

# AMERICAN *Dancer*

DANCING *for* AMERICA™

## MAC TURNS 20

The 20th Anniversary of the Manhattan Amateur Classic

## BALLROOM: THE NEXT GENERATION

How to Cultivate a Love for Ballroom in Our Youth

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA DANCE

USA DANCE 2010 NATIONALS SHOWCASE IN LA



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# ON THE COVER

## 30 COVER STORY: 2010 NATIONALS SHOWCASE

Need more reasons to come to Nationals this year? How about a showcase from Victor Fung and new partner Anastasia Muravyova as well as Eugene Katsevman and Maria Manusova?

## 8 BALLROOM: THE NEXT GENERATION

“The reorganization of USA Dance allows us to focus on our young dancers in elementary, middle, and high schools.” —Barbara Wally

## 40 MANHATTAN AMATEUR CLASSIC

“About 1000 dancers competed over the three days of MAC. Couples from up and down the Eastern seaboard attended, and we hosted dancers from Ohio, Texas, Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, California--even Alaska.”—Yang Chen



ADULT PRE-CHAMP LATIN WINNERS DONOVAN SUNG AND DIANNA LEE FROM CALIFORNIA. PHOTO BY JOEY PASAOA

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STUDENTS FROM PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS MC CANN

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# President's REPORT

## THOUGHTS ON THE OLYMPICS



Like many of you, I was deeply engrossed this February following the wide array of sports during the recently completed Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. Of all the events in the Winter Games, the sport of Ice Dancing is most similar to our own DanceSport.

Where are we in terms of our quest to become an Olympic sport? As many of you know, The International DanceSport Federation is a member of the International Olympic Committee and USA Dance is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Our membership gives us a place on the Multi Sport Organizations Council of the USOC. This Council is made up of a variety of sports organizations, including sports that are not yet part of the Olympic Games, and is allowed to participate every year in the Olympic Assembly. The Assembly brings together representatives from all the National Governing Bodies of the various Olympic sports as well as representatives of the athletes and coaches. For the past three years, I have attended this event on behalf of USA Dance.

For a number of years USA Dance has also sent athletes to compete in the World Games, which are comprised of sports that are not yet on the Olympic roster. DanceSport has been well accepted in the World Games and has proven to be among the most popular of the participating sports. In fact, in the 2009 World Games, of the 36 participating sports, DanceSport was one of only six which was televised live and had attendance figures second only to Rugby.

The next step beyond the World Games is for DanceSport to become eligible for the Pan American Games, and this has placed USA Dance as well as our Canadian counterpart front and center in working with the International DanceSport Federation to accomplish this goal. DanceSport needs to show the IOC that it has active participation in Latin America to match its participation in the U.S. and Canada. Coaches recommended by USA Dance have been sent by the IDSF

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to parts of Latin America to train both dance teachers and students. Latin American DanceSport athletes are interested not only in getting training from top coaches but also in having the opportunity for greater competition in both South and North America. USA Dance and Canada have been making North American competition information available to Latin American DanceSport Federations for the benefit of their athletes.

There are a growing number of Latin American countries that have either full or provisional membership in the IDSF, including Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the Dominican Republic. Others are in various stages of development. Once DanceSport is shown to be active throughout the Americas, the IDSF can petition the IOC for inclusion in the Pan American Games, which will place DanceSport one step closer to the Olympics.

The IOC periodically considers additional sports for inclusion in the Olympics. Sports with the best chance of inclusion are ones that are popular around the world, have a consistent TV-viewing public, are of interest to young people, require no special-purpose facilities to be constructed for the Olympics, and have a significant number of both male and female athletes. Clearly DanceSport has much to offer, as each “team” consists of one male and one female athlete and virtually any sports arena may become a venue for DanceSport simply with the installation of proper flooring. For these reasons I believe that someday in the not too distant future we will be able to watch not only Ice Dancing but DanceSport in the Olympic Games.

*Lydia Scardina*, National President, USA Dance



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. 600 dpi.  
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Check our Web Site - [www.USADANCE.org](http://www.USADANCE.org)

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### JEAN KRUPA

Jean Krupa currently serves as the Social Vice President for USA Dance. She served as Region VI Vice President in 1999. She is a founding member of the Greater Daytona Chapter 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. She is currently also the head of NOC for the 2010 Nationals.



### 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.

## GUEST WRITERS

LYNETTE PIRRUNG

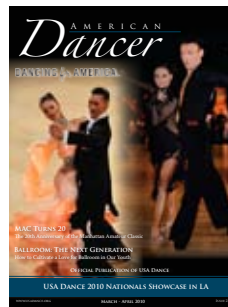
JACK MUNDAY

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KEN RICHARDS

RON MONTEZ

YANG CHEN



## COVER PHOTOS

PHOTOS BY KAROL BRÜLL  
AND COURTESY OF  
OLGA ROGACHEVSKAYA

Nationals Showcase of  
Champions : Victor Fung  
and Anastasia Muravyova,  
Eugene Katsevman and  
Maria Manusova.

## OUR APOLOGY

In our article "You've Been Hit By, You've Been Struck By"-A Tale of Formation Dance, the team referred to as Claremont McKenna is actually the Claremont Colleges Ballroom Dance Company.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ANNOUNCING SOCIAL DANCER PHOTO CONTEST

USA Dance would like to receive photos (600dpi or higher) of your “greatest dance moments” taken at a USA Dance chapter-sponsored social event. American Dancer magazine’s staff will select the top five photos and then a winning photo and story for publication. Photos should capture a special moment that is symbolic of what USA Dance is all about. Please email one photo per entry to [artist@americandancer.org](mailto:artist@americandancer.org). Include your name, chapter name, USA Dance membership number, email address and phone number. Deadline: May 15.

## DANCE MART NEEDS ADS!

Members! Don’t forget that “Dance Mart” in our magazine is for your benefit. In “Dance Mart” members can buy and sell used items, as well as look for future dance partners. You can advertise for 2 issues for free, and renew at no cost either! Send your ad to [office@americandancer.org](mailto:office@americandancer.org) when you want to advertise or renew.

## USA DANCE NATIONAL DANCE CRUISE TO LAUNCH NOV 28

The first-ever National Social Dance Cruise to the Western Caribbean will be aboard Costa Cruise Line’s fabulous “Atlantica.” This is destined to become “the dance cruise of all dance cruises.” As we also launch our new national slogan “Dancing for America™,” we plan to dance round the clock on board and at every port destination. We’ll be in the “public eye” once again—ambassadors for America! Join the dance cruise gang on Facebook—we’re under USA DANCE NATIONAL DANCE CRUISE. Also, you can book your reservations at [www.dancecruiseUSADANCE.com](http://www.dancecruiseUSADANCE.com). All aboard!

## FUN THINGS TO DO AT NATIONALS IN LA LIVE

Check out options under the “What to Do” Social Dance events at the Nationals website, [www.usadancenationals.org](http://www.usadancenationals.org)

\* **Friday**, the USA Dance Los Angeles chapter will sponsor a Tea Dance.

\* **Saturday** learn a fun Salsa/Merengue partner mixer and enjoy another Tea Dance sponsored by the Social Dance Council followed by a Welcome Cocktail Reception where you’ll meet and greet our celebrities.

\* **Sunday** morning be sure to join us at the Continental Breakfast for a Q&A session with the Director of Chapter Liaison, Bobbi Jo Gamache and Jean Krupa.

# Ballroom:

## THE NEXT GENERATION

USA DANCE DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHT



BY: BARBARA WALLY, DIRECTOR  
OF K-12 STUDENT PROGRAMS

The reorganization of USA Dance allows us to focus on our young dancers in elementary, middle, and high schools. Nationally, a growing number of schools, participate in “artist in residence programs” like Dancing Classrooms. In other schools dance is a component of the Physical Education curriculum for students in the fifth and eighth grades—one of the National Educational Standards for both Physical Education and the Arts. Many of our chapters provide support for these efforts.

But what happens after the six to 18 weeks of training are over? What about those students who are either too young or too old for the existing programs? Ballroom dancing is more than a class in school, and can be a gateway to a lifetime of socialization and an important means of exercise. Some students may even decide to pursue competition.

In September of 2009 USA Dance published its K-12 School Dance Program Guide, which focuses on creating dance clubs for young people as an extracurricular activity. Although each community is unique, the guide provides basic information on the roles of the Chapter, school administrators, teachers, parents, and students in establishing a school dance club.

Extra curricular dance clubs give young people the opportunity to reinforce what they have learned, learn new dances, and interact socially. Visit <http://usadance.org/youth-and-college-dance/forms-and-resources/> and click on the K-12 School Dance Program Guide to learn how to get started.

With over 15,000 public school districts in the United States, plus private and religious schools, and a growing population of home schooled students, the possibilities and needs for the program are endless, as are the ways it may be implemented in each community.

