

DANCER



USA DANCE IN THE ROSE PARADE

USA Dance LA Chapter members joined with iconic American clock company for a 50s themed appearance in the 2012 Rose Parade.

CARRIE ANN INABA

Carrie Ann Inaba joins USA Dance as their new National Celebrity Ambassador

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA DANCE

2012 NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Royal Collection

Swiss made 2892A2 automatic movement, 21 jewels for gent

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Two-tone stainless steel case and bracelet

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ON THE COVER

10 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

USA Dance members from the Los Angeles County chapter joined up with Kit Kat Clock company to display some 50s style swing dancing during the 2012 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

18 NEW CELEBRITY AMBASSADOR

Carrie Ann Inaba will be returning to the 2012 National DanceSport Championships to present this year's *Star Quality Awards*, but she has also agreed to become the new USA Dance Celebrity Ambassador.

21 2012 NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BALTIMORE

Champions will be crowned! Learn about DanceSport and what to expect at this year's National Championships.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE ALTMAN

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USA DANCE
NATIONALS
Crowning Champions

The center portion of the magazine can be removed and used as a quick-guide for the 2012 USA Dance National DanceSport Championships

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President's REPORT



The value of Olympism for DanceSport

I am frequently asked by our members what benefit there is to them of affiliation with the Olympic movement, given that DanceSport is not yet in the Olympic Games and may never be in the Olympic Games. Here is my response:

The Olympic movement is much more than just the Summer and Winter Games that millions of people around the world watch on TV every four years. It is a world-wide movement to elevate and celebrate sport and the manner in which it is played. It seeks to allow athletes across all sports to be able to perform at their best on a level playing field under a set of rules for each sport that are made to be as fair as possible for all athletes.

This is not easy to do, and controversies arise regularly, because countries, sport associations, athletes and the rules under which they compete are not perfect. But the goal is always to adhere to the principle of fair play for all.

The Olympics also allow athletes to compete on the biggest stage of all, bringing recognition for their efforts and pride to each participating nation and its citizens. But how has this made DanceSport better?

Here's how:

Since the World DanceSport Federation was accepted in the 1990's by the International Olympic Committee as the World Governing Body for

DanceSport, many changes for the better have occurred. The WDSF, working in conjunction with its 90 member federations, has made anti-doping regulations and random athlete drug testing a requirement for all major competitions, adhering to world-wide anti-doping standards as required by the IOC. This assures competitors that the sport is clean of performance enhancing drugs and that no athlete gets an edge via use of such substances.

The IOC and national Olympic committees mandate that the bylaws of individual National Governing Bodies afford protections and a hearing process for all athletes. Athletes are voting members in the affairs of their NGB and must have at least 20% representation on committees and councils that deal with athlete issues. In the United States, we made a full-scale revision to the bylaws of our organization in order to comply with the federal Amateur Sports Act and all Olympic requirements before the USOC granted recognition to USA Dance as the NGB for DanceSport.

Strides have been made to develop world-wide costume requirements and restrictions, so that competitor costumes are within accepted standards of safety and good taste, and costumes and make-up for young children remain appropriate to their age.

Adjudication standards have also risen in compliance with IOC requirements, with all judges affiliated with the WDSF having to keep their credentials current by attending regular congresses where they are brought up to date on any recent changes to the internationally-accepted adjudication system. Judges must also now adhere to a more stringent code of ethics than in the past.

And the format of world competitions has also changed. In WDSF world championships, all finalists must now dance several solo dances as well as the group rounds for which DanceSport is

well known. This is beneficial not only for judges who get to concentrate on each couple throughout an entire dance, but also for spectators who get to better see and understand the differences in style and technique which different couples may exhibit.

Also being tested at this time are additional changes to the judging system, where couples are required to perform certain figures in each dance, so that judges may more easily evaluate their level of execution in performing the same figures. As this system is perfected, there is every likelihood that it will become a standard element of judging DanceSport competitions around the world.

I also often hear that competitive ballroom dancing is an artistic endeavor, not a sport, and should no more be in the Olympics than other artistic endeavors. But the fact remains that artistic sports such as gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, diving, synchronized swimming and figure skating have been in the Olympic Games for years and have a devoted following of fans who bring in considerable revenue at the box office and many millions of TV viewers. If these artistic sports are able to participate within the athletic family, why not DanceSport, where physical acumen and endurance as well as artistry and grace are clearly evident on the competitive dance floor?

USA Dance has been a member of the United States Olympic Committee since the late 1990's, recognized by the USOC as the National Governing Body for DanceSport. We presently serve on the Multi Sport Organization Council of the USOC, and I have received the honor of recently being named chair of the MSOC's committee tasked with increasing the collaboration between the MSOC and other elements within the Olympic and Paralympic family. This will mean forging closer relationships for USA Dance with Olympians, Paralympians and other National Governing Bodies.

We will soon be asking interested chapters to help celebrate Olympic Day this coming June, by honoring athletes and the role that healthy physical activity plays in all our lives.

Even if DanceSport never succeeds in becoming an Olympic program sport, it is already participating in other Games that form part of the Olympic family of competitions, including the Asian Games and the World Games. USA Dance has sent athletes every four years to the World Games, where DanceSport is among the most popular of sports and is only one of a few to be filmed for a world-wide audience.

As I have reported earlier, the next step toward becoming an Olympic program sport is for DanceSport to be included in the Pan American Games. Strides continue to be made as more Latin American countries establish national DanceSport federations that in turn win acceptance by the WDSF and each country's national Olympic committee. The future is bright for this next step on the Olympic ladder.

So, even if the inclusion of DanceSport in the Olympic Games is far in the future, every year DanceSport becomes a better adjudicated, more fair and understandable competitive endeavor as a result of its affiliation with the Olympic movement, and this in turn brings increased recognition and growing respect for our beautiful artistic sport.

Lydia T. Scardina
National President, USA Dance



AMERICAN Dancer

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

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

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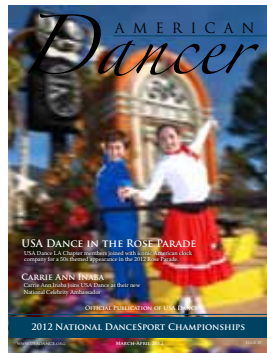
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COVER PHOTO

AARON ALTMAN AND RASHELL KHALFIN DANCING ATOP THE KIT-CAT FLOAT IN THE 2012 ROSE PARADE IN PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

PHOTO BY JIM WOODS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE GREAT ALASKA DANCE CRUISE SPONSORED BY USA DANCE JULY 15-22, 2012

USA Dance dance members and friends are heading to Alaska for the Third USA Dance National Dance Cruise, July 15-22, 2012, aboard Princess Cruises' magnificent Star Princess. Check out more information on pages 14 and 15.

'FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE' POLICY DEFINES, INSPIRES LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR USA DANCE AS NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY FOR DANCESPORT

Release Date: 23 January 2012

USA Dance, Inc., as the United States National Governing Body of DanceSport, in accordance with the Amateur Sports Act and the rules and regulations of the United States Olympic Committee, believes that all athletes should have the opportunity to participate in DanceSport competitions of their choosing, and, contrary to any misinformation, USA Dance has never in the past, nor has any intention in the future, of limiting or restricting its member athletes from participating in any DanceSport competition held in the United States, North America or any other country abroad.

Furthermore, USA Dance extends this same "freedom to participate" policy to any and all persons employed or volunteering to work as a DanceSport official. This includes, but is not limited to, all emcees, music directors, scrutineers, invigilators and certified adjudicators in the dance industry.

And in accordance with the laws of the United States, USA Dance, adhering to its mission and leadership role in the industry, will not restrict the flow-of-trade nor the right-to-work of any individual within or in conjunction with any dance organization, dance event or related activity, of his or her choosing.

