more than 11,000 aquatic animals.



HANS AND ANS STORK BY MARVIN MOORE
AT THE 2008 NATIONALS IN BALTIMORE

THE USA DANCE TREASURE TIER AWARD PROGRAM

- One free Nationals program per couple
- Couple listing in the Nationals program
- Couple listing in *American Dancer*
- Tier lapel pin (Ruby, Emerald or Diamond) per competitor

• Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, a national historic site, this museum is the actual birthplace of Babe Ruth.

• Sports Legends at Camden Yards, this stunning 22,000 square foot museum includes exhibits devoted to Johnny Unitas, the Baltimore Orioles and Colts, and Baltimore's Negro Leagues. ■

Nationals 2009 Officials – The Best Of The Best!

Dan Calloway, Md. – Chair of Judges
Jennifer Booth, Colo. – Adjudicator
Richard Booth, Colo. – Adjudicator
Wayne Crowder, N.C. – Adjudicator
Melissa Dexter, Calif. – Adjudicator
David Don, Fla. – Adjudicator
Olga Foraponova, Wash. – Adjudicator
Tonja Garamella, Fla. – Adjudicator
Judi Hatton, Ga. – Adjudicator
Paul Holmes, N.Y. – Adjudicator
John Kimmins, Fla. – Adjudicator
Stephan Krauel, Calif. – Adjudicator
Gary McDonald, N.J. – Adjudicator

Polina Pilipenchuk, Md. – Adjudicator
Victoria Regan, Fla. – Adjudicator
Marco Sietas, Spain – Adjudicator-IDSF
Keith Todd, Fla. – Adjudicator
Forrest Vance, Ariz. – Adjudicator
Glenn Weiss, Calif. – Adjudicator
Lori Woods-Gay, N.J. – Adjudicator
Carrie Ann Inaba, Calif./Hawaii –
Adjudicator-Honorary
Ava Kaye-Brennen, Calif. – Event
Registrar/Scrutineer
Mark Tabor, Ore. – Scrutineer
Didio Barrera, Fla. – Music Dir
Yang Chan, N.Y. – Emcee
Robert Scibelli, N.Y. – Emcee

2008 NATIONALS - BALTIMORE, MD.

14-Feb	IDSF World Junior II Latin	Bassano del Grappa, Italy
28-Mar	IDSF World Junior II Ten Dance	Moscow, Russia