Because this is a new program, we invite you to share your questions, concerns and successes with others by contacting Barbara Wally (K12Programs-Dir@usadance.org). If you would

like become more involved in this effort, please contact Mary at [usadancecentral@aol.com](mailto:usadancecentral@aol.com).

### **Jumpstart a School Ballroom Dance Club**

We are well into the second semester of school, but you don't have to wait for a new school year to begin working with schools. Here are some opportunities based on school calendars:

**Junior/Senior Prom** Work with class advisors, prom sponsors and/or the school activities director to teach a special dance to the nominees for prom king and queen. Use the music selected by the students as their special song or a song that fits the theme of the evening, whether it's an elegant waltz or a spicy salsa. Have them dance it as part of their "coronation."

**Grad Night** Does your school sponsor an all-night party after graduation? Volunteer to set up a dance room during the lock-in. Choose contemporary music, and teach some simple steps and basic patterns if needed and/or line dances.

**Cinco de Mayo** Enlist teachers and students in foreign language or Social Studies classes to learn and present demonstrations of Latin dances. Teach basic patterns to all students. Dances include ChaCha, Rumba, Bolero, Salsa, and Merengue.

**Summer is coming** Give students a meaningful topic for their back-to-school "How I spent my summer vacation" essays. Explore offering dance clubs through recreation centers, libraries, established programs like Boys and Girls Clubs, or Scout groups. ■

*Because this is a new program, we invite you to share your questions, concerns and successes with others*

# Thank You

BY: KEN RICHARDS,  
DANCESPORT VP

## *Dear Social and Recreational Dancers:*

You may be wondering why the VP of DanceSport is addressing you in a letter. Well it is simple—I want to say THANK YOU.

Nonprofit organizations across the country are feeling the pinch of our current economic climate while the cost of doing business continues to rise. If you are receiving this letter you are still a member of USA Dance and your financial support of our organization through your membership dues allows us to continue developing youth programs, new chapters to provide additional dance opportunities as well as the DanceSport programs our athletes enjoy.

Since USA Dance achieved recognition as the National Governing Body of DanceSport from both the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF) and the US Olympic Committee (USOC) we have done a lot of evolving. We strive to keep costs down while increasing the quality and quantity of DanceSport events for our pre-teen, junior, youth, adult and senior competitors.

Together our volunteer efforts and support have funded over \$65,000 in scholarships to athletes on the World Team, participation of athletes at the World Games in 2009 in China, training seminars and more. In the future we are looking at additional World Championships being added to the calendar for senior competitors, increasing our anti-doping initiatives and the “big one” for 2010—USA Dance, in cooperation with Sam Sodano, is hosting the IDSF World Latin Amateur Championships.

There is no shortage of programs for training and certification that we would like to fund, but short of receiving a donation from corporate America, our US representative athletes will continue to self-fund their coaching and growth. There are many countries in the world, while economically poorer than the USA, that manage to contribute substantially larger sums of money to support their DanceSport Athletes.

We are fortunate to have many thousands of social dance members who feel membership in USA Dance gives them local benefits, access to dance related information, new friends, an attractive magazine, increased dance opportunities and who take much pride in supporting the athletes that dance so hard to represent our country. In case you missed the first paragraph, and on behalf of all our athletes, I thank you.

On behalf of all the athletes and the DanceSport Council, I feel it is important for you to recognize how important your support is. Yes, we do hear the occasional person asking, “what do I get for my membership?” In addition to the aforementioned items, I hope you will also value the difference your dollars make toward our country’s active athletes. Altruism comes in all forms and your membership supports a lot of dancing around this country.

USA Dance is awash in media coverage driven by stories of athletes that inspire us all. This exposure increases public awareness of the USA Dance name benefiting all of our chapters as they strive to improve the quantity and quality of ballroom dancing in communities around the country through their social dances, outreach programs and competitive events.

In the coming months you will hear about another evolution taking place. Internationally, the IDSF will be joining forces with the International Professional DanceSport Council (IPDSC) to provide democratic representation and competitions based on sporting principles to professional competitors, just like they now do for amateur competitors. USA Dance has been recognized as the member body of this initiative within the USA.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2010 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, and hope to join you for some of the social dance functions that Jean Krupa, Social-VP, is planning.

## Chapter Highlight

# When It Matters Most

Capital District Chapter #3014

BY: IVOR LEE

The earthquake in Haiti left thousands of Haitians homeless while grim images of a devastated island broke the hearts of millions throughout the world. But the pain of Haiti hit close to home when Arthur Murray ballroom dance instructor Ricardo Sopin learned that his uncle and aunt were killed in the earthquake, and his mother survived her house collapse, though it crushed her leg. Even worse, his eight-year-old daughter, Marsha, was missing.

There was little doubt in his mind that he needed to return to Haiti to find his daughter. Lucky for Sopin, his friends and students at Arthur Murray felt his pain deeply and decided to do something about it.

Barbara Ritschel, vice-president of the USA Dance Capital District chapter, was one of those students.

That coming Saturday was the Chapter's monthly dance—a fine party with a 20-piece band. But when the earthquake's grim news hit Sopin, Ritschel called President Gary Burgess to change the dance into a fundraiser. "When we decided to raise money for Ricardo, the money started coming almost instantly," Ritschel said.

Even Ritschel's co-workers at HSBC were moved by the cause, one lady immediately emptied her purse of everything she had, and Ritschel's boss donated \$100.

The community came together at this dance to support Sopin and another teacher that lost a brother in the disaster. 120 of the chapter's members showed up, with many donating money. One couple even

donated an airline ticket. Some donated supplies: Neosporin and bandages, things that could fit in a backpack. Sopin would have to fly into the Dominican Republic on a 3am Monday flight, then he would be brought into Haiti by a friend waiting at the border with a motorcycle—all for the search for Marsha.

"Dancers are really nice people," Ritschel said, "we raised over a \$1,000. Even after the dance, the money from the members and concerned members of the community kept coming in."

This behavior is indicative of the unity and caring nature of the chapter. It's an unwritten law for the former chapter of the year that in times of crisis, they will come together and help each other out. In the 14 years of existence, the chapter has organized fundraisers to help other dance instructors in need, and for the Ron Curry foundation, a group that raises money to give kids ballroom lessons.

Capital District has always been a faithful chapter, doing everything they can by the book. Every year they observe National Ballroom Dance Week and formation performances at nursing homes, and malls, black tie parties at New Year's Eve, and a monthly dance. In 14 years they've only ever canceled two dances due to weather. Capital District is even the parent chapter of two other chapters.

"I'm really proud of our chapter and where it has gone," said Ritschel, "We're just doing our part."

Sopin is currently in Haiti with his daughter. Planning for a fundraiser to bring Marsha home to the United States is already underway. ■

Individual  
Spotlight

An Artistic Ideal

# Bill Rose

Orange County, California Chapter #4018



BILL ROSE

BY: **IVOR LEE**

When Bill and Diane Rose's kids finally left the house, they began looking for a hobby that they could do together. They started watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movies on TV, and would watch the movie even if they had seen it before. Just like that, the seeds of ballroom were sown.

In Rose's younger days, he and his family were noted for folk dancing. But after getting married, dancing was something that he put away. "We could have gone back to folk, but it's not something you'd do at a lot of weddings. It's hard to do a Bulgarian line dance unless you're at a Bulgarian wedding," Rose said.

For a man who has had hobbies his entire life, a club is a necessity. It didn't take him long to find what was then USABDA. Since then they've been actively involved in USA Dance, and Rose has recently been appointed as Senior Vice President of USA Dance.

"It was an unexpected call," Rose said.

Prior to this new position, Rose has served as President of the Orange County Chapter of USA Dance. During this time, the Southwest Regional National Qualifying Event has grown from a small

event held in a community center's multi-purpose room, to being the jewel of the Long Beach Convention Center's Grand Ballroom. Recently, the chapter donated over \$6,000 to young DanceSport athletes as a result of the regional championships.

In addition to organizing many showcases at county fairs in Orange County and LA County, Rose has found competing with his wife at the Senior III level especially rewarding and an important part of his experience with USA Dance. "We're always pushing ourselves to that artistic ideal."

But dancing isn't Rose's only artistic outlet. A majority of his creative juices go to his career as a hairdresser who has done just about everything in his field: salon owner, trade show platform artist for Logics/Clairol and Aveda, photographer, magazine editor, educator for Aveda and Logics/Clairol, and apprenticeship master trainer.

Rose now faces the challenge of balancing the added responsibility of being Senior Vice President to his life, but he remains highly optimistic. "Who knows what the future holds? I certainly know that there are unknown wonders. But you keep your doors open, and enjoy that life itself is an adventure." ■



BILL ROSE AT ASTORIA BALLROOM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL ROSE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

BY: JEAN KRUPA,  
SOCIAL VP

**D**oes your chapter have an ongoing program for membership? All organizations need to have a significant number of members and USA Dance is no different. This can earn the organization itself more recognition or funding and help generate interest in the group's cause.