USA Dance Governing Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

USA DANCE RESPONSE TO NDCA CANCELATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Release Date: 23 January 2012

TO ALL MEMBERS OF USA DANCE:

The Executive Committee of USA Dance is disappointed that the leadership of the National Dance Council of America has not accepted our organization's continued offers of goodwill and accord and, as of Jan. 23, 2012, has officially canceled our organization's affiliated membership in the NDCA and no longer considers USA Dance to be its "Official Amateur Ballroom Dancers Association" in the U.S.

Although our organization has never been governed by the NDCA or its policies, our affiliated membership in the NDCA allowed USA Dance an opportunity to represent our members at its meetings with an active voice and a vote. Our presence was particularly important when decisions were made by the NDCA concerning rules and policies that directly affected amateur athlete participation at NDCA-sanctioned DanceSport events.

Our membership was part of our effort to foster strong working relationships within the industry, to offer a positive perspective for change and growth, and to achieve a greater vision of doing what's best for dancers in America.

In the Jan. 23 letter, the NDCA stated that USA Dance activities were "in conflict with the activities of the NDCA," citing "facilitating registration of professional dance competitors and officials, and conducting events in the United States that conflict with NDCA-sanctioned events."

The Executive Committee of USA Dance believes this action by the NDCA against USA Dance has unnecessarily divided the American dance community, and that the NDCA Board of Governors took this action without following the requirements that are laid out in its own constitution and bylaws for the removal of a member body.

The statement by the NDCA that it was terminating the membership of USA Dance because USA Dance had allowed professional competitors and officials to become members of USA Dance also came as a surprise. Up until the end of 2010 a number of the NDCA Board of Governors, including several of their top executives were themselves members of USA Dance, and it is difficult to understand why their being members of USA Dance was not a problem for them prior to 2011, but all of a sudden became an issue over which USA Dance should have its membership suspended and then terminated only a year later. It should be noted that USA Dance has allowed professional competitors and officials to join and freely participate in the activities of USA Dance, a democratic organization, for many years, and the NDCA has never raised this as an issue of contention prior to stating this as a reason for terminating the membership of USA Dance on January 23, 2012.

The statement by the NDCA that USA Dance was conducting events in the U.S. that conflict with NDCA-sanctioned events is also surprising, in that the one event which the NDCA brought to the attention of USA Dance (namely the Adjudicators' Congress to be held at the conclusion of the Ohio Star Ball), was in fact moved by USA Dance to another date and place where there would be no conflict with an NDCA-sanctioned event.

The Executive Committee of USA Dance believes that the reason the NDCA took action to terminate the affiliated membership of USA Dance, a long-standing ally, rests not so much with any supposed wrongdoing on the part of USA Dance but rather with the discord between executives of the NDCA and the World DanceSport Federation, primarily over business and political matters. The World DanceSport Federation (WDSF, formerly IDSF) currently represents 90 countries globally as the official member organization of the International Olympic Committee. USA Dance is the WDSF member organization for the U.S. as well as the National Governing Body for DanceSport recognized by the United States Olympic Committee. On the other hand, the NDCA affiliates with a competing world dancesport organization, the World Dance Council (WDC), a body representing fewer countries and having no Olympic affiliation.

So, what does this mean to our members? At this time we are not aware of any future impact on our chapters or DanceSport athletes resulting from the termination of USA Dance from the NDCA, and the Executive Committee of USA Dance hopes that at some future date the NDCA will re-think its actions and will seek to re-establish a positive relationship with USA Dance.

In that spirit, USA Dance will continue to serve the needs of its 20,000 plus members, social dancers, athletes and officials, and will continue to fulfill its role as the National Governing Body for DanceSport in the U.S.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please write to central-office@usadance.org and your mail will be forwarded to the appropriate Executive Committee member for a response.

Lydia T. Scardina, National President
USA Dance, Inc.

For more information visit
www.usadance.org or scan this code.



USA DANCE MEMBERS HERBERT MCGURK, LISA SANDOVAL, JERRY HERNANDEZ, LAURA HARVELL, ALEXANDRA CALUEN, PHILIP CALUEN, GAIDA PAULOVSKA, AND AYDIN AKSOY ALL DANCED ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE NEXT TO THE KIT-CAT FLOAT WHILE AARON ALTMAN, RASHELL KHALFIN PERFORMED ON THE FLOAT.



USA DANCE MEMBERS *Perform* IN TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

BY BREANNA OLAVESON

The Los Angeles County USA Dance Chapter #4031 rocked around the clock on January 2 as part of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. They, along with skateboarders and Kit-Cat Clock owners, paid tribute to the eight decades the California Clock Company has been an American and Iconic company.

The float's theme, "Timeless Fun for Everyone," celebrated the company's history of creating products that Americans have enjoyed for generations.

Junior DanceSport couple Aaron Altman and Rashell Khalfin, along with their fellow members of the USA Dance chapter, performed swing on the float and in the streets for an audience of 3 million along the route and more than 53 million who watched live and on television.

The participation of USA Dance, and specifically Aaron and Rashell, was covered by dozens of local and national broadcasting networks.



“USA Dance and our local Los Angeles County Chapter, representing all ballroom and Latin dancers across America, are excited to be part of the Kit-Cat Clock float in the 2012 Tournament of Roses Parade. What better way to “swing in the new year” than “Dancing for America” in alliance with the California Clock Company, whose magnificent Kit-Cat float is a fun celebration and tribute to all that is American-made.”
Angela Prince, PR Director for USA Dance

Junior DanceSport athletes Aaron Altman and Rashell Khalfin rocked around the clock—even if it wasn’t actually a working clock—as part of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena Jan. 2. The junior couple and other members of the Los Angeles County Chapter #4031 helped California Clock Company celebrate 80 years in business. It is estimated that coverage of Aaron and Rashell’s interviews along with USA Dance’s Rose Parade involvement will eventually reach an audience of nearly 300 million viewers worldwide. Aaron and Rashell have been dancing together for seven years and won a junior competition on Dancing With the Stars in 2008.

The California Clock Company’s float in the Tournament of Roses Parade was decorated with props based on the theme “Timeless Fun for Everyone.” A 24-foot black and white Kit-Cat Clock, a chocolate malt from a ‘40s soda fountain and a jukebox from the ‘50s adorned the float while several members of the Los Angeles chapter of USA Dance swing along the parade route.

“We are proud to be a part of American nostalgia, and we thought having dancers on the float would be a fun way to entertain spectators and show the ‘50s,” said Woody Young, CEO of the California Clock Company.

Interview with USA Dance Los Angeles County Chapter President Herbert McGurk

Why did your chapter decide to get involved in the Rose Parade, or how did you get involved in the first place? I received a call from Kit-Cat Clock’s David Milburn the day after our Halloween Dance Party. He left a message on my voicemail identifying himself as a representative from the American Clock Company maker of the Kit Cat Clock. They were going to have a float in the Rose Parade and he thought USA Dance and their members would be a great fit for their overall theme of their float. I called the same day and told him we would be very interested in participating in the Rose Parade and everything took off from that point.

How much time was spent by USA Dance members preparing for and participating in the parade and what were their roles/responsibilities? Most of the time was spent with David Milburn, his PR company, The Bohle Company, USA Dance’s PR Superstar Angela Prince, our PR director Livia Squires, preparing for the different stages of the Rose Parade event; the wet decorating, test driving the float, media events and the parade itself. The star USA Dance members were Aaron Altman and Rashell Khalfin, DanceSport Junior Athletes, Latin and Standard Champions, winners on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars” Junior Competition and their mothers who made sure they were ready for dancing on the float at 4 am for the many TV networks or getting them to personal interviews by 5 am.