2009 NATIONALS - BALTIMORE, MD.

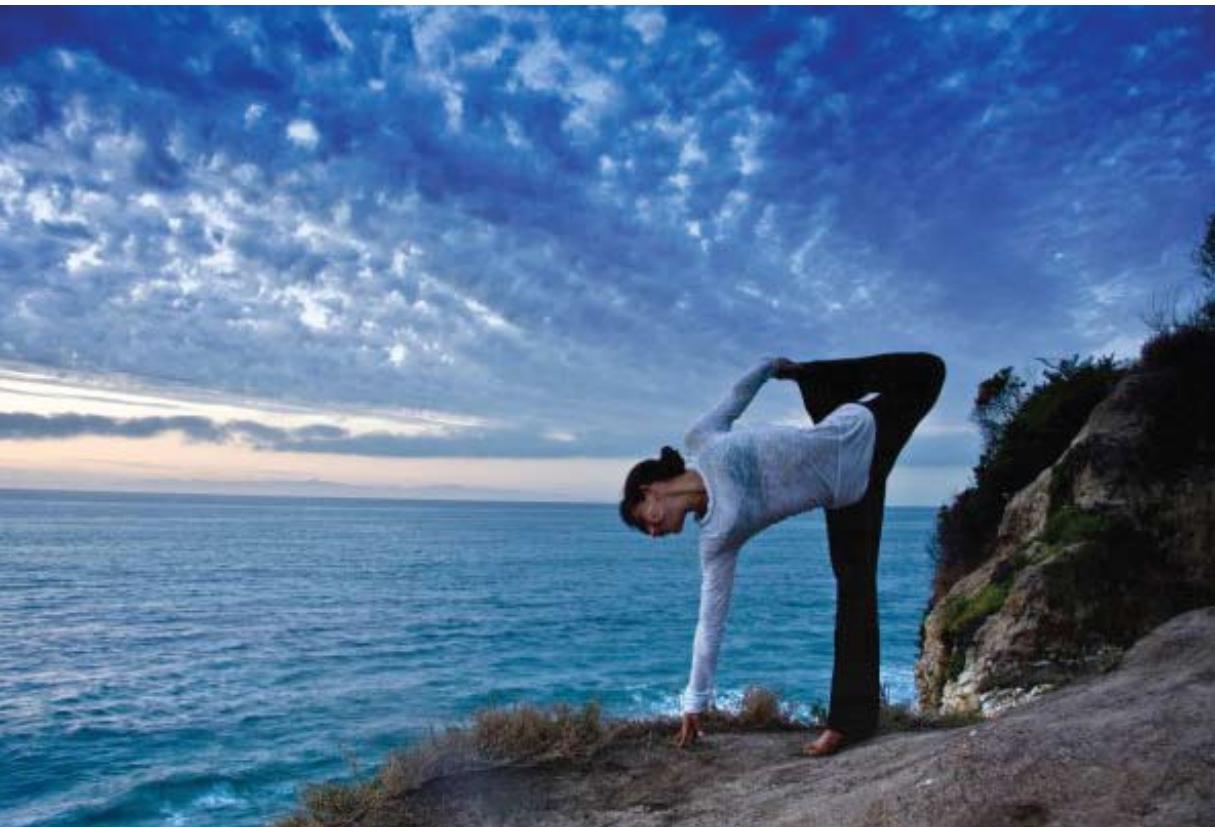
2-May 2009	IDSF World Senior II Standard	Platja d'Aro (Barcelona), Spain
12-Sep 2009	IDSF World Youth Latin	Shanghai, China
18-Sep 2009	IDSF World Senior Standard	Kingston, Canada
19-Sep 2009	IDSF World Junior II Standard	Jyväskylä, Finland
10-Oct 2009	IDSF World Ten Dance	Platja d'Aro (Barcelona), Spain
17-Oct 2009	IDSF World Senior I Latin	Liege, Belgium
25-Oct 2009	IDSF World Youth Ten Dance	Moscow, Russia
7-Nov 2009	IDSF World Latin	Maribor, Slovenia
28-Nov 2009	IDSF World Standard	Aarhus, Denmark
19-Dec 2009	IDSF World Youth Standard	Riga, Latvia
27-Mar 2010	IDSF World Junior II Standard	Moscow, Russia

2010 NATIONALS - TENTATIVE ORLANDO, FLA.

16-Apr	Toronto, Canada
	IDSF World Youth Ten Dance
24-Apr	Linz, Austria
	IDSF World Youth Latin
1-May	Platja d'Aro (Barcelona), Spain
	IDSF World Senior II Standard
9-May	Seoul, Korea
	IDSF World Youth Standard
13-Nov	Ohio, USA
	IDSF World Latin
20-Nov	Vienna, Austria
	IDSF World Ten Dance
27-Nov	Wetzlar, Germany
	IDSF World Standard
4-Dec	Salou, Spain
	IDSF World Senior I Latin
18-Dec	Riga, Latvia
	IDSF World Junior II Latin
TBD	
	IDSF World Senior I Standard
TBD	
	IDSF World Junior II Ten Dance

Dip into Yoga

By Matt Hackney



Christina Caselanelli Santa Barbara, Calif. Photo by Jason McKinney

You have scheduled a lesson with a world renowned dance coach. Understanding how valuable a lesson can be, you and your partner have been practicing your routines over and over awaiting the critique.

You know all too well the ability to turn your choreography into a masterpiece lies in the hands of that one precious hour you have reserved with the coach.

But, when the day finally comes, you're astounded by what you hear.

The answers to your most difficult questions are surprising. Instead of giving you more complex moves or improving your hip action, your coach has only three words: "Stand up taller."

"Students and professionals alike are often amazed by the bells and whistles that they forget the basics. Concentrating on your alignment should be top priority," says Ingvar Geirsson, professional Latin competitor and coach.

Most instructors are already aware of the benefit of posture, but how can you capture all that your body will allow?

According to Christina Castelanelli, yoga instructor and ballroom dance teacher, sometimes stepping off the dance floor is your best bet.

"It seems all my students understand the importance of posture. Yet, they attempt to juggle too many projects at a time. Yoga simplifies each move into its basic components and strengthens posture.

"Originating in India, yoga is a practice used to achieve greater mental power through the practice of rigorous physical poses, breathing techniques, and meditation.