Enlist the aid of your current members. **Plan a membership drive** around an annual event: Charity Ball, National Ballroom Dance Week, etc. Make sure you have lots of membership applications and have club business cards made with your dance dates for the year. You might even have a contest or incentive plan where the member gets in to a dance free when they bring in a new member.

**Develop a web site** for your chapter keeping it updated with information on your chapter events with directions and times and contact data. Make it visually appealing and interesting. (NOTE: USA Dance has specific guidelines regarding web sites. Be sure to check this information when setting up the site.)

Send out press releases on all your activities. Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to be noticed. (NOTE: Small community newspapers are likely to give you the best coverage.) Write articles or consider buying a classified ad in your local paper. Are you active in your community? Do you have an Outreach program that performs at hospitals or nursing homes? Let the media know, invite them to cover it or at least send a photographer. You are bound to have one or two "Kodak" moments.

**Make your dances fun.** People will want to invite guests to show them how friendly dancing can be. Take a look in the mirror. Do you smile enough? Guests want to see a smiling face welcoming them to a dance and be sure to be nice to your visitors. Sometimes we focus too much on getting someone to sign an application, and forget basic courtesies. Treat all guests warmly.

And speaking of courtesies **don't let internal strife destroy your club.** Address the problem, resolve it,

and move on. Build morale internally within your club by thanking and praising your members for a job well done. A few kind words can keep members coming back for more.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RENEWING YOUR USA DANCE MEMBERSHIP

Most chapters have an **incentive** to join by letting the new member into their first dance free. Do you have an incentive plan for the renewing member?

Have an **occasional social function** for members only to meet the family of your chapter members. This can be done successfully around a holiday or other special event. Have a pot luck dinner or picnic with some fun beginner dance steps or even a simple line dance.

Consider holding **advanced lessons** for the not-so-beginner dancers, perhaps follow a beginner lesson or on the 'fifth' weekend of the month hold a special lesson and dance or develop a mentor program that will not only help encourage new members to stay involved, but also help long term members renew their enthusiasm.

Send out a **personal note** to members that you haven't seen for awhile. Let them know that you've missed them and are anxious to have them back.

**What about me?** Do you recognize your volunteers? Reward those that do the work. Recognition, a word of thanks or a special remembrance will keep those volunteers more enthusiastic when asked to help in the future. Here are a few suggestions for perks for volunteers:

- Recognition – highlight them in the chapter newsletter
- Annual recognition dinner
- Personalized membership cards
- Special seats at dances
- And never stop thanking "Thank You" ■

# USA Dance Chapter News

By: Ivor Lee

WE WANT TO HEAR  
FROM YOU, AND SO DO  
OUR READERS!

SEND US THE  
LATEST NEWS FROM  
YOUR CHAPTER TO  
BE FEATURED IN  
UPCOMING ISSUES OF  
*AMERICAN DANCER*.

WHEN SUBMITTING,  
PLEASE KEEP IN MIND  
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1. HIGH QUALITY,  
DIGITAL PHOTOS  
RELATING TO THE EVENT,  
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 ANY  
QUESTIONS TO  
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## HAITI RELIEF

When disaster struck the island country of Haiti, thousands upon thousands were directly affected. But disaster, while bringing tragedy, also brings people together, and the best of the human spirit can be seen in times of crisis.

Ballroom professionals and USA Dance members all over the country joined together to raise money for disaster relief. Many USA Dance chapters and members donated their time, money and more to assist the Haiti Relief efforts. The below stories are representative of the efforts that will continue for some time. Thank you to all of you for giving so much!



## COOS COUNTY, OREGON

### SOUTH COAST OREGON CHAPTER #1028

On Friday Feb 5th, the South Coast Oregon chapter didn't charge admission; instead they asked for donations. A high level instructor visiting the area agreed to do lessons before the dance, and was delighted to donate his time to the unexpected fundraiser. Despite being a small rural community out on the coast of Oregon, four hours from Portland, 40 people came together to raise \$400.

"We almost fell over, we couldn't believe it," Chapter President Joseph Colo said about the sum. Colo believes that the fundraiser had an impact on the attendance. "Six years ago there was no dancing in our rural town. With USA Dance's help we started a local chapter with 100 members. It's been a marvelous experience."

SOUTH COAST CHAPTER #1028 DANCERS AT THEIR FEBRUARY DANCE. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIAN HARRINGTON

## MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

### GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER #3004

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When word reached the Manhattan Amateur Classic of the death of Professional Rhythm Champion Emmanuel Pierre-Antoine's two-year-old son Ishaan, they shared a moment of silence and asked for donations in memory of the child. In addition to this, USA Dance members later attended a Haiti Fundraiser hosted by Stepping Out Studio, helping them to raise more than \$800.

## NEW MEXICO

### NORTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO CHAPTER #5047

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Designating one of their monthly dances as a Haiti Fundraiser, the North Central New Mexico Chapter was able to raise \$500 for the American Red Cross. Credit has to be given to the 70 people who showed up Feb. 7th because they made the choice to come instead of watching the Super Bowl. Dancers were encouraged to give additional money to a tip jar for the Red Cross.

"People were very generous. We were pleased to be able to do something," said Anna Watkins, Chapter President, "I'm glad that we were able to respond."

## GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

### NORTH CAROLINA HEARTLAND CHAPTER #6092

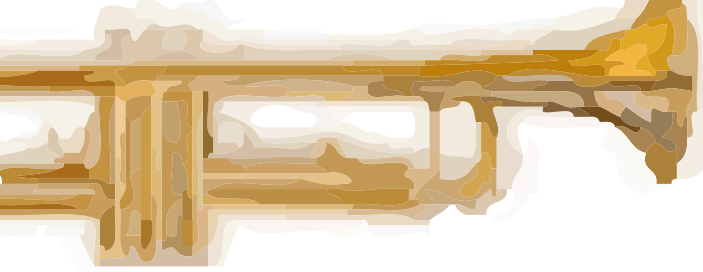
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By: Trudy Atkins

The sixth annual ball of North Carolina Heartland Chapter #6092 will be a benefit for Friends for an Earlier Breast Cancer Test to promote a twin message for all ages: the importance of early breast cancer detection and the mental and physical benefits of ballroom dancing.

The dinner-dance will be held Saturday evening, March 27, in the Guilford Ballroom of the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, NC. Tickets are \$50, a portion of which is designated for Friends for an Earlier Breast Cancer Detection. Many among the chapter's membership have survived breast cancer and are ready spokespersons for the advantages of early detection.

Publicity for this event will also remind the community of the multiple benefits of ballroom dancing including physical exercise, which promotes balance and agility, coupled with the mental acuity of executing the intricacies of a tango or paso doble, as well as the social benefit of interacting with people who share a love of dance. ■



# JACK MELICK

## 57 MUSICAL YEARS FOR MELICK

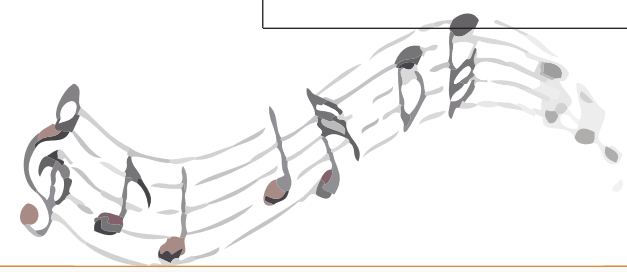
BY: JACK LEBO

Richardson, TX – The readers of *Seniors Texas* magazine recently declared the Jack Melick Orchestra, “The Best Big Band in Texas.” Melick recently celebrated his 57th year of making music.

Richardson Maestro Jack Melick never wavered from his decision at age five to become a leader of a band. He credits his mother that taught grammar school, came home, prepared meals, and supervised young Jack’s piano instruction for his introduction to the piano. Growing up in North Plainfield, NJ, 24 miles from New York City, allowed him to hear the music world’s greatest in person. At 11, his dad took him to the famed Cotton Club in Harlem to see the legendary Louis Armstrong.

By age 14, Melick had his own band and during his senior year, he conducted his high school’s marching band in the absence of its band director. Graduating from Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1951, the military promptly drafted him into the Korean War. He served in Japan as a pianist/entertainer and following discharge, returned to Japan to perform throughout the Far East.

In 1955, he returned home to begin a career as pianist with the orchestras of Art Mooney, Freddy Martin and Guy Lombardo. Melick then served a two-year stint on the Orrin Tucker Television Show in Hollywood. In 1959, he launched the Jack Melick



## BIG BAND REPORT



**Jack Melick**

Orchestra, performing from Boston to Bangkok, accompanying such show biz luminaries as, Milton Berle, Sammy Davis Jr., Vic Damone and Betty Grable. The band has called Dallas home since 1968.