How do you feel this experience has helped your chapter and USA Dance? It provided a window of opportunity for USA Dance and made us proud to be ambassadors of DanceSport and ballroom dancing in America.

Do you have any further plans or opportunities for the chapter that may have been sparked by the Rose Parade participation? There were three Southern California USA Dance chapters that participated in the Rose Parade; Los Angeles County, Antelope Valley and Orange County. I believe USA Dance will always have opportunities when chapters support each other and grow together. ■





LONG AWAITED USA DANCE WEBSITE RENOVATION

With an outreach of more than 225,000 dancers and friends, USA Dance stands as a crucial leader in the ballroom dance industry. As such, USA Dance clearly understands the need as a growing provider to supply a website for their users that meets the ideals that they are striving for; "to improve the quality and the quantity of ballroom dancing in the United States." Recognizing that their previous website wasn't catering to users as effectively as it could, USA Dance began a complete remodel.

A huge improvement from the old, the new website provides users with more information, more news, and substantially better usability, proving to be a great resource for anything ballroom dance. Unlike the old website, the attractive new format and design represents USA Dance as it ought to be represented; upbeat, up to date, and advancing. Anyone who

became familiar with the old USA Dance site will agree that the new changes are a dramatic upgrade.

A HUGE IMPROVEMENT FROM THE OLD, THE NEW WEBSITE PROVIDES USERS WITH MORE INFORMATION, MORE NEWS, AND SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER USABILITY, PROVING TO BE A GREAT RESOURCE FOR ANYTHING BALLROOM DANCE.

Due to an increase in the interactive dynamic of the website, it has and will continue to attract users who are not only looking for information but also for news, updates in the latest and greatest and even entertainment. The website now provides users with video coverage of dance events as well as, featured events,

monthly polls, upcoming events, photos, breaking news and links to all of their social media and YouTube channel.

The site has dramatically increased in "stickiness" as users hang around a little longer when they visit. Having become successfully all-encompassing, users who visit the site can rest assured that they will not miss a beat on what is going on in the ballroom dance world. ■ BY ARIANNA MEZS

Visit www.usadance.org for an online experience long awaited and greatly welcomed.

Cruising and Dancing with the Ballroom, Latin, and Swing Dance Center

Please join Vivian Beiswenger and dancers from around the country on one of our **luxury cruises** on the most famous ocean liners in the world and the number one river cruise line. We have chosen **Cunard Cruise Line** for our ocean cruises because, in our experience, it offers the best amenities for ballroom dancers: real ballrooms with the largest dance floors at sea, high quality dance teachers, male dance hosts on every cruise, and real ballroom, Latin, and swing dance bands and DJ's. We chose **Viking River Cruises** because of the Viking way of first class luxury river cruising.

Our travel club rarely goes to the same place twice. Rather than visit the Caribbean over and over again, our goal is to see the world by dancing from location to location in luxury.

Here are our best choices for 2012/2013

August 28, 2012 (including Labor Day Weekend): MEDITERRANEAN MEMORIES 9-night London to Rome on CUNARD'S Queen Elizabeth, starting in Southampton with stops in Seville, Palma, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Florence/Pisa, and Civitavecchia.

April 10, 2013 PARIS AND THE HEART OF NORMANDY (April in Paris): 8-day round-trip Paris, on Viking River Cruise's "Pride" combines the magic of Paris and the beauty of France's Normandy countryside with stops in Giverny, Vernon, Rouen, Normandy Beaches, Les Andelys, and Conflans.

October 23, 2013 GRAND EUROPEAN TOUR: 15 magical days along the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers from Amsterdam to Budapest on Viking River Cruises "Odin" including Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and Hungary. *This is Viking's most popular itinerary and will sell out soon. Book today!*

In addition to these three cruises, we have arranged for group rates for the following trips. These are not *official* escorted dance cruises, but all the Cunard cruises will have all the great dance amenities normally provided by Cunard.

July 1, 2012 FOURTH OF JULY GETAWAY: 5-night round-trip New York on Cunard's Queen Mary 2, with stops in Halifax and Boston (overnight for the 4th of July).

July 27, 2012 BRITISH ISLES: (Coinciding with the 2012 Olympics) 11-night round-trip Southampton on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth includes London, Edinburgh, Inverness, Kirkwall, Glasgow, Liverpool, Dublin, Cork, and the Channel Islands.

November 4, 2012 MEDITERRANEAN GEMS: 16-night round-trip Southampton on Cunard's Queen Mary 2 includes London, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Rome, Naples, Athens, Valencia, Malaga/Granada.

November 29, 2012 MEDITERRANEAN MOMENTS: 10-night Rome to London on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth, starting in Southampton with stops in Florence/Pisa, Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Palma, and Seville.

December 22, 2012 CHRISTMAS & NYE CARIBBEAN FIESTA: 12-night round-trip NY on Cunard's Queen Mary 2 includes St. Thomas, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, & St. Kitts.

March 12, 2013 PANAMA CANAL DISCOVERY: 18-night LA to NY on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth through the Panama Canal with stops in Puerto Vallarta, San Juan Del Sur (Nicaragua), Puntarenas (Costa Rica), Curacao, Grand Cayman, and Fort Lauderdale.

January-April, 2013 WORLD AND EXOTIC CRUISES: on one of Cunard's Queens, including 120-day round-trip NY (or 106-day round-trip London), 12-day Sidney to Sidney, 20-day Hong Kong to Dubai (including Singapore and India), and 36-day Pearls of the Pacific. *Call for more options.*

August 18, 2013 ROOF OF THE WORLD TOUR: 16-day Beijing to Shanghai with Viking River Cruises with stops in Xian, Lhasa, Shibaozhai, three River Gorges & Dam, Lesser Three Gorges, Jingzhou, and Wuhan; optional extension to Hong Kong and Guilin. See Nov./Dec. *Dance Spotlight* report on last year's trip: <http://dancingattheymca.com/newsletters.asp>.

While we have great group rates, regional promotions and past passenger discounts, as well as occasional flash sales, may get you an even better deal. *When calling, supply all passengers names, World Club ID (if you have one), and your city of departure, as well as your preferred cabin type: inside, outside, balcony, or suite. Don't forget contact info. We'll help you find a cabin mate. We currently have several men and women looking for a cabin mate on one or more of these cruises.*

Call 215-855-2711 or 215-530-3482 or email info@blsdc.com. Visit our website at www.DancingAtTheYMCA.com



The Great Alaska DANCE CRUISE

BY
MARK LEBARON

This summer's destination for dancers is aboard the Star Princess bound for Alaska. Have you ever wanted to relax on a cruise for a week? How about improve your ballroom skills? Here is the perfect opportunity to do both at the same time! See Facebook page for more details.

For seven days beginning July 15, dancers of all ages and skill levels will be aboard the cruise ship Star Princess, which departs from Seattle, Washington, and makes its journey to Skagway, Alaska, and back. USA Dance and Princess Cruises are sponsoring the third USA Dance National Dance Cruise, which will be a cruise to remember.

Come witness for yourself Alaska's sweeping mountain vistas, breathtaking glaciers and magnificent marine animal life. Alaska's natural beauty is spectacular and you will have plenty of opportunities to experience the local culture and beauty as you participate on the excursions to different ports along the way.

Dancing will be a daily activity, with many workshops taught by some of the nation's top dance instructors. Dance styles include: Cha Cha, QuickStep, Tango, Bolero, Fox-Trot, Waltz, Rumba, Hustle and more. Every night will become a dance night, perfect for practicing those new

steps you just learned, or polishing ones you already know. If your dance partner can't make it, don't worry too much, because there will be plenty of people to meet aboard the Star Princess.