"Whether in the ballroom or everyday physical tasks, the benefits of yoga are rewarding and pertinent. It's time for dancers to catch the yoga buzz in western culture, and use it as a tool to improve their routines." Castelanelli recommends taking your dance shoes off a few hours a week and practicing the following yoga techniques practical for all levels. ■



Upward Facing Dog

1. **Lie level on the floor**
2. **Place palms on the floor right beside your waist**
3. **Straighten your arms and lift your torso up and legs a few inches off the floor**
4. **Firm the shoulder blades against the back while engaging the lateral muscles**
5. **Look slightly up while elongating back of neck**



The Crescent Pose

1. **Starting from all-fours, step one foot forward between your hands, aligning your knee over the heel**
2. **Bring your torso upright and raise your arms overhead**
3. **Engage the muscles of the legs and root down into the floor**
4. **Pull in the lower abdomen, elongating the lower back and shortening the distance between navel and chest**
5. **Rise up through the spine; chest lifts up, arching in the upper back**

“ SUBZERO TEMPERATURES
PUT MANHATTAN IN A
DEEP FREEZE, BUT INSIDE THE
GRAND BALLROOM,
THE DANCING
WAS DECIDEDLY HOT! ”

Hot Dancing OVERTAKES ~~FRIGID~~ NEW YORK CITY

by: Yang Chen*

From Jan. 16 through 18, the Manhattan Amateur Classic (MAC) took place for the second straight year in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center in midtown Manhattan. The MAC, as a National Qualifying Event (NQE), played host to nearly 1000 dancers from up and down the Northeast Corridor, the Midwest, the Eastern Seaboard, and deep in the heart of Texas. We even hosted couples from Canada and Germany.

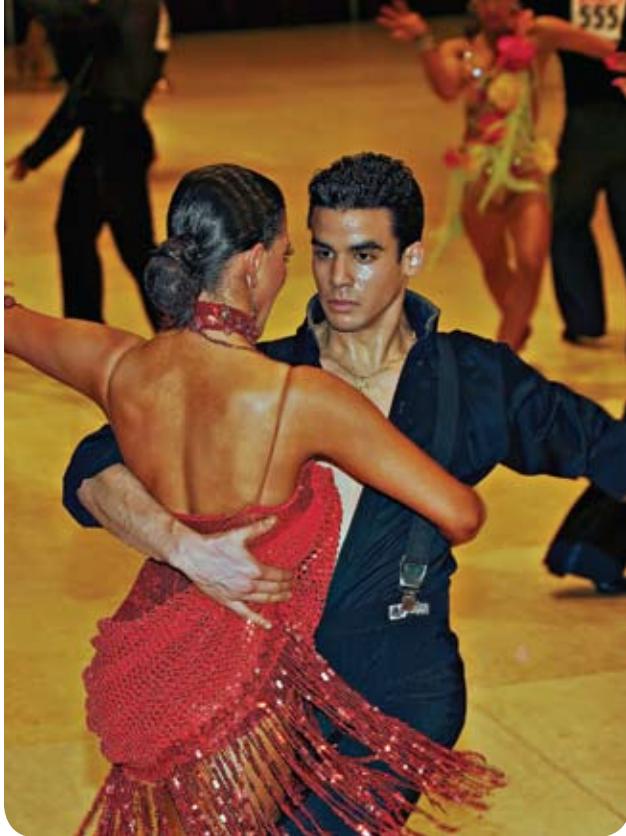
Subzero temperatures put Manhattan in a deep freeze, but inside the Grand Ballroom, the dancing was decidedly hot!

The competition started on Friday afternoon and culminated in the evening with the Adult Championship Latin. Going into the final, many new couples battled for first place, as the current national champions had parted ways and other established partnerships had dissolved. The field was wide open, and it was anybody's guess as to who would win the Latin Championships. That honor went to Boris Rudenko and Ekaterina Fedosova of New York who won the event and received the Eugene Katsevman and Maria Manusova Open Latin Perpetual Trophy.

Saturday morning and afternoon were consumed with syllabus events that featured many dancers from collegiate teams like New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia, Georgetown, George Washington University, the University of Vermont, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Maryland, and the University of North Carolina. The session culminated in the Grand Slam Team Match, with a perpetual trophy endowed by the Greater New York Chapter of USA Dance. The Team Match featured teams that represented colleges, dance studios, or just groups of dancers from earlier in the day, dancing in fun dance events that were randomly picked right before the event started. The final included a Viennese Waltz danced against the line of dance and a Freeze Frame Cha Cha, in which couples had to stop when the music did, and if they moved even an inch, they would be knocked out.