A charter member of the Big Band Academy of America, Melick served on their board of advisors for many years. He was recently inducted into the North Plainfield High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame, along with jazz pianist Bill Evans.

Jack and his group are still dedicated to keeping the Big Band sound alive, and are kept busy seven months of the year performing in the Southwest. During the remaining five months, Jack is semi-retired and lives in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. According to Melick, "I'm very proud that I have made a living, a comfortable one, for more than 50 years playing the kind of music that I love...I've never done anything else, and I don't intend to. I've made a career and a life, dedicated to making music." ■

CONTACT: 2183 Buckingham Rd., PMB 332, Richardson, TX 75081, (972) 276-0595, email: [musicbymelick@hotmail.com](mailto:musicbymelick@hotmail.com), website: [www.jackmelick.com](http://www.jackmelick.com)

### **Contact Jack Lebo**

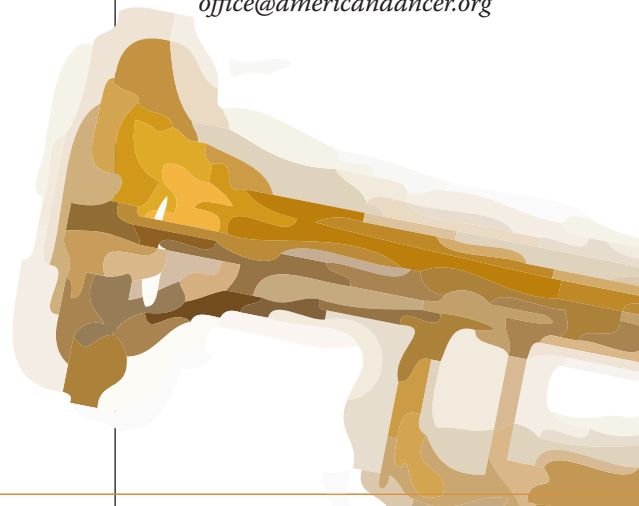
Big Band Report  
37 Locust Lane  
Levittown, PA 19054  
(215) 943-8870  
[jlebo@earthlink.net](mailto:jlebo@earthlink.net).

### **Let's Hear from You...**

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

### **Write to USA Dance**

[office@americandancer.org](mailto:office@americandancer.org)



# AMERICAN SWING

BY: RON MONTEZ

American swing comes from a great tradition starting with the Jitterbug and the Lindy Hop and all of its varying forms of swing. In today's dance we have East Coast and West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Jitterbug and the Jive which comes from Europe.

American Swing is often referred to as the East Coast Swing or Triple Swing. One of the best parts of this dance is that it's really fun; it's a great dance for beginners to be exposed to, and for them to begin with. The second is the music—stimulating, with popular hits from the movies, and the old classic big band. American Swing can be danced to big band, pop, country, blues, rock and roll and the list goes on. It has a great music source to draw from—a very versatile dance.

The trick is to relate the type of dancing you're doing to the music stylistically. If the music has a hoppy bouncy feel like in big band or pop, then there's some bounce in your action. For the heavy down beat blues, the dance is danced flat and earthy into the floor strongly.

Rock and roll is very varied. It can be faster, slower—it fills the whole spectrum. You can “rock around the clock”, or heavy and slow to AC/DC. You just have to

feel it because of the variety of styles.

An important thing to remember is that Swing is related but quite different from jive. Jive is danced to very fast music, technique is highly standardized. It's very vertical in nature, with a high knee action, and buoyancy in the feet and ankles. Swing may have a slight bounce in the knees but relies more on connection (feeling the partner in the connecting hand and dance frames—a hanging back, pressure forward, centrifugal force, and counter balance) and body isolation and lead and follow than jive.

I recommend highly that people learn swing in the beginning because it's a great fun dance. You won't be disappointed. In all my years of teaching, I've always enjoyed teaching swing because it's so well received. ■



*Ron Montez is one of the most respected personalities in the Dance world. A 7-time undefeated United States Professional Latin Champion, he is currently the organizer of Chicago Crystal Ball DanceSport Competition held in the second weekend of June. Ron and his wife Karla organize a dance camp in Tucson at New Years.*

# Different Steps: From Social to Competitive Dance

BY: BOB CASEY



*Bob and Peggy Cassey have been married for 38 years. They are members of USA Dance Chicagoland Chapter # 2001. They take lessons from Susan Cole and Josh Torres at DuPage Dance Center in Naperville, Illinois.*

**M**y wife Peggy and I are starting to think that someday we may be entering dance competitions.

The idea of competitive dancing marks a dramatic shift for us. Up until now, competing in dance has made as much sense to us as competitive yoga or competitive prayer. Dancing, to us, is inherently non-competitive.

Peggy and I dance at the bronze level. Our aspirations are modest. We dance for the love and the sheer joy of it. Since starting four years ago, dancing has become our favorite leisure-time activity. Up until late last year we took group classes at the community college and dance camps. In December we took up private lessons.

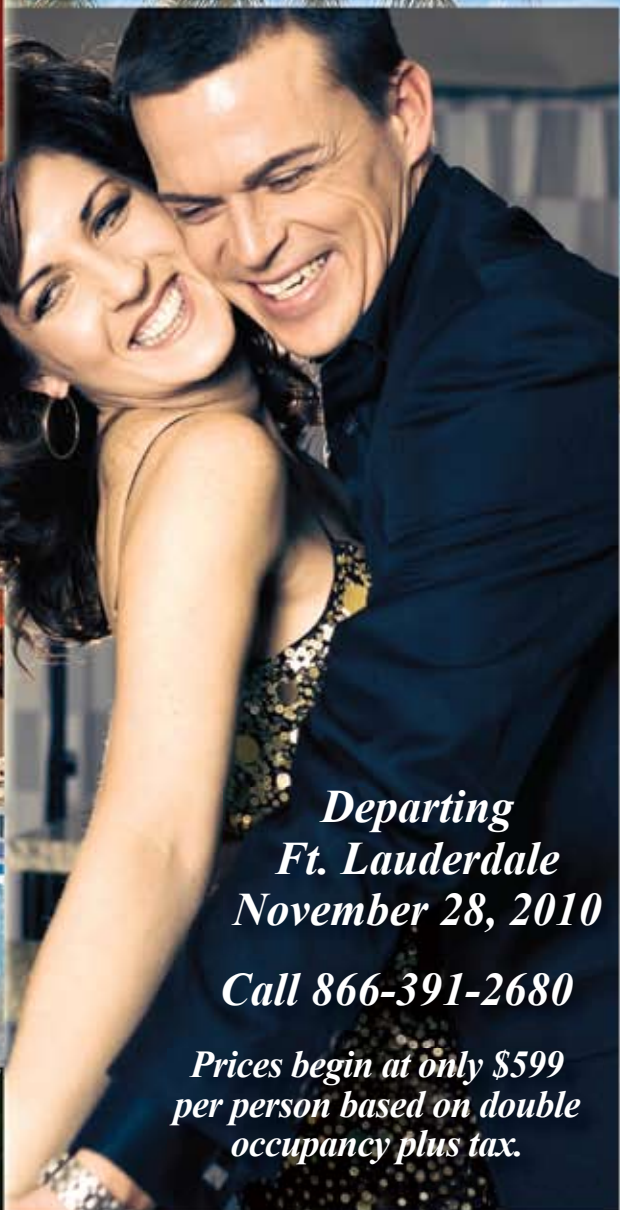
In golf, we'd be called duffers. Many a duffer, after tromping on their own for awhile, takes lessons from a pro, only to learn that their stance is wrong, grip is wrong, and swing is wrong—"wrong" in the sense of frustrating efforts to become a better golfer. That describes our private lessons experience so far.

We dance for the fun of it, and it's in in the harmony, balance, and gracefulness that we find joy. Along with the pain and frustration of having to unlearn bad habits (muscle memory cuts both ways!), we marvel at how the observations and suggestions of our instructors make for so much more gracefulness, harmony, and balance.

We usually think of art and sport as separate domains, but dance straddles the line. I support the efforts of USA Dance to make ballroom dancing part of the Olympic Games. Dance, as much as any sport, has objective standards of mastery and, yes, perfection. Even if absolute perfection is out of reach, that just opens the dancer to further, higher plateaus of achievement.

But how does that lead duffers like us to entertaining the idea of competitive dancing? The answer lies, I think, in the energy that comes with performance. It's not that we're out to beat anybody else. What we're beginning to understand is that the artfulness – what I've called harmony, balance, and grace – is grounded in energy. Long and arduous training forms muscle memory and makes for the internalization of technique and style. For skills to come to fruition, however, they must be tested in the arena. What we're seeing in the dancers we admire is performance energy—and we want some of that for ourselves. ■

# Join USA Dance for America's First National Ballroom Dancing Cruise!



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This first national social dance cruise, sponsored by USA DANCE and Costa Cruise Lines, brings social dancers together from across the country and supports the organization's national programs. The cruise includes a full program of ballroom, latin and club-style dance instruction from top professional instructors (to be announced) and nearly non-stop dance activities throughout the week.