Aboard the ship will be clubs, casinos, shops, fitness centers and restaurants to enjoy, especially for those who need a little rest and relaxation. Also aboard the ship will be rangers who will act as tour guides and answer questions about the beautiful landscapes and unique Alaskan culture.

"Every night will become a dance night, perfect for practicing those new steps you just learned, or polishing ones you already know."

To book this cruise, visit www.dancecruise-usadance.com, or call 1-(866) 391-2680, and don't forget to take a camera, because this cruise will full of moments you won't want to forget! ■



USA DANCE
DANCING for AMERICA.

NATIONAL DANCE CRUISE TO ALASKA

JULY 15-22, 2012



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USA Dance, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the national governing body for Dance Sport in the United States and representative organization for social dancers across America. www.usadance.org Cruise organizer is USA Dance Social VP Jean Krupa, social-vp@usadance.org

*Based on double occupancy. Cruise taxes & insurance not included.

2011 USA Dance Cruise on the Westerdam

BY JEAN KRUPA

Saturday December 3rd had everyone arriving from all over the country and gathering in the lobby of the Hilton awaiting the buses that soon take them to the Gold Coast Ballroom, setting the pace for the week to come on board Holland America's Westerdam.

Getting to know people was half the fun. The dance hosts were very gracious, good leaders, good dance skills and pleasant personalities. The ladies in the dance host program were all delightful and friendly. The total environment this year was happier and friendlier probably due to the smaller size group. The cruise limited to a smaller number was just right. We had two wonderful Cocktail parties that were a great way to meet and on the final night say good bye to all our new friends. Visiting the ports Grand Turks, St. Maarten and San Juan with perfect weather conditions was the cherry on top.

The instructors were Dan and Silke Calloway leading the International style workshops, Nathan Simler and his sister Mary Evans from Washington State led the American style workshops and our own Ken Richards, Dancesport VP, led what I like to call the fun dances - West Coast swing, hustle, salsa and bolero, in addition he presented a workshop in Lead and Follow that he originally presented at the Social Dance workshops in Baltimore at the National Championships.

The Westerdam was very clean with a friendly helpful staff, lots of great food with lots of vegetarian options in Lido. ■



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEAN KRUPA

Volunteering for your

Health & Happiness

We've all heard it said that
"money can't buy happiness".

So that poses the question:

"where do you find happiness, and how can you get happy?"

BY JEAN KRUPA, SOCIAL VP

It shouldn't surprise you to learn that among the happiest people are those that volunteer in some fashion. Volunteering means you spend time with others, and it also takes your mind off your own worries. It also increases your self-worth and pride in your community.

Studies have shown that altruism has an effect on the brain that is similar to that of sugar and cocaine. It creates feelings of well-being, along with an addictive feedback loop that encourages people to keep doing it. Volunteers are also known to be healthier, tend to weigh less and even less likely to suffer a heart attack. So, why not commit to become a volunteer for a set period of time, volunteer to help

at the check-in desk, clean up after a dance or bring a plate of snacks to share at your chapter dance, whether it's once a week, bi-monthly or just once a month.

Higher levels of satisfaction are found among people that spend time with friends. Every friend you make increases your chances of being happy by 9%. You may ask, "where can I find new friends?" Join a club dedicated to arts, exercise and hobbies. Arts, exercise and hobby can all be found in the dictionary to describe ballroom dancing. How lucky are we to be involved in an activity that has so much to offer, and is good for you too. ■

USA DANCE

NATIONALS

Crowning Champions



USA DANCE NATIONAL
DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS
BALTIMORE, MD
MARCH 30 - APRIL 1, 2012



MULTI-SPORT
ORGANIZATION

America's DanceSport Champions

WWW.USADANCENATIONALS.ORG

USA DANCE NATIONALS

Crowning Champions

Every year, the best dancers from across the nation choreograph, rehearse, compete and rehearse some more in preparation for the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships. This year, the competition celebrates 32 years and will be held March 30, 31 and April 1 at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore.

“It’s an amazing event with lots of fun and really great dancing,” says Daphna Locker, chair of the Nationals organizing committee. “Everyone gets so excited for the national championship. All of the dancers come in such a great mood ready to dance their best. You always see such great dancing, and it’s a joy to experience.”

In the past, anyone who participated in one of 10 national qualifying events could compete at Nationals. This year, that changed—only those who place in the top 75 percent at qualifying competitions are invited to compete in Baltimore. This means approximately 1000 of America’s top amateur DanceSport athletes will be vying for national titles. Approximately 20 DanceSport couple finalists will be selected to compete at 11 World Championships held throughout the year in countries around the globe.

The USA Dance 2012 Nationals will include all four major ballroom dance styles – International Standard, International Latin, American Smooth and American Rhythm – ranging from Bronze, Silver and Gold to Novice, Pre-Championship and Championship levels. Competitors are expected to represent nearly every state in the nation, ranging from Pre-Teen (as young as age 7) and Youth (to age 18) to Adult (age 19+) and Seniors (35 to 70+).

“It’s the culminating event where the best of the best come,” says Shawn Fisher, Editor-in-Chief of “American Dancer.” “Everyone wants to go see how they measure up to everyone else in the country. Some will qualify for world championships, some will be able to say they’re national champions. I think that’s why a lot of people go to Nationals.”

Special attraction at the USA Dance Nationals will be the participation of Carrie Ann Inaba, celebrity judge on ABC-TV’s top-rated show “Dancing With The Stars,” who joins USA Dance not only as its Official National Celebrity Ambassador beginning in 2012, but also as Honorary Judge at the USA Dance Nationals for the prestigious 3rd annual USA Dance Star Quality Awards, on Friday and Saturday evenings.

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 filming throughout the weekend.

In addition, for the first time at the USA Dance Nationals, there will be a special performance show, featuring Aubree Marchione and Nick Scott. They are the Atlantic Coast and Heart of America Dance Champions and are the first couple to ever represent the United States of America in the World Paralympics Wheelchair DanceSport Championship.