PASHA STEPANCHUK, NADEZDA VLASOVA



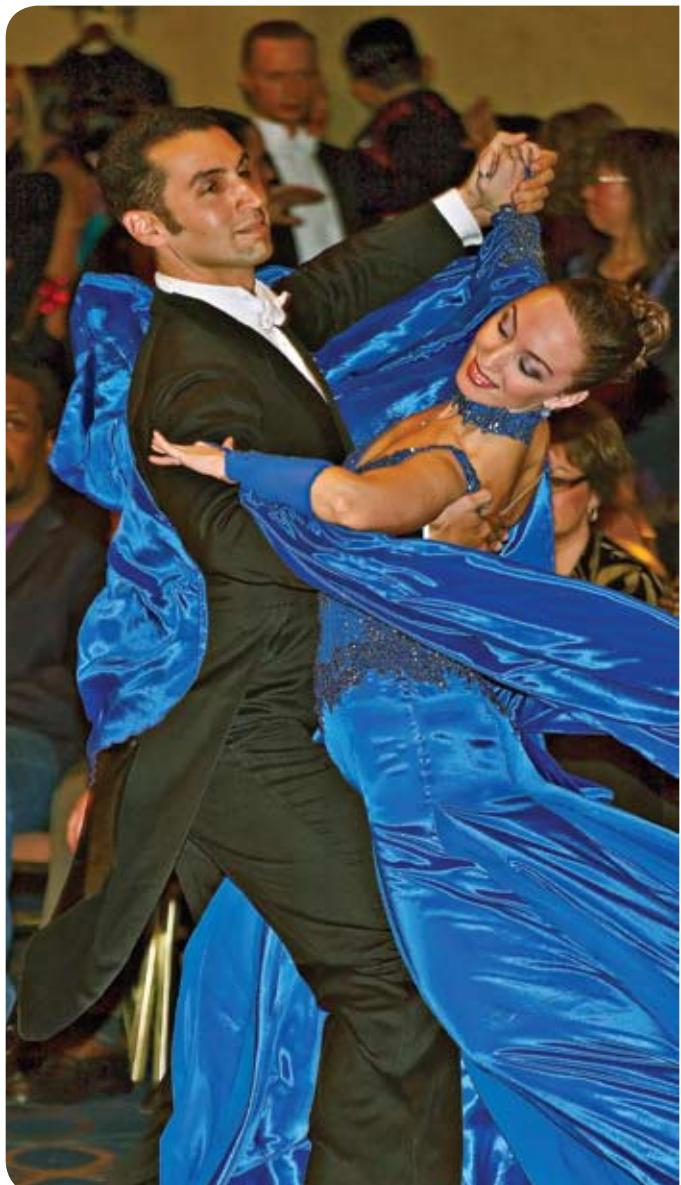
TAL LIVSHITZ, VLADA SEMENOVA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW CARPENTER

Team Awesome took first place and earned the right to have their team name engraved on the trophy.

The highlight of the Saturday evening session was the Adult Championship Standard. Like the Adult Latin the night before, previous champions had either broken up or did not appear, and many new couples had emerged. The field was wide open, and many strong couples danced in the early rounds. All the finalists were dancing their best in hopes of taking first. That honor went to Janis Kukainis and Samantha Mang of New York who won the event and received the Bill Davies Open Standard Perpetual Trophy.

Another highlight of the Championship sessions on Friday and Saturday nights were the strong fields in the Adult Rhythm and Smooth Championships. Both events were hotly contested, with Adult Rhythm Champions Andrew Kerski and Ginarose MacLeese from Connecticut facing stiff competition. In the Smooth, a new couple, Ryan Kenner and Amanda Pytlik from Rhode Island, took first.

Sunday was dominated by junior dancers from ages 5-15 who competed throughout the day and into evening. After a full day and night of dancing, the MAC concluded at 10 p.m. with the final of the Junior II Latin Championship, won by Austin Joson and Gabriella Sabler of New Jersey. ■



MIGUEL A. VALLE, ALINA ENTIN

A listing of all the MAC 2009 Champions appears at <http://nyusadance.org/mac>. For the complete results, please visit www.o2cm.com.

*The author is the president of the Greater N.Y. Chapter #3004 and served on the MAC Organizing Committee.

**Join us in New York City
next January for MAC 2010,
our 20th anniversary!**

Smoky Mountain

DanceSport Championships



ROGER THAXTON & CARIE RUTH GARRITY OF MICHIGAN

BY: NIKKI AND JERRY DVORAK AND BETH AND MICHAEL NOLAN OF THE SOUTHERN STAR CHAPTER-TAMPA, FLA.