This is a great opportunity to share your passion for dancing and enjoy the western Caribbean aboard one of the finest dance ships on the seas.

Imagine a week of endless dancing, grand meals, gala theme nights, exciting shows and an onboard casino with your fellow dancers. There'll even be dance-focused shore excursions as you visit each charming port city!

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime dance cruise experience. Space is limited, so book now by calling **866-391-2680** or go online to **[www.dancecruiseUSADANCE.com](http://www.dancecruiseUSADANCE.com)**



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USA Dance, Inc., a 501c3 non profit organization, is the national governing body for DanceSport in the United States and representative organization for social dancers across America. [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org) Cruise organizer is USA Dance Social VP Jean Krupa. [social-vp@usadance.org](mailto:social-vp@usadance.org)



# Adjust your Cruisitude!

BY: JEAN KRUPA

**A**nnouncing USA Dance at Sea! Save the date November 28-December 5, 2010 and join us on a luxurious Italian cruise ship that's more like a floating Italian Villa while dancing with us under the stars.

We all know cruises pack a big value and this one will be no different. You'll find beautiful staterooms, delectable cuisine, diverse entertainment, not to mention dance workshops taught by America's top instructors at a sweet price. Enjoy la dolce vita onboard the Costa Atlantica! Watch for more information on Facebook—USA Dance National Dance Cruise—in your emails and in the next publication, but mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us.

The captivating romance and pleasures of the Costa Atlantica cruise ship begin as soon as you step aboard. Her 12 passenger decks, each named after movies directed by the famous Italian director Federico Fellini are decorated with prominently displayed paparazzi photos of movie stars. Carrara marble, Murano-glass accents, in-laid mosaic tile and a Venetian atmosphere are among the many elements that make the Atlantica cruise ship unique from all the rest. From her awe-inspiring replica of Venice's Caffe Florian to her incredible atrium spanning the entire ship, the Atlantica cruise ship provides a dramatic and exciting venue for her guests—USA Dance. ■



# GENTLEMEN LEAD

By: Jack Munday

*“The satisfaction goes deeper than merely ‘feeling good.’ It is what the Greeks called ekstasis, a ‘stepping outside’ the norm.”*

–Karen Armstrong

HANS AND ANS STORK AT NATIONALS 2008  
PHOTO BY MARVIN MOORE

In her book *The Case for God* (Knopf, New York, 2009) Karen Armstrong writes the following: “You cannot learn to dance, paint, or cook by perusing texts or recipes. There are some things that can be learned only by constant, dedicated practice, but if you persevere, you find that you achieve something that seemed initially impossible. But somehow you learn to transcend your original capabilities.

“The satisfaction goes deeper than merely ‘feeling good.’ It is what the Greeks called *ekstasis*, a ‘stepping outside’ the norm.”

Recently, while dancing with my wife, Fran, she characterized it as “the most wonderful dance.” What we experienced is what every social dancer wants: that feeling of complete partnership, moving together as one. We have “that” feeling.

For a showcase event, my instructor Monica Mohn and I practiced repeatedly. Sometimes I had the feeling of partnership; other times I needed to correct posture, timing of leads, etc. Then the day arrived and I had “that” feeling. My dancing will get better when I don’t have to think about going through neutral or pushing with certain muscles instead of others. Then dancing will not be like a sip of champagne, but many sips—a whole glass.

When dancing with Fran, the transitions are so continuous that the whole dance seems like one unending pattern. Fran says, “It thrills me that we can dance at home, on bare feet on our tile floor. I close my eyes and float.”

Another author helped explain “that” feeling. In his memoir *The Fellowship of Ghosts: A Journey Through the Mountains of Norway* (National Geographic Society, Washington D.C., 2004), Paul Watkins wrote: For each mountain I have climbed, I have in fact been climbing two. There is a mountain made of snow and rock, and

there is the mountain in my head—the thing that the mountain stands for, the clarity of thought that comes from climbing.

But suddenly these two overlapping mountains have come together, creating a balance of the mental and the physical that before I could only experience individually. Now I feel both of them at the same time.

That ‘indefinable thing’ is the profound experience of living completely in the present.”

Do ballroom dancers have a similar experience, of creating a balance of the mental and physical activity so one is dancing completely in the present? Yes, when we get that incredible feeling of leading/following with a minimum of conscious thought.

Social dancers can achieve a balance of the physical and mental movements so that each step evokes “that” feeling of somehow being truly in the present. Social dancers have to establish the common core while feeling the magic that happens when we move together.

How does one transcend the partnership and be truly in the present? One word: Trust. My partner has to trust that I will lead her in patterns and I have to trust that she will go where I lead. When that happens, it’s truly like having climbed a mountain. ■

*But suddenly these two overlapping mountains have come together, creating a balance of the mental and the physical...*



FRAN AND JACK MUNDAY  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK MUNDAY

*Jack S. Munday is a writer and lawyer who lives in Minnesota, with his wife, Fran. They love social dancing, and are students of Monica Mohn, a 3-time USA Dance champion. Jack’s novel, Cilantro, Not Coriander, was published by Plain View Press in 2009.*



# THE PUBLIC EYE

BY: ANGELA PRINCE

## IN THE LIMELIGHT - DANCERS GET READY FOR LA!

Nationals in Los Angeles will be a whirlwind affair! USA Dance has issued its press alerts and releases to more than 2,500 media outlets—and hopefully haven't missed anyone in the Southern California area. We've let everyone know that the "real-life dancing stars" are coming to town! At press time, we've received calls from many major television networks, producers, several magazine editors and even some talent scouts with the major programs. You never know who could be sitting in the audience. Being in the heart of LA could bring for USA Dance its biggest splash yet.



DANCE FLOOR NATIONALS 2009  
PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

Notice to our DanceSport couples in LA—if you are interested in participating in any media program, interview or special segment that might be filmed during Nationals,

please let us know. By March 30, please send us an email confirming your interest with the following background information: bio for the dance couple, at least one jpeg publicity photo, a YouTube link to your best performance and complete contact information (email, cell phones at Nationals). Last year, several of our couples were on television morning shows or special interviews. We had great fun in the limelight!



DANCING WITH THE STARS CELEBRITY JUDGE CARRIE ANN INABA WILL ONCE AGAIN SERVE AS HONORARY JUDGE AT THE USA DANCE NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS THIS TIME IN LA, HOME OF DANCING WITH THE STARS, PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

## CELEB MOMENTS ON THE RED CARPET IN LA LIVE

For all of our celebrities (and those visiting from Hollywood), the USA DANCE Red Carpet area will once again be available near the main ballroom for all of our dancers, family and friends to have their photos taken. We'll use this area for media interviews and filmings throughout the weekend.

## USA DANCE MAKING HEADLINES AGAIN IN PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette was inspired by the rising popularity of ballroom dancing to interview USA Dance's PR director and local USA Dance Chapter President Joe Aiken, who had this to say about dancing in Pittsburgh:

"Everyone from grandparents to graduate students is dancing the night away around Pittsburgh, said Joe Aiken. Since becoming president of Pittsburgh's USA Dance chapter four years ago, he has noticed an increase in the number of people attending the chapter's events.

"People 'come from all different backgrounds —professional, blue collar, white collar, widows, widowers, married couples. We seem to be getting more college kids interested in ballroom.'

"The chapter's e-mail list has swelled the past couple years, quadrupling from 200 to 800 people. Roughly 200 locals have paid for USA Dance membership, which grants them discounts to USA Dance events and a subscription to American Dancer magazine and local chapter newsletters.

"A lot of it has to do with 'Dancing with the Stars,' " Aiken said about dance's rising popularity. "I think people are tired of dancing by themselves, doing freestyle...I think people are wanting to learn...how to dance more so than just going out on the dance floor and doing their own thing."

Congratulations to Joe on a great story!

## BE A NEWSMAKER!

Chapters should note that most local newspapers and other media are interested in the popularity of ballroom dancing. They'll also be interested in your dance events and community programs, so long as there's a story angle of interest to the general public. Be a newsmaker! Send them well-written news releases and invitations well in advance of the events and then make a friendly call to request their attendance.

## LET'S GO TO PANAMA CITY-BALLROOM ON THE RISE

USA Dance is called upon often by local newspapers writing stories on ballroom dancing. Recent story in the News Herald in Panama City, FL focused on a brother-sister couple Jay and Kat Holmes, who started up a new dance studio. The writer wanted to know from a national source more about its rising popularity and history. USA Dance supports ballroom dancing efforts and programs throughout the country.