BY BREANNA OLAVESON

NATIONAL PHOTOS
BY CARSON ZULLINGER

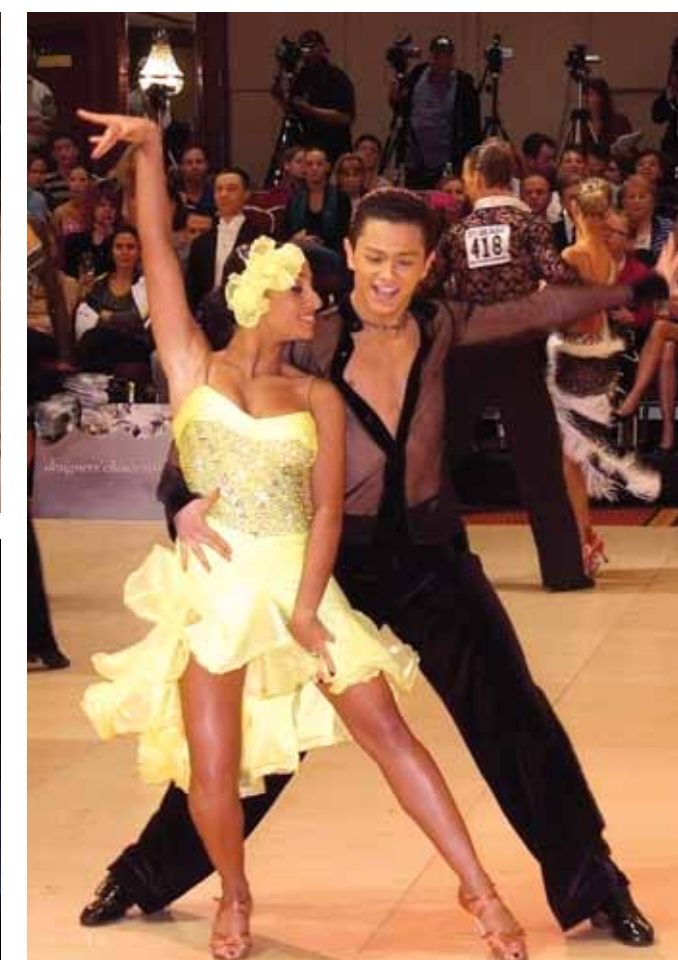
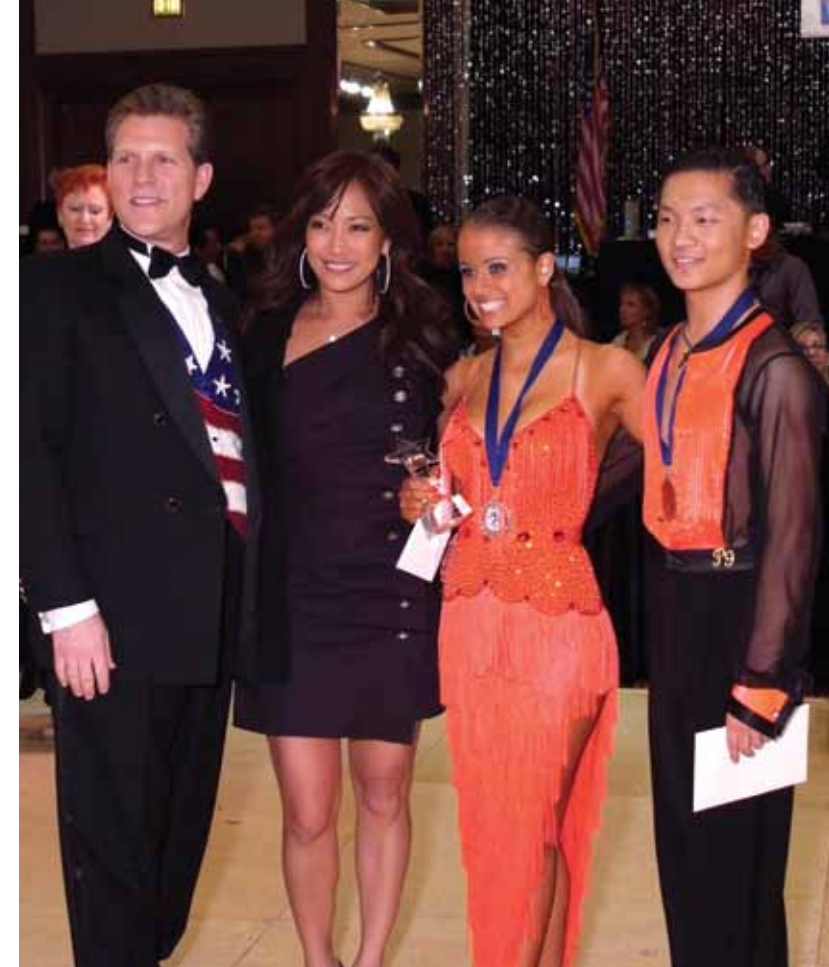
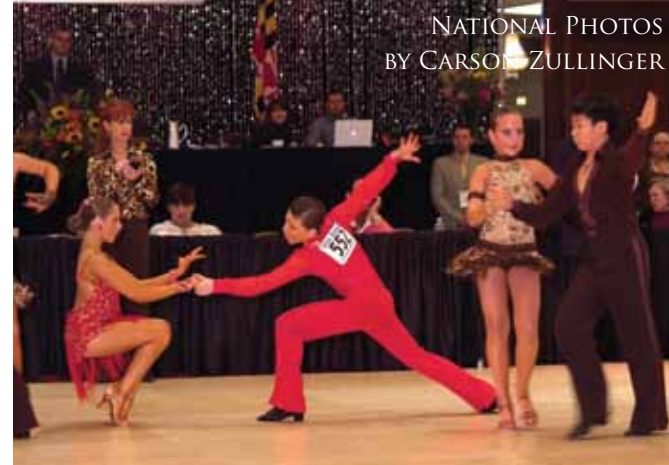


PHOTO BY
AUBREE MARCHIONE



PHOTO BY CARSON ZULLINGER

For the Social Dancer

We hope you'll join us for this year's Social Dance program at our National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore, March 30 through April 1.

Besides watching the variety of competitors you'll have the opportunity to take part in some exclusive workshops for the social dancer, sightsee the inner Harbor and meet social dances from across the US, mingle with celebrities at the cocktail parties and have preferred reserved seats in the Main Ballroom for the competition.

And don't forget, if you want to get up and do a little dancing yourself to stretch your legs, we'll have evening dances as well.

The Social Dance package includes:

- Reserved seating for evenings in Main Ballroom
- Open pass for daily admission in Main Ballroom
- Sightseeing Luncheon Inner Harbor Cruise aboard Spirit of Baltimore
- Friday and Saturday evening Cocktail Receptions
- Social Dance workshops Friday and Saturday by Walter & Judy Schultz
- Friday and Saturday Evening Social Dances
- Attendance at the General Membership meeting Sunday morning.

SOCIAL DANCE VICE PRESIDENT
JEAN KRUPA

Friday Workshops

3:00 - 4:00 PM: Social Dance Workshop

Taught by Walter & Judy Schultz

6:00 PM: Social Welcome Cocktail Reception

8:00 - 10:00 PM: Social Dancing

Saturday Workshops

10:00 - 11:00 AM: Social Dance Workshop

11:00 - 12:00 PM - "Wheelchair Dancing"

Taught by Aubree Marchione & Nick Scott

11:30- 1:30 PM: Inner Harbor Cruise, luncheon, sightseeing and dancing aboard the Spirit of Baltimore.

1:00 - 2:00 PM - "Creating powerful movement"

Taught by Borbala Bunnett

3:00 - 4:00 PM: Social Dance Workshop

5:30 - 6:30 PM: Welcome Cocktail Reception

8:00 -10:00 PM: Social Dancing

Sunday Meetings

8:30 AM - "USA Dance General

Membership Meeting" Lydia Scardina,

President USA Dance. Hear about upcoming programs, where USA Dance is headed and let the EC know how you feel about the various issues before us.

Sunday Workshops

11:00 - 12:00 PM - "Characterization & Styling in Smooth"

Taught by Borbala Bunnett

Benefit of Volunteering at Nationals

An event like the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships is a major undertaking, which requires volunteers to work year-round to make this premier event a success.

Anyone with a few hours during the weekend of the competition are welcome to volunteer. All volunteers are expected to follow through with their commitments, follow the guidelines of their positions, be good representatives, and provide a friendly and festive atmosphere.

In addition to the happy feeling that comes from serving others, there are some other...

great benefits for anyone who is willing to volunteer.

- Snacks will be provided throughout the day
- Free tickets will be available for volunteers based on the number of hours volunteered
- A volunteers' evaluation will be available to help make next year's event even better

There is a wide range of volunteer opportunities available throughout the weekend from setup and take-down help to overnight security.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the event's volunteer coordinator at volunteer@usadancenationals.org

2012 WDSF Adjudicators Congress & Chairmans Congress

Thursday - March 29, 2012

Preceding USA Dance National
DanceSport Championships
At the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel
202 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Registration Deadline March 20th, 2012

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM Registration

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM WDSF Chairman

Congress - Marco Sietas

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM Coffee Break

11:15 AM - 1:00 PM Questions and exam

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Lunch break

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM Registration

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM WDSF Adjudicators

Congress - Latin - Gianni Chiapperini

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM WDSF Adjudicators

Congress - Standard - Marco Sietas

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM WDSF Code of

Conduct - Marco Sietas

Per WDSF requirements, all WDSF Adjudicators must attend a Congress every two years in order to maintain their WDSF Adjudicators License.