The USA Dance Greater Knoxville Chapter hosted the Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships, a National Qualifying Event, Jan. 30-31, 2009. According to Tim McGhee, the event organizer, the competition attracted over one hundred couples and more than two hundred spectators from twenty-one different states.

In order to accommodate so many people the event was held at the downtown Knoxville Marriott Hotel. The Marriott was the perfect location for the competition with its extravagant ballroom, comfortable rooms, and pleasant staff. Lisa & Andy Cubbon, one of many dancing couples, thoroughly enjoyed their stay. "We loved the hotel. It's an amazing location and the staff is so willing to help with anything."

The competition schedule was set up to provide hour long breaks between sessions. The competitors loved this because it allowed time to get food, change costumes, and warm up on the floor before competing. The spacious practice room was a nice perk as well.

Two of the adjudicators provided high-quality workshops during the day. Wayne Crowder taught about the swinging action in standard smooth, while Matt Hauer covered rhythm. These workshops presented a great opportunity to get a few pearls of wisdom from the judges, and everyone was buzzing with excitement afterward.

While the Adult Championship heats seemed lightly attended, the heart and soul of amateur dancing was fully represented in the open senior divisions with some hotly contested Smooth, Standard, and Rhythm finals. It was also refreshing to see so many young adults in the adult syllabus categories.

The thing that really set the Smoky Mountain DanceSport Championships apart was the overall attitude of everyone

there. Tim McGhee explained that “the warmth and friendliness of the hotel, the competitors, and volunteers stood out. Whenever couples were competing, they were also rooting for all the other couples out on the floor. Everyone wanted to do well and to do their best, but they wanted their friends to excel too.”

As at many of the bigger competitions, there were professional video and photography services available, as well as several ballroom dance vendors and a consignment rack. To see more pictures of the events visit www.timports.us. You can also find the results of each event at www.o2cm.com.

The charming Yang Chen put in many hours as the event emcee, and there were many highly qualified adjudicators. Jack Meinking provided fantastic music, and Cindy Johnson, our favorite deck captain/“cat herder extraordinaire,” always managed to be in a good humor while rounding up all the strays.

On Saturday evening the Marriott provided a marvelous buffet dinner for the competitors. “They did a great job with the food and had a good assortment of salads, breads, entrees, etc.” says Tim McGhee. Shortly following the buffet, the Greater Knoxville Chapter hosted a social dance and a Pro Show featuring Karen and Matt Hauer, USA Rising Star Champions. Matt and Karen superbly danced the swing, bolero, and mambo. Tim raved that “they did an awesome show, and afterwards people just sat there with their mouths open.” Saturday evening’s show was also interspersed with honors dances from some of the day’s top competitors.

Judges Steve Hadley and Kimberly Smith said that “it was a great competition, and we enjoyed ourselves. Everything was well organized, and since the personnel and officials were very efficient, everything went easily.” This competition was clearly designed with the dancers in mind, and hopefully even more will attend next year. ■



JOE & MARY LOUISE BATES FROM NOBLESVILLE, IND.

PHOTOS BY TIM MCGHEE



Royal Palm Winter Frolic DanceSport Extravaganza

BY: PATTI MACDONALD, CHAPTER 6016

Enthusiasm and excitement filled the elegant and magnificent Goldcoast Ballroom in Coconut Creek, Fla. on Saturday, Jan. 24. The facility offered a superb venue for both the competitors and the spectators. The 6th annual Royal Palm Winter Frolic DanceSport Extravaganza was a huge success with a variety of couples gracing the dance floor.

Competitor's ages ranged from 14 to the 70-year-old "Grand Masters" competitors. Repeat participants came from Canada, Massachusetts, Georgia, and several counties in Florida. The competition began with the youth competitors presenting the National Anthem and continued for the rest of the day. Approximately 150 spectators cheered for their favorites and the atmosphere was filled with encouragement and excitement as each competitor danced to his or her best. The event featured all syllabus events in American Smooth and Rhythm and International Standard and Latin as well as Novice, Pre-Champ and Championship. West Coast swing, Argentine tango and hustle were also entries.

Royal Palm was delighted to be able to offer \$1500 in scholarships from various Florida chapters and chapter members. It was reassuring to hear the positive feedback from many competitors and spectators. All concurred that the competition was a wonderful event, and was so well organized with efficient volunteers. We look forward to hosting our 7th competition on Jan. 23, 2010. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI AND MIKE EASTER



NEILS BALLEGAARD AND
PATTI MACDONALD



RICK AND CINDY PELLIN

"The 6th annual
Royal Palm Winter
Frolic DanceSport
Extravaganza was
a huge success
with a variety of couples
gracing the dance floor."