And we love talking to the media. ■

<http://www.newsherald.com/articles/sister-80485-beach-success.html>



PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA  
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

## 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](mailto:office@americandancer.org)

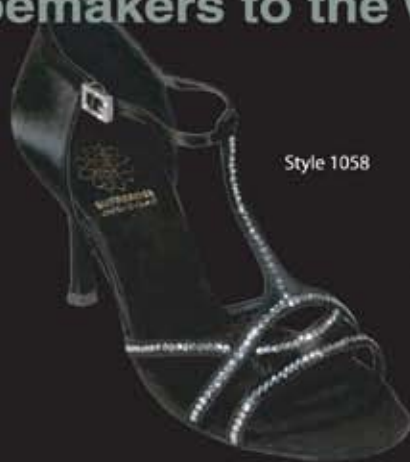


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# COMPETITION CALENDAR



# COLLEGIATE COMPETITION CALENDAR

**march 28, 2010**

**\*NJ DanceSport Classic "Spring Fling"**

Hackensack, NJ

<http://njdancesportclassic.com/>

**april 9-11, 2010**

***USA Dance 2010 National  
DanceSport Championships***

*JW Marriott Hotel*

*Los Angeles at LA live, CA*

*[www.usadancenationals.org](http://www.usadancenationals.org)*

**april 24, 2010**

**\*2010 Atlantic DanceSport Challenge**

Hunt Valley, MD

<http://atlanticdancesportchallenge.com/>

**may 8-9, 2010**

**Columbia Star Ball-NQE**

Portland, OR

[www.columbiastarball.com](http://www.columbiastarball.com)

**may 21-22, 2010**

**2010 Smoky Mountain DanceSport  
Championships-NQE**

Knoxville, TN

[www.usabda-knoxville.us](http://www.usabda-knoxville.us)

Competitions noted as "NQE" are National Qualifying Events  
for the 2011 National DanceSport Championships.

**look for future event updates at**

[http://usadance.org/dancesport/  
competition-calendar/](http://usadance.org/dancesport/competition-calendar/)

**march 5-7, 2010**

**Arnold Youth DanceSport Classic**

Columbus, OH

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

**march 6, 2010**

**NYU Syllabus Ballroom Challenge**

New York, NY

<http://comp.nyuballroom.com>

**march 6, 2010**

**UCSD Dance By The Shores**

La Jolla, CA

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

**march 13, 2010**

**Holy Cross Ballroom Dance Competition**

Worcester, MA

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

**march 27, 2010**

**Irish DanceSport Gala**

South Bend, IN

[www.nd.edu/~ballroom/compteam.htm](http://www.nd.edu/~ballroom/compteam.htm)

**march 27, 2010**

**Devil DanceSport Classic - Arizona State University**

Tempe, AZ

[www.devildancesport.com/](http://www.devildancesport.com/)

**look for future collegiate  
event updates on FaceBook**

sign onto FaceBook, click on  
"Groups," and type in "USA Dance  
Competitions"

# 2010 NATIONALS SH

## *Victor Fung & Anastasia Muravyova*

BY: IVOR LEE



**A** lot of kids grow up dreaming of being the king or queen of the world, the richest person, or the most famous person in the world—titles that don't matter as long as “of the world” is attached to it. Victor Fung was no different. From the time he was nine years old, he dreamt of being World Champion, or the best in the world. The difference is that he's still dreaming that dream.

With new partner Anastasia Muravyova, the ten-time USA Dance National Standard champion is closer than he has ever been before of winning a world title. In the short two months dancing together, they've already placed third at Blackpool—a placing indicative of their natural chemistry, the way they fit together and the analytical approach they both have towards dancing.

Fung has always been a successful dancer, but what makes him stand out against other dancers is how he's managed to maintain his level of success while changing partners. “I don't know if there is any secret to it. Good dancing is good dancing. In my dancing, I just keep trying to improve my skills as a male dancer and in the meantime you try things with different partners until you have the right fit,” Fung said.

ALL PHOTOS OF VICTOR FUNG & ANASTASIA MURAVYOVA, ALL PHOTOS BY KAROL BRÜLL

# SHOWCASE:

“It’s a new journey now, with a new partner. We were friends before, and we have the same goal—become the world’s champion, to be the best in the world, but I’m still the same dancer as before.”

For Fung, dancing has always been a part of his life. His parents attended group classes and danced socially, competed and did shows occasionally. When Mom heard about a class for kids at a local studio, she decided to enroll her four kids ranging from five to 11, with Fung right in the middle at nine. It was something that they could all do as a family.

The casual interest changed when Fung watched a tape of Blackpool and saw competitive ballroom for the first time. “It burned, in my mind, an image and a new understanding. It shaped my character, and I saw the people being crowned champion and thought, wow.”

When Fung was 19 in 1996, he competed at Blackpool for the first time. Since then he hasn’t missed a year.

If Blackpool was the impetus, then USA Dance was the road that has brought him to where he is today. Fung and Muravyova will wow crowds in a showcase at Nationals in LA this year and in a sense, dancing for USA Dance is a tribute to growing up. “My first competition was USABDA nationals in 1986,” Fung said, “I grew up with them basically. I love what USA Dance is doing and how it’s promoting dancing.”

“Doing a show for USA Dance is just a small thing, a small part of this journey. It started as I was nine and it’s still going. It never ends and I hope it never ends.”



# 2010 NATIONALS SHOWCASE

## *Eugene Kastevman & Maria Manusova*

BY: IVOR LEE



**W**e tracked down Eugene Kastevman and Maria Manusova and found what they had to say about dancing and being a part of the 2010 Nationals Showcase. Check out our exclusive interview:

**AD:** The two of you have been dancing together for a long time and you have 13 national titles together. What's been your secret in making that relationship work?

**E&M:** There is no secret. We both really wanted to dance and we made it work. We felt from very early on that what we have together is something special. We didn't quite know what it was, but we knew that it was worth sticking around to find out.

**AD:** We interviewed you guys 3 years ago, and asked you some of these questions. We'd like to ask you these questions again to see if they've changed. What do you love most about dance?

**E&M:** There is no way to separate what we love more or less about dance. We cannot say what we love most about the air we breathe. Dance is our life and our passion. It's what we do. Dance is who we are.

**AD:** What is your favorite dance and why?

**E&M:** Whichever one goes better on the day.

**AD:** Have you had to do anything different in the pro ranks in terms of dancing, or training since turning pro? Can you give us some insight into your experience in turning from amateur to pro?

**E&M:** We always had a professional approach to our career, so not much has changed. We had the honor of representing our country and dancing in the World and Blackpool finals as Amateurs, and we were lucky enough to be the same as Professionals. We teach a bit more and do more shows. Otherwise, it's still the same.

ALL PHOTOS OF EUGENE KASTEVMAN & MARIA MANUSOVA. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF OLGA ROGACHEVSKAYA

# SHOWCASE:

**AD:** Why are you willing to do this showcase?

**E&M:** A National Championship is always a special occasion. It has been a big part of our career for most of our lives. We were fortunate to win every USA Dance National Championship we danced. So for us to come back as professionals and do a demonstration feels like a homecoming. It's going to be fun and we cannot wait to be there.

## ABOUT US:

We met and started dancing together on August 1, 1993. Both originally from Kiev, Ukraine, we found each other in New York, where we lived in the same neighborhood of Brooklyn. In September of that year we won our first competition in the Silver Latin division, and thus our journey began.

By 1995 we were the US National Youth Latin Champions, and in 1997 we came in 2nd at the Youth World and British Open Under 21 Latin Championships. In 1998 we won the UK Rising Star Latin Championship and became British Open Under 21 Latin Champions—the first-ever US couple to win that title.

In 1997 we entered the Adult division and became the United States National Amateur Latin Champions. It is one of the titles that we are most proud of, and we held onto it for 11 years, until we turned Professional in 2008.

During our Amateur career, we were finalists of all major championships, including UK, International, British Open, and World Championships. By the 2005-2006 season, we were the # 1 couple on the IDSF ranking list, and placed in the top 3 of every major championship. Among our titles are three US Open Championships, Masters Gala Trophy, and IDSF Grand Slam Series Championship. In 2005 we had the honor of representing our country at the World Games in Germany, from where we brought home the Gold Medal.

In 2008 we turned Professional and immediately broke into the Final of the British Open Championship at Blackpool, England. Since then we've been enjoying teaching, demonstrating, and traveling all over the world, doing what we do best—dancing. ■



# Qualifying Events for USA Dance 2011 National DanceSport Championships



Mircea Cernev & Jennifer Fales / Photo by: Carson Zullinger



Columbia Star Ball  
Portland, OR  
May 8-9, 2010

2010 Gumbo  
DanceSport Championships  
Baton Rouge, LA  
June 25-26, 2010

High Point Classic  
DanceSport Championships  
High Point, NC  
October 22-24, 2010

2010 Smoky Mountain  
DanceSport Championships  
Knoxville, TN  
May 21-22, 2010

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# Nationals: What Then?