To become a WDSF Adjudicator, you must attend two Congresses and submit your application to USA Dance. If you attended your first Congress in 2010, this is your opportunity to fulfill this requirement.



PHOTO BY IVOR LEE
DANIEL SHAPIRO & KATYA KOVALYOVA

For more information
about Nationals visit:
www.usadancenationals.com



Introducing DanceSport 101

For many, dance competitions may trigger memories of that epic Electric Slide contest you rocked at your high school prom. For others it may be the season premier of ABCs Dancing With the Stars. Whether you've ever been decked out in rhinestones, performed in front of an audience, or even remember the Electric Slide, you know that dancing connects people and excites emotion. That is where DanceSport comes in. All ages, all skill levels get to take the stage and seize the opportunity to just dance. This article is dedicated to answering your questions and leading the way to rhinestones, bright lights, and the Electric Slide—I mean, the Jive!

I am not really sure what “DanceSport” means.

Can you explain?

Technically, “DanceSport” is the term used for competitive ballroom dancing. Like other sports, DanceSport athletes are judged based on performance and execution. As Daphna Locker, USA Dance Chair of the 2012 Nationals explained, dancers compete as couples and must work together to progress.

She went on to say that: “DanceSport is the perfect sport—it challenges a person’s physical and mental ability, requires talent but talent alone is not enough—one has to work hard at the sport to gain proficiency, has great music, and is a social activity where one has to interact with another person to achieve one’s goals. What more can a person ask for?”

“DanceSport comes in all ages, all skill levels get to take the stage and seize the opportunity to just dance.”

What is the difference between “Syllabus” and “Open” events?

Syllabus

Each dance has a list of recognized steps associated with it. This list is known as the “Syllabus,” and it lists the steps you can dance at that level. Each dance is broken into three Syllabus levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The steps of each level are grouped together by difficulty. So the bronze steps are pretty basic. The silver level encompasses all of the bronze steps plus a few, which are slightly more advanced. And, you guessed it, the gold level incorporates all of the bronze and silver steps, with the addition of even more complex steps. When competing in the Syllabus level events, you are only allowed to dance steps/figures at the level, or the level below which you are dancing. For example, let’s say you are competing in a Silver level event, you may only dance Silver and Bronze figures. To see a full syllabus, visit www.usadance.org and download the full USA Dance Rulebook. Additionally, some competitions have events for beginners or newcomers who have never competed before, team matches, or Jack and Jill (leading/following) events. These are perfect for dancers who want to experience competition in a more relaxed and friendly environment.

Open

Once dancers have progressed beyond the Syllabus levels, they may begin competing in Open events. These have no syllabus step restrictions and allow “open” choreography. Like syllabus, open events have a progression: Novice, then Pre-Championship, and finally, Championship. ■

USA DANCE 2012 National DanceSport Championships

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

MATINEE SESSION 1

Pre-Teen I/Pre-Teen II: Bronze-Gold Smooth
Pre-Teen I/Pre-Teen II: Bronze-Gold Rhythm
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Bronze-Novice Smooth
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Bronze-Novice Rhythm
Adult/Senior I: Bronze-Novice Rhythm
Adult/Senior I: Bronze-Novice Latin
Senior II/Senior III: Bronze-Novice Standard
Senior II/Senior III: Bronze-Novice Smooth
Adult: 9-Dance Championship
Adult: Championship Latin
Senior I: Championship Standard
Senior II: Championship Rhythm
Senior III: Championship Standard

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION 2

Junior II: 10-Dance Championship (Standard/Latin)
Youth: 10-Dance Championship (Standard/Latin)
Adult: 9-Dance Championship (Smooth/Rhythm)
Adult: Championship Latin
Senior I: Championship Standard

FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTED SHOW

Aubree Marchione & Nick Scott – America's #1 Wheelchair Dance Couple and representatives to the World Paralympic Wheelchair DanceSport Championships.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

MATINEE SESSION 3

Pre-Teen I/Pre-Teen II: Bronze & Silver Latin
Pre-Teen I: Gold Standard
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Bronze-Novice Latin
Adult/Senior I: Bronze-Novice Standard
Adult/Senior I: Bronze-Novice Smooth
Senior II/Senior III: Bronze-Novice Rhythm
Senior II/Senior III: Bronze-Novice Latin
Junior I: Championship Standard
Junior II: Championship Standard
Youth: Championship Latin
Adult: Championship Standard
Senior I: Championship Latin
Senior II: Championship Smooth
Senior III: Championship Latin
Senior III: Championship Smooth

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION 4

Pre-Teen I/Pre-Teen II: Gold Standard
Junior II: Championship Standard
Youth: Championship Latin
Adult: Championship Standard
Adult: Championship Rhythm
Senior I: Championship Smooth Showdance



MULTI-SPORT ORGANIZATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

MATINEE SESSION 5

Pre-Teen I/Pre-Teen II: Bronze & Silver Standard
Pre-Teen I: Gold Latin
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Bronze-Novice Standard
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Pre-Championship Standard
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Pre-Championship Rhythm
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Pre-Championship Smooth
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Pre-Championship Latin
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Championship Smooth
Junior I/Junior II/Youth: Championship Rhythm
Adult/Senior I/Senior II/Senior III: Pre-Championship Rhythm
Adult/Senior I/Senior II/Senior III: Pre-Championship Smooth
Adult/Senior I/Senior II/Senior III: Pre-Championship Standard
Adult/Senior I/Senior II/Senior III: Pre-Championship Latin
Junior II: Championship Latin
Youth: Championship Standard
Adult: 10-Dance Championship

Senior I: Championship Rhythm
Senior II: Championship Latin
Senior III: Championship Rhythm

SUNDAY EVENING SESSION 6

Pre-Teen I/Pre-Teen II: Gold Latin (Final)
Junior I: Championship Latin
Junior II: Championship Latin (Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final; if there are additional rounds, they will take place during the day session)
Youth: Championship Standard (Quarter-Final, Semi-Final & Final; if there are additional rounds, they will take place during the day session)
Adult: 10-Dance Championship (Standard/Latin) (Semi-Final & Final; if there are additional rounds, they will take place during the day session)
Adult: Championship Smooth
Senior II: Championship Standard



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MARCH 3 & 4, 2012

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 Athleticism and Artistry through Competitive Dancing

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- International danceSport competition - U.S. dance couples competing against Canadian dance couples
- For information/registration please visit: www.arnoldsportsfestival.com click on DanceSport
- Organizer: Sam Seidman Ph: 614-946-7827 Fax: 614-947-5806 Email: jyouthclass@i@aol.com Mail: P.O. Box 14482, Columbus, OH 43214

SPECTATOR INFORMATION Adults - \$10 (cash service charged per day in advance, \$10 per day at the door) 18 yrs. & under FREE if accompanied by an adult. Vehicle access to the Arnold House 5075, No. Stomach Allowed. For tickets call 1-800-444-3888 or www.arnoldsportsfestival.com/arnold

arnoldsportsfestival.com

Greater Columbus Convention Center, Hyatt Regency Ballroom & Columbus, Ohio USA



Volunteer of the Year 2011/2012

Sue Putzier

District 6 - Chapter 4033
Phoenix, Arizona

Sue Putzier is focused, dedicated and enthusiastic. As a member of the Phoenix Chapter, she has served as editor of the chapter newsletter since 2004 and also helps coordinate with the Outreach Committee, increasing the participation in local events including developing a program for expanding public awareness at these public events.