CLAUDE GUAY AND GINETTE BEAULIEU

Worlds Jr II 10 Dance

TWO IN ONE

BY: ERICA COLVIN

Liya Podokshik and partner Taras Savitskyy recently returned from the IDSF Junior 10 Dance competition in Minsk, Belarus. They made it to the Quarter Final and placed 19th. Many find it hard to believe that this young couple started competing on the international level just last year. But they have already had some great experiences, competing at two World competitions in 2008.

It all started in May of 2008 when Liya and Taras represented the U.S. in Standard at the Junior World Championships in a little town just outside Barcelona, Spain called Salou. "It was our first international competing experience ever, and of course, we were very nervous, but also very excited," Liya said.

Representing the U.S. in a foreign country can be a great experience. Although hours of practice can be exhausting, Liya and Taras were able to enjoy their first international competition. On top of competing, they met many new people from all over the world and toured Barcelona for a couple days. "The city is absolutely breathtaking and we hope to come back someday," said Liya.

In November the couple traveled to Minsk, Belarus for the IDSF Junior 10 Dance. For Liya it was a very exciting trip—she was born in that city. Her family moved to the United States when she was an infant, so she was anxious to see her beautiful birthplace.

Liya and Taras explained that the competition was held in a large sports complex downtown. Every couple was helped by a personal guide that assisted them throughout the day and answered any questions.

"Overall, the experience was amazing," Liya and Taras shared, and "We consider dancing to be a huge part of our life and very motivating. We are extremely proud to represent the United States . . . We hope to do it many more times." ■



TARAS SAVITSKY AND LIYA PODOKSHIK

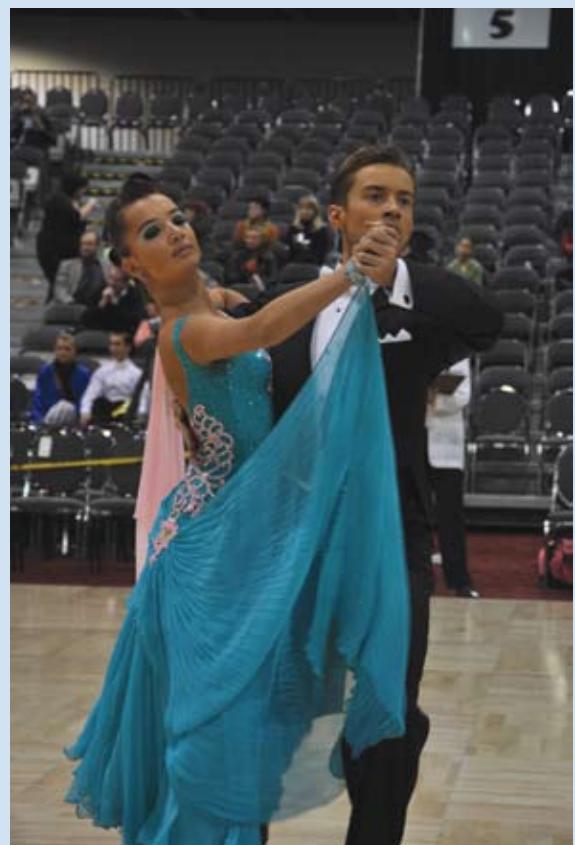


PHOTO BY ALEX PODOKSHIK

COLLEGIATE COMPETITION CALENDAR



march 6-8, 2009

Arnold Youth DanceSport Classic

Columbus, Ohio

[http://www.arnoldclassic.com/
h_dancesport.asp](http://www.arnoldclassic.com/h_dancesport.asp)

march 7, 2009

UC San Diego Dance by the Shores

La Jolla, Calif.

[http://recadmin.ucsd.edu/sports/teams/
dancesport/index.php](http://recadmin.ucsd.edu/sports/teams/dancesport/index.php)

march 14-15, 2009

Harvard Invitational Cambridge, Mass.

<http://www.harvardballroom.org/home>

march 14, 2009

Holy Cross Ballroom Dance Competition

Worcester, Mass.