BY: DAPHNA LOCKER



LA SKYLINE LIGHTS. PHOTO BY ANDY HWANG

**W**ith a little over a month till the 30th anniversary of Nationals, we've all got our sights on April. We're excited to see everyone there, to watch the best in the country compete for National titles. We're excited for the JW Marriott venue, and the lights and life of metropolitan LA. We're excited for Eugene and Maria, Victor and Anastasia.

But what about beyond Nationals? After the dust settles, the bleachers and chairs put away, what then?

That's the beauty of Nationals: it answers that question too.

Nationals 2010 is a sneak peek to upcoming World's events. When we crown our champions we will also be choosing our representatives for the following events:

**April 16, 2010** - World Youth Ten Dance  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**April 24, 2010** - World Youth Latin  
Linz, Austria

**May 1, 2010** - World Senior I Ten Dance  
Palma de Mallorca, Spain

**May 1, 2010** - World Youth Standard  
Seoul, Korea

**Sept 25, 2010** - World Senior I Standard  
Dresden, Germany

**Oct 9, 2010** - World Junior II Ten Dance

**Nov 13, 2010** - World Latin  
New York, NY

**Nov 20, 2010** - World Ten Dance  
Vienna, Austria

**Nov 27, 2010** - World Standard  
Wetzler, Germany

**Dec 4, 2010** - World Senior I Latin  
Salou, Spain

**Dec 18, 2010** - World Junior II Latin  
Riga, Latvia

**Feb 4, 2011** - World Senior II Latin  
Antwerp, Belgium

**Feb 5, 2011** - World Senior I Standard  
Antwerp, Belgium

**Mar 26, 2011** - World Junior II Latin  
Moscow, Russia

In less than a week after nationals, a couple will be picked to go to Toronto, Canada; a week after that, Linz, Austria. Planning a vacation in Korea in the beginning of May? Why not go to the Youth Standard competition too? In Vienna for Thanksgiving? Check out the World Ten Dance Championship while you're there! Don't forget we will also be choosing our representatives for the IDSF World Latin in November in New York as well!

If you know of a World's competition that you would like to go to, or after attending Nationals have picked up a new favorite couple, contact Ken Richards at Nationals, and we will do our best to get you tickets for that event.

If you don't already have people to cheer for, pick your favorites to cheer on at other IDSF events. Will there be changes? Won't there? Will there be an upset? Which events will we find new champions? Find out at Nationals.

Come to Nationals and watch us choose the World team. ■

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# IDSF Latin Worlds



## WHY COME TO WORLDS?

BY: IVOR LEE

**Y**ou've watched the Olympics on TV. From your living room, you were probably pretty excited when America won gold medals. Odds are you were watching America's Evan Lysacek steal the gold away from Evgeni Plushenko in men's figure skating, cheering, perhaps wondering what it's like to be there live in that moment of victory. And then it cut to a commercial.

On TV there is energy, but live there is so much more. It's an experience like nothing else.

"I've been to four Worlds events. They held the IDSF World Standard Professional Championship

in Madison Square Gardens in 1984; I've seen the World Ten Dance in Montreal, IDSF World Ten Dance in Vancouver, and the World Standard Championship at BYU. The excitement and the crowd...if anyone has been to Blackpool, that's the kind of energy that is these competitions," said Shawn Fisher, editor-in-chief of "American Dancer" magazine. "It's the difference between the energy at a high school basketball game and the final four of the NCAA, or the NBA finals."

A lot of the couples competing we don't get to see dance in the United States. In New York in November, not just the top 6 will be there, but all of the best in the Latin world. It's excitement right from the preliminaries.

"You can watch our top two couples at Nationals, but come see them compete against the rest of the world. Watch them compete against the top of the top 50 countries," said Daphna Locker, Nationals Organizing Committee Chair, "Most people don't get to see these people. But here is a chance to see them live, not on YouTube. You're not going to see dancing like this outside of this event."

It's a once in a life time opportunity for people to see internationally acclaimed Latin competitors dance in our own backyard (Going to New York is cheaper than flying to China or Europe). This is the equivalent of our own Olympics.

Besides, you don't get commercials to take away that energy when you go to an event live. ■

PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER



NIKITA MALAKHOV & SARA GLEYZER



# RULE BOOK 2010



BY: KEN RICHARDS, DANCESPORT VP

**T**he 12th Version of  
the **USA Dance**  
**DanceSport Rulebook**

is now available for free download on the USA Dance website. The process by which the rulebook comes together is no small feat. First the DanceSport Council (DSC), comprised of: Ava Brennen, Wayne Crowder, Scott Coates, Rog Greenawalt, Ray Kaufman, Inna Brayer, Pasha Pashkov, Jean Barbour and me; compile the previous year's observations by observers, IDSF rule changes, feedback from competition organizers and the ideas and input of our members. Then we meet for two days in August along with members of the USA Dance Executive Committee, the then President, Peter Pover, and special guests to review the best course of action. Once the DSC has reached a consensus on a given topic, we go to work revising the document.

After several draft rounds and review, the document is then finalized for a vote of approval by the USA Dance Governing Council. It is important to remember that all this happens by a team of dedicated volunteers that are committed to protecting the right of the US Athletes and the sporting principles that make DanceSport fair for all its participants. If you get a chance to show your appreciation toward these dedicated representatives, I would encourage you to do so.

Is the rulebook perfect—of course not. And what is “perfect” for some will not be others. Our sport is evolving and we will be improving the rulebook again and again. As for this version, I encourage you to read it all – but if don’t have time, please be sure to pay particular attention to the following significant items that were changed:

- 3.4.3.3 Allows for shorter length of music during uncontested competitions.
- 3.10 Entire Dress Regulations section has been redone: (1) clarifications of definitions and (2) re-layout of content by age division and style of dance. This makes it a considerable number of additional pages with a fair amount of redundancy; however,

now you only need to read the respective section that applies to you, instead of pulling the information across the previously combined format. By the way—this is a good time for me to personally thank to Daphna Locker; Ray Kaufman and National Secretary, Stan Andrews for all the work they put into this section.

- 4.2.5 Revises the rules governing eligibility of couples dancing in nationals by: (1) separating out international requirements, (2) outlining the qualifying structure for the next 2 years, (3) providing specific exceptions for respective dance categories and medical waivers of NQE requirements. Pay particular attention to the eligibility requirements for 2011 and beyond.
- 4.6.2.21 Lowers the proficiency point threshold to 200 as the new level for ineligibility in a given category.
- 5.1.7 Adds a structure of fees for collegiate teams seeking to run USA Dance sanctioned competition.

- 5.2.3 Lists the dances to be offered in each National Qualifying event to qualify dancers for the National Championships.
- 5.2.4 Lists the dances to be offered at Nationals
- Updates to the Syllabus section including the additional steps allowed in Viennese Waltz in USA Dance and IDSF open-level competitions. Footnote: If you haven’t been dancing these additional figures you should be. Look for the special seminar being taught by Glenn Weiss on this topic at Nationals.
- The addition of a new Appendix Section that covers the eligibility, process and scholarships for couples selected to IDSF World Championships and World Cups.

In closing I wish to remind everyone that these rules will be in effect for the 2010 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in Los Angeles. If you haven’t finalized your plans to attend the 30th anniversary USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, I encourage you to hurry... since we have had to increase our hotel block, I expect the event to be sold-out. ■



BY: YANG CHEN, PRESIDENT, GREATER NEW YORK CHAPTER OF USA DANCE (#3004)

## Milestone in Manhattan: MAC Turns 20

The 20th annual Manhattan Amateur Classic (MAC) began on Friday afternoon, January 15, with Adult Novice Smooth. Nearly 170 events later, MAC drew to a close after 10:30 pm on Sunday night, January 17, with the final of the Junior II Championship Latin.

About 1000 dancers competed over the three days of MAC. Couples from up and down the Eastern seaboard attended, and we hosted dancers from Ohio, Texas, Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, California--even Alaska. Ray Kaufman, the USA DanceSport Official at MAC, observed that it felt like a "mini-Nationals."

The main event on Friday night was the Open Latin Championship. After four hotly

contested rounds, Tal Livshits and Vlada Semenova of New Jersey emerged on top and received the Eugene Katsevman and Maria Manusova Perpetual Trophy.

The main event on Saturday night was the Open Standard Championship. After three tough rounds of competition, Tal and Vlada -- who won the Open Latin the night before -- took first place. The perpetual trophy in this event had been sponsored by Bill Davies since MAC's inception, and this year it got a co-sponsor in the form of Bill's daughter Wendi Davies. Tal and Vlada became the first recipients of the Bill and Wendi Davies Perpetual Trophy. They also became the first couple to take both the Open Latin and Open Standard Perpetual Trophies at the MAC.