Sue has influenced the Chapter Outreach to include the Arizona State Fair, the Chandler AZ Ostrich Festival, Tempe Center for the Arts and a charitable event against teen date violence. Sue is also an integral part of the chapter competition committee, which includes local competitions in addition to the Phoenix NQE securing and coordinating volunteers.

In addition, Sue has contributed articles to American Dancer magazine and has represented the chapter on several occasions at national and regional meetings.

The Phoenix chapter was proud to nominate Sue Putzier as the Volunteer of the Year as she enthusiastically supports and inspires others with her dedication, knowledge and experience.

The award for National Volunteer of the Year and National Chapter of the Year were presented at the National Chapter Conference in Dallas, Texas on March 3rd.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUE PUTZIER

Honorable mention:

Nominated by District 8 from Greater Columbia Chapter 6032, **Arnell Coker** serves as the chapter's Director of Programs and Entertainment, as music director he selects the playlist for their bi-monthly dances which is projected on the wall in addition to helping set up for the dances. He spearheaded the chapter's charitable event, raising \$2,000 for the American Diabetes Association, coordinating showcases with three local dance studios and soliciting items for a silent auction. Tireless and energetic, he deserves to be commended.

Nominated by District 9 from Greater Daytona Chapter 6026, **Jean Krupa** serves as the chapter Treasurer and recently stepped down as Newsletter Editor. She spearheaded the chapters Wounded Warrior Appreciation Ball which raised \$2,450. In addition, to participating in the chapters outreach activities, she has created flyers and a looped infomercial for the Health Fair, and she organizes two statewide social dance weekend events, bringing social dancers together for workshops and a yearly District Presidents' meeting.

The District Committee was adamant that although she has a National title Jean has not stopped supporting or taking an active part in her local chapter and deserves to be recognized as the volunteer of the year.

Chapter of the Year 2011/2012



Jean Krupa & Marta Pascale

Written in the mission statement is 'to increase the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing' and that is what the **Greater Daytona Chapter #6026** in District 9 has done this year - increasing their membership by 40% and implementing a community outreach beginner dance program that has serviced 439 people in dance lessons.

Attracting new members has been a goal of President Marta Pascale, determined to bring the joy and benefits (social, health and mental) of dance to the public. The chapter has a strong board that works as a team and supports the chapter in community outreach; performing at nursing homes to bring entertainment, elementary schools to encourage youth dancing, health fairs to promote healthy benefits and raise community awareness and the Mall Ball to exhibit and promote National Ballroom Dance Week in a four-hour dance held in the center court at the local mall.

The chapter has established a good relationship with the local studios that provide instructors for the bi-monthly dances who have allowed video-taping so members can review the lessons via YouTube.

They hold two dances a month; sponsor a weekly beginner program and a weekly 'practice night' for a low cost to practice what they have learned without the intimidation of following line of dance. Helping one another is encouraged as well as stopping in the line of dance is allowed during practice night.

In addition, the chapter inspired by the "Wounded Warrior Appreciation Ball™" raised \$2,400. with a silent auction event and appreciation dance held on Veterans' Day. They also donate scholarships to their local District dancesport competitions and National Championship events.

The chapter also has a few "members only" as an enticement to join along with a Member Benefits package totaling well over \$200 when they join USA Dance. To see the complete list, the chapter encourages you to visit their website at www.greaterdaytonachapter.org.

Honorable Mention:

The **Mid-Michigan Chapter#2043**, from Midland Michigan, Polly Bowman, president. With a rise of 20% in the growth of their chapter, they too have sessions of beginning lessons offered to the members and public in addition to supporting the Midland Community Shelter House for abused women and the Open Door for the homeless.

The **Los Angeles Chapter #4031**, Herb McGurk, president. This chapter puts together a Showcase event for Pros and Amateurs to perform which raises money for their K-12 program supporting 5th grade classes at two elementary schools in the LA School District. In addition, their outreach program visits senior retirement homes over eight times a year. ■

BY JEAN KRUPA. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEAN KRUPA



the PUBLIC EYE

Angela Prince

DISTINGUISHED SWISS WATCHMAKER ERNEST BOREL BECOMES OFFICIAL USA DANCE SPONSOR, ATTENDING NATIONALS

For almost two centuries, Swiss ERNEST BOREL, with its romantic and elegant brand value, is widely acclaimed throughout the world; and also because of its innovative spirit and vigorous character, has become a necessary master piece for modern romantic couples and a shining classic of a lifetime!

At the USA Dance 2012 National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore, we are pleased to announce a new sponsor for USA Dance – Ernest Borel – internationally known Swiss watchmaker.

Ernest Borel is the proud sponsor of the USA Dance Nationals and its 3rd annual Star Quality Awards, to be judged and presented by Carrie Ann Inaba, Honorary Judge and new National Celebrity Ambassador for USA Dance.

Many of our members will know the Ernest Borel name. The company was exceptionally

well known in the United States, especially for its famous Cocktail model introduced in the 1950s and responsible for the company's worldwide success and reputation. Ernest Borel's beginnings date back to the 1850s. Its watches have won numerous and the most prestigious of Swiss and International prizes.

The Story Behind The Ernest Borel Logo

As the story is told, at a noble dancing party, the young Ernest Borel, son of one of the company founders, met a beautiful girl. Their graceful dance attracted envious eyes of other dancers. A picture was taken of this romantic moment, suspending time. Elegant dance, in the romantic moment, inspired the company's trademark logo, which "immortalized this magic moment in time." And since the turn of the 20th century, the iconic dancing couple has become the Ernest Borel brand's trademark and inspiration – a lovers' trademark.

The stunning new Star Quality Award designs for 2012 will be engraved with the Ernest Borel logo, representing romance and elegance of the watches and the dancers.

Recently, Ernest Borel marked its 155th anniversary and further celebrates the spirit of dance as sponsor of USA Dance and its many programs. The support of Ernest Borel brings funding to many USA Dance initiatives, including the further website development of American Dancer magazine and the dance camp training program for USA Dance

championship-level athletes competing in the global arena.

Ernest Borel will also be a regular advertiser in American Dancer magazine and at Nationals will appear in the event program. Several new ads have been developed by Ernest Borel, featuring the photography of USA Dance member and photographer Ryan Kenner, who symbolically captured the essence of Ernest Borel as dancesport athletes competed at the recent Manhattan Amateur Classic in New York City. Future ads will feature images of dancers at the USA Dance Nationals.

We welcome Thomas Huggler to Nationals as co-presenter of the Star Quality Awards. He is the company's Business Development Manager - USA.



Please welcome our new sponsor
and visit Ernest Borel collections:
www.ernestborel.ch.

FROM ERNEST BOREL

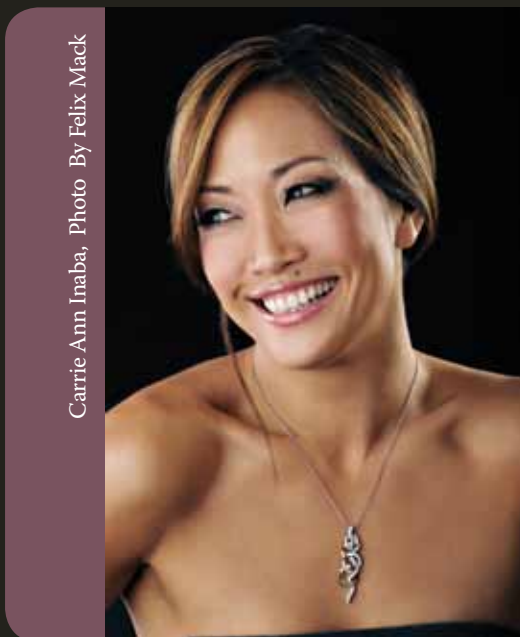
Ernest Borel watches are a guarantee of Swiss Quality with a spirit of romance. Our watches cater to the medium to high-end markets, offering a wide range of watches, including romantic couple watches. Along with these classic and fashionable timepieces, Ernest Borel also offers sports watches and a superior range of watches with complications and certified chronometers recognized by the official seal of COSC.