[http://www.hcballroom.com/Competition/
Default.aspx](http://www.hcballroom.com/Competition/Default.aspx)

march 21-22, 2009

Iowa State University Cyclone

Ballroom Classic Ames, Iowa

<http://www.isuballroom.org/cbc.php>

march 21-22, 2009

Charlotte DanceSport Challenge

<http://charlottedancesportchallenge.org/>

march 27-29, 2009

Penn State Keystone Classic

State College, Penn.

[http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/ballroomdance/
keystone_classic.html](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/ballroomdance/keystone_classic.html)

march 28, 2009

Devil DanceSport Classic

Arizona State University Tempe, Ariz.

www.devildancesport.com

april 4, 2009

Irish DanceSport Gala South Bend, Ind.

<http://www.nd.edu/~ballroom/ndcomp08.htm>

april 11, 2009

RPI Ballroom Dance Competition Troy, N.Y.

<http://ballroom.union.rpi.edu/>

april 11, 2009

UC Riverside Orange Blossom Ball

Riverside, Calif.

www.orangeblossomball.com

april 17-18, 2009

UN Las Vegas Desert Challenge

Las Vegas, Nev.

<http://usadance.unlv.edu/desertchallenge.html>

april 17-18, 2009

Rutgers DanceSport Ballroom Competition

New Brunswick, N.J.

[http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~ballroom/html/
competitions.html](http://www.eden.rutgers.edu/~ballroom/html/competitions.html)

april 19, 2009

Baby Bam Jam College Park, Md.

[http://www.ballroomatmaryland.com/
babybamjam/](http://www.ballroomatmaryland.com/babybamjam/)

april 19, 2009

Ohio State University's Annual

DanceSport Classic Columbus, Ohio

<http://bda.org.ohio-state.edu/>

april 25-26, 2009

MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition

Cambridge, Mass.

<http://ballroom.mit.edu/comp/>

april 25, 2009

Cardinal Classic DanceSport Competition

Stamford, Calif.

<http://cardinalclassic.sbdt.org/>

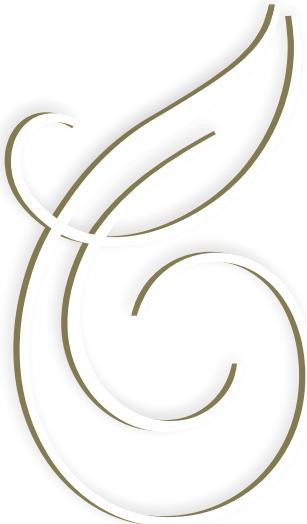
may 9, 2009

Caltech & UCSB Dance of the Roses

Pasadena, Calif.

<http://ballroom.caltech.edu/comp/>

**Look for future event updates on
<http://www.usadance.org/youth-and-college-dance/ycn-events/>**



Valparaiso University's *Inaugural Competition*

BY: **ALYSSA THACKER**



LEFT: JOSH THOMPSON, RIGHT: LYDIA MERTZ

In January, Valparaiso University Ballroom welcomed 58 competitors from the University of Notre Dame, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Purdue University, and Valparaiso University to its first-annual ballroom competition on their campus in Valparaiso, Ind.

This inaugural event offered Newcomer, Bronze and Silver-level dances in both the American and International styles. The competition ran very smoothly, much to the credit of our judges—Rauno and Kristina Ilo, Mark Brock, Gregory Day, and Jean Paul Gronek—and our scrutineer Sherry Strehlow. With competitors and judges alike expressing great pleasure at being involved, next year's competition will likely be expanded to include more events and the addition of Gold and Open levels.

The success of this competition can largely be attributed to Sheena Ramirez, the competition coordinator. The idea for a competition on campus was spurred by the completion of a spacious new union building ideal for a competition, which opened in early January 2009.

Over a year ago, Sheena began laying the groundwork for this competition in the midst of VU Ballroom's process to redefine itself as a student organization. VU Ballroom has,

LEFT: SHEENA RAMIREZ, RIGHT: JUSTIN GIROUARD



LEFT: JACOB DEFASSIO, RIGHT: KATERI MALTBY



over the last three years, transformed from an organization focused primarily on social dancing to a group of more than 30 competitive dancers. The strong social foundation of the group formed the basis for the change. This was fueled even further by strong leadership within the group and the addition of Wayne Applegate, an independent instructor from Lafayette, Ind., as coach for the competitive team.