Another highlight of Saturday night was a visit from New York City Comptroller, John Liu, who has won a historic election victory in November by becoming the first Asian American elected to citywide office in New York. He offered congratulations to the MAC on its 20th anniversary and urged everyone to support Haiti disaster relief.

The third perpetual trophy at MAC was for the Grand Slam Team Match, held at the end of Saturday afternoon. The semi-final consisted of 10 teams, comprised mainly of collegiate dancers representing MIT, New York University, the University of Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Vermont, North Carolina State University and the College of William and Mary.

The Team Match is an "Anything Goes" fun event. The dances for the semi-final were not revealed until the start of each dance in that round, and they were (in order) waltz, samba, foxtrot and jive. Even

after a full day of competition, all the teams remained highly energetic and enthusiastic, dancing their hearts out and cheering on their teammates. The roar in the Grand Ballroom was deafening.

Six teams made the final: the MIT Beavers, the Ballroom at Maryland (BAM) team, the NYU team, the Sassy Catamounts from the University of Vermont, DC United and the Manhattan Ballroom Dance team. The finalists probably realized that different dances would be introduced in the final round but they could not have anticipated the introduction of bandanas as props.

Each team was asked to send out first their couple with the best frame (for a tango); then their couple with the best lead and follow (for a cha cha); their best actors (for a rumba); and finally, their couple with the best floorcraft (for a quickstep).

For the first dance, the representative couples from each team had to dance the tango back-to-back, with the added challenge of holding their bandanas between them without losing contact and dropping their bandanas. All the couples managed to hold on to them.

For the cha cha, the best lead and follow from each team had to dance their entire cha cha routine connected only by their bandanas, using only the fabric between them to lead and follow.

For the rumba, the best actors from each team had to employ their bandanas creatively to express various emotions -- anger, sadness, passion, happiness, embarrassment, confusion -- which were called out randomly by the MC. Through their considerable acting talent, some of our dancers left the judges in tears and stitches.



Finally, for the quickstep, each team's experts in floorcraft took the floor and the leader from each team was blindfolded. Each couple had to dance their quickstep without crashing into anyone else. With the leaders blindfolded, crashes were hard to avoid, and those couples that crashed were marked down.

The Manhattan Ballroom Dance team took first place in the Team Match and earned the honor of getting their team name engraved on the Grand Slam Team Match trophy. The Greater New York Chapter of USA Dance endows this trophy, in recognition of a tradition that stretches back to MAC 1992.

Nearly 2,000 spectators came out to watch the MAC from Friday to Sunday. We also raised just over \$10,000 to award scholarship prizes for the top dancers at all levels.


MAC 2010 will go down as our biggest to date, and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves. See you at MAC 2011! ■

PHOTOS BY JOEY PASAOA

# Dancing Classrooms

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER #3007

BY: LYNETTE PIRRUNG



**O**n January 9th, parents, friends, and supporters of “Dancing Classrooms” gathered for the Colors of the Rainbow Pittsburgh Team Match—the final Ballroom Dancing competition. This was the culmination of a semester of work.

The mission of Dancing Classrooms is to build social awareness, confidence, and self-esteem in children through the practice of social dance. Dancing Classrooms gives children the faith in themselves to face whatever challenges the day or their life brings.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of USA Dance donated to the sponsorship for Dancing Classrooms and Chapter Board members attended the start up fundraiser.

The Pittsburgh schools have been receptive to this program because it results in better student behaviors. Also, the Dancing Classrooms program is an effective model for both staff and students.

In September, Rozana and Terry Sweeney, of Art & Style Dance Studio, began the instruction of approximately 300 fifth graders in six of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. They used the curriculum of Dancing Classrooms, which was created in New York City in 1994 by world-renowned ballroom champions Pierre Dulaine and Yvonne Marceau. The Sweeneys learned the Dancing Classrooms technique for working with this special age group

Prior to this team match, six couples had been chosen from each school. Five of the

*The mission of Dancing Classrooms is to build social awareness, confidence, and self-esteem in children through the practice of social dance.*



couples had worked on a specialty dance for the final team match. There was also an alternate couple who were the captains, and who would fill in where necessary as well as dance in the second round. The alternate couples had to be proficient in each dance.

The festivities were emceed by Jo Jo Graham, Director of Dancing Classrooms in Northeast Ohio, who did a great job of keeping the students on task, as well as eliciting audience participation. The students began with a warm-up in each of the dances. Then the competition began and was judged by three judges, one of which was Joe Aiken, President of USA Dance Pittsburgh Chapter, which not an easy task. Joe said, "It was a honor to judge and a lot of fun to watch the kids dance. It was a great way to be a part of a much bigger plan for ballroom dancing in Pittsburgh."

The couples not only had to know the dance they were scheduled to compete in, but also all the dances as

they could be called upon to dance any of them in the final round.

Finally, three of the teams were asked to come to front of the stage; each boy escorting his partner to the spot in "escort position." It was announced, with great enthusiasm, that each of these teams had won the bronze medal. Then the next two teams were called to the front of the stage for another enthusiastic announcement that these teams had won the silver medal. The remaining team escorted their partners to the stage for the thrilling announcement that they had won the gold medal. The principal of that school was presented with a huge trophy for his school.

The "Dancing Classrooms" program will begin again in the fall. The hope is to expand the program. I only wish this year's fifth graders could have the option to continue dancing if they wished to do so. The program does so much more than teach the children basic ballroom dances. ■

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: DENNIS MC CANN

# Reaching Beyond:

## University of Michigan Ballroom Dance Club

BY: IVOR LEE

**A**t November's National Collegiate Challenge, it was hard to not notice the dancers from University of Michigan Ballroom Dance Club. They had dancers involved in almost every event, in almost every heat and competition—and of course a boisterous fan base to cheer them on. Their group unity and skill won them the NCC's American and International Team Match titles.

To pull off such a feat, the University of Michigan brought the largest team to the NCC, 110 dancers in all, finding a way to carpool all of them in 26 cars from Michigan to Ohio and filling 11 hotel rooms—a huge group to organize but a fun group to be a part of.

That's because U of M Ballroom Dance Club is actively involved in one of the most important principles of ballroom dance:

building a social community. What that means is the group is about more than just ballroom dancing, it's about building true friendships. When members meet it's not always about ballroom. Members often help each other out in school and just about everything else.

Beyond that, it's also about reaching out to the campus and the community. The U of M group also teaches a class of 20 to 30 students twice a week for an hour and a half for high school credit at Ann Arbor Community High School. As an activity that both college students and high school students can enjoy, the group was required by the school district to come up with a curriculum and a way to assess it. These teachers came up with projects as their final exam—for example students had to come up with a formation dance out of the basics they learned in class.

Some of these high school students even go on to compete at the Michigan Ballroom Dance Competition that the group organizes.

At its core, the club wants to spread the joy of ballroom dance because of the way it has impacted each and every one of their members, and on another level, it's not just about social dancing, but providing opportunities to compete as well—giving everyone the chance to experience ballroom on more than just the social level.

To this end, their coaches Steven and Susan McFerran, who have been coaching the group for the past 10 years, are a critical part of their group. The club is structured into two levels, one that people have to try out for, being for more competitive dancers, and the other

for beginners. For more advanced dancers, Steven and Susan have lessons twice a week with six or seven couples. For the beginners, they coach them once a week as well—a lot of commitment to the group.

The group spends a lot of time recruiting, taking the time to grow the club. Daniel Lian is one of those dancers that began dancing as a freshman, tagging along with a roommate when he expressed interest in checking out the group after seeing some dancers during welcome week at U of M. He hasn't looked back since.

"It's a cool experience to have and go through—especially as college students. Now is the time to try new and exciting things," said Lian. ■

PHOTO OF GROUP AT THE NCC, COURTESY OF AKSEL DAVIS



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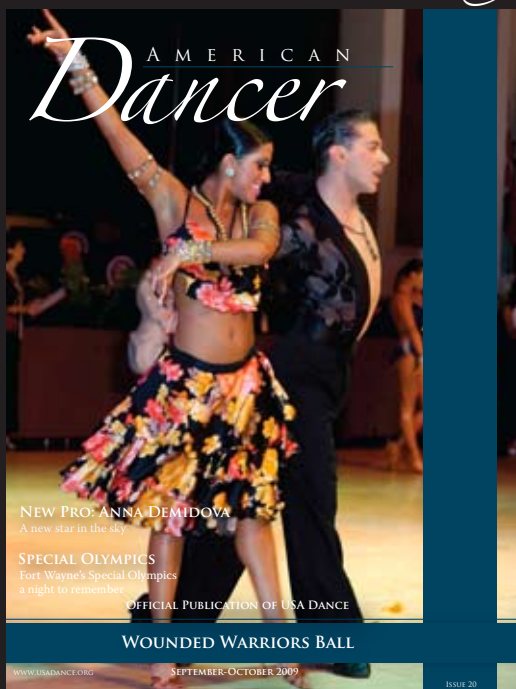
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