Ernest Borel's watchmakers and designers strive ceaselessly to create new collections, blending cutting-edge technology with meticulous concern for details to satisfy customers pursuing perfection, fashion and romance. ■



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERNEST BOREL

CARRIE ANN INABA, CELEBRITY JUDGE ON ABC-TV'S "DANCING WITH THE STARS" JOINS USA DANCE AS ITS NATIONAL CELEBRITY AMBASSADOR



Carrie Ann Inaba, Photo By Felix Maack

USA Dance is very proud and excited to announce that Carrie Ann Inaba, celebrated judge on ABC-TV's "Dancing With the Stars, now entering its 14th season, has accepted USA Dance's offer to become the organization's National Celebrity Ambassador.

The new position officially launches USA Dance's Ambassador Program, whereby USA Dance members and representatives take on a greater level of support defined by their areas of influence and willingness to participate.

USA Dance and Carrie Ann have enjoyed a close working relationship since 2009 when the USA Dance Star Quality Awards were first launched at

Nationals in Baltimore and Carrie Ann was the Honorary Judge and presenter for those awards. She judged and presented the Star Quality Awards also at the 2010 Nationals in Los Angeles, but was unable to attend Nationals in 2011 due to conflict of schedule with the DWTS season.

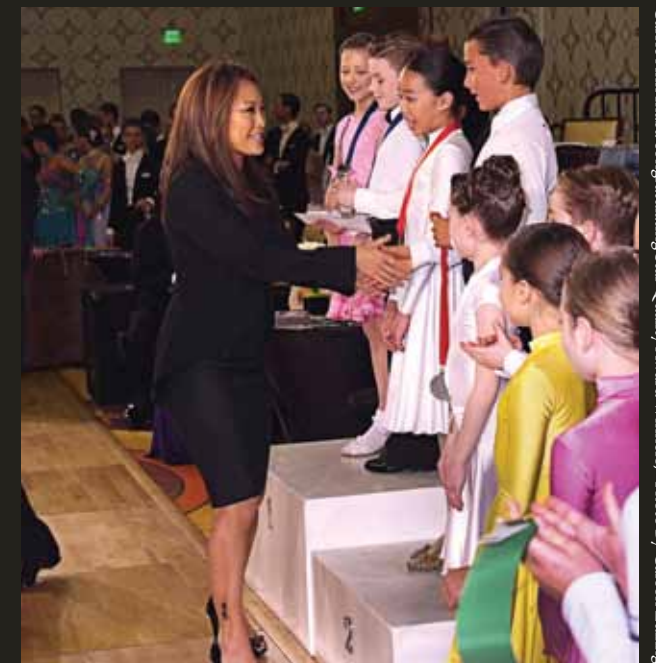
Carrie Ann's ambassador role with USA Dance will include the following areas of support for our dancesport and social dance programs:

- Celebrity Honorary Judge for the USA Dance Star Quality Awards, presented at Nationals.
- Advisor to USA Dance Public Relations and the Governing Council, working through the DanceSport VP and PR Director for USA Dance.
- Supporting all public relations and media relations programs, helping to generate new ideas and opportunities and expanding media awareness and understanding of USA Dance.
- USA Dance spokesperson on issues of interest to the dance and entertainment/celebrity worlds; also lending social media support.
- Supporting USA Dance missions and initiatives, helping to increase exposure and involvement in DanceSport athlete training/development, K-12 after school dance programs, social dance camps and USA Dance dancesport events.

- Guest contributor to American Dancer magazine.
- Support of USA Dance membership growth objectives.
- Guest appearances at USA Dance events as schedule permits.
- Resource to USA Dance in support of various programs and initiatives.

Carrie Ann will make guest appearances on the Red Carpet at Nationals, where athletes, guests and fans can meet/greet, obtain autographs and have their photo taken with DWTS's most beloved celebrity judge.

The USA Dance 2012 Star Quality Awards will be judged by Carrie Ann on Friday and Saturday at Nationals and presented following the final rounds of each division.



Carrie Ann Inaba congratulating Star Quality Award winners, Photo By Carson Zullinger

DID YOU KNOW, THAT CARRIE ANN INABA

...is a veteran choreographer who has worked on some of the most popular shows in TV history, including American Idol and So You Think You Can Dance?

...as a child, was first enchanted by the art of hula, a native Hawaiian dance?

...in her early years, played the piano, violin, volleyball and sang in the choir?

...found her initial success overseas as a musical artist in Japan?

...her first dancer job was for the Emmy Award-winning television show "In Living Color," and she became one of the first Asian-Americans to perform contemporary dance on national tv?

...was a member of the Fly Girls, multi-ethnic dancers, who were at the forefront of bringing hip-hop to mainstream tv?

...she is also National Celebrity Spokesperson for the Andrea Rizzo Foundation, funding Drea's Dream for the creation of pediatric dance therapy program for children with cancer and special education needs?

...on the small screen, has appeared in Austin Powers II: The Spy Who Shagged Me, Flintstones II, Showgirls, Lord of Illusions and Boys and Girls.

...has choreographed for enchanted primetime shows such as ABC's Dance Wars, Dance Fever, American Juniors?

...is a seasoned host and presenter of shows including 1 vs 100, TV Guide's Red Carpet Live,

We welcome Carrie Ann Inaba to USA Dance!

Regis and Kelly and Live with Kelly, The View and the American Music Awards' Red Carpet Exclusive?

...she also starred as Hannah Montana's choreographer on the show?

Through Carrie Ann's drive to explore art and the world's opportunities and her ability to stay determined in a difficult industry, she has found incredible success, sticking to her dance roots and always finding a way to help the community and the world open their minds to how incredible dancers are. To her, we are all extraordinary beings with immeasurable potential to grow, learn and break barriers. She believes our confinements are self made and are weak to our choice to explore it and our methods of breaking free. ■



Roseanna Richards, Carrie Ann Inaba, Ken Richards at DWTS

Qualifying Events for
**USA Dance 2013 National
DanceSport Championships**



Melissa Kapilanchuk & Emma Wilks
Photoby: AD Staff

NATIONALS

Crowning Champions

Columbia Star Ball
Portland, OR
May 12 - 13, 2012

Carolina Fall Classic
Greensboro, NC
Oct 5 - 7, 2012

The Quake
San Francisco, CA
Jan 18 - 20, 2013

Mid-Atlantic Championships
Bethesda, MD
February 2013

New Jersey Classic
Hackensack, NJ
June 9 - 10, 2012

Chicago Challenge
Chicago, IL
Nov 2 - 4, 2012

Manhattan Amateur Classic
New York, NY
February 2013

**National DanceSport
Championships
Los Angeles, CA
April 5 - 7, 2013**

Gumbo Championships
Baton Rouge, LA
Jun 29 - Jul 1, 2012

Northwest Championships
Seattle, WA
Nov 2 - 4, 2012

Southwest Championships
Orange County, CA
Feb 16 - 17, 2013

For More Information visit www.usadance.org

WDSF World Latin Championships



Irsan Tisnabudi and Cami Fleharty



Tom Chu and Olga Rogachevskaya

SENIOR I LATIN

Rouen, France, once the setting for medieval battles between France and England, became a battleground once again on Dec. 10—this time for the WDSF World Senior I Latin Championship.

Two couples represented the United States. Irsan Tisnabudi and Cami Fleharty along with Tom Chu and Olga Rogachevskaya