With everyone's hard work, the organization's transformation to a respected competitive team has culminated in the largest event in VU Ballroom's history. Naturally, VU Ballroom hopes this transformation continues with further growth in both the competitive team and the annual competition. If VU Ballroom can build on its strong support from students, instructors, and the university, this growth seems inevitable. ■

LEFT: FACING AWAY: LILIA OAKLEY, RIGHT: MATT COOK



ALL PHOTOS BY: ALYSSA THACKER

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DANCE MART

SMOOTH GOWNS

Sexy lime-green dress. Cut out in bodice to bare left side. Includes 6 bracelets. Sizes 0-6. Pictures available. \$1300. 612-251-8108 or Spierson0081@yahoo.com [1]

Wine Smooth Gown. Bodice is all lace with full lace sleeves, open back. Seen in the movie Take the Lead. Has detachable float to easily transform dress to Standard gown. Size 0-6. \$2,600. Pictures available. 612-251-8108 or Spierson0081@yahoo.com [1]

Size 10-12- Beautiful light purple Lorie Chambliss smooth gown with high neck and long sleeves and loaded with Swarovski stones. Upper stretch bodice has large unique purple and fushia stones on both front and back. Excellent condition. Reduced to \$1000. Pictures available. Call 423-899-6703 or email qfoxtrot@aol.com. [2]

STANDARD GOWNS

Stunning colored standard gown. Long-sleeves with easy step-in style. Sleeve and neckline accents are a fluttery paisley print heavily stoned in gold. Soft, floaty and feminine. Photos available to email. Will fit a variety of shapes & sizes 6-12. \$700 Anne LaTourelle 612-280-7818 or annelatourelle@comcast.net [2]

LATIN/RHYTHM DRESSES

Playful Seafoam green dress with an open back. Decorative gold beadwork on front on back. Includes jewelry. Size 0-6. Pictures available. \$2,150. 612-251-8108 or Spierson0081@yahoo.com [1]

Ultra Sexy lime-green dress. Features a very slinky shape and draped fabric. The left side is quite open for those who dare to bare! Size 0-6. Pictures available. \$650. 612-251-8108 or Spierson0081@yahoo.com [1]

Black latin/rhythm dress with bugle beads and AB rhinestones. Dress was been worn by Stacy Keibler on Dancing with the Stars. Seen in movie Take the Lead. Includes jewelry. Size 0-6. \$2,600. Pictures available. 612-251-8108 or Spierson0081@yahoo.com [1]

Size 10-12 Reduced Latin/Rhythm professional made, light turquoise high neck with long sleeves. \$400. Heavily stoned at neck, wrist and asymmetrical hemline with scattered stones throughout the bodice. Built in body suit. Pictures available. Call 423-899-6703 or email qfoxtrot@aol.com. [2]

BRAND NEW - "Designs to Shine" Latin/Rhythm by Maria McGill. One long sleeve and the other short. Size M. Reduced to \$2200. Original cost \$3500. This eye catching dress is turquoise, and heavily stoned. Pictures available. Call 423-899-6703 or email qfoxtrot@aol.com. [2]

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Lady's LaDuka dance shoes barely worn. Size 7 American or 36 European, closed toe, made in Italy. May view at laducashoes.com see "Teresa" style in tan under custom shoes, expensive! These shoes are like new, very comfortable with a spandex band for flexibility and comfort at each side and at buckle. Sacrifice for \$80. For actual photo/more info: Darleneoutdancing@gmail.com [2]

Mens Capezio Dancesport black lace-up shoes, worn once. Size 12N. \$75. Call Elizabeth at 501-269-3739. [2]

Ladies International Latin "Crystal" sandal, multi-strap with mesh toe area, nude color 2/12" heels. Good condition (tried to wear but hurt feet!), \$45. Call Elizabeth at 501-269-3739. [2]

Several pairs Supadance 1529W. Size 5W (English). Sandals. Great for wide feet. Contact Carol at cbs999@hotmail.com or (423) 782-8134. [2]

WANTED

Searching for lightly used or never worn ladies ballroom dance shoes. One pair either closed or open toe for size 6.5M & no higher than 1.5 heel. This shoe needs to be very comfortable, not hard. Extra cushion a plus. The other shoe in an open toe in size 7M up to 2.5" heel. Color in black or neutrals to wear at dance practices. May email photos & info to Darleneoutdancing@gmail.com [2]

DANCE MART

DanceMart continues to serve members of USA Dance as a free space to advertise and sell personal costumes, shoes, etc., or search for a partner.

To be included in DanceMart, please limit your classified ads to 50 words or less. You must include your membership number and name to ensure compliance with the free space for members only.

Classified ads will run in *American Dancer* for two issues. If you wish to run it longer, you must resend the ad.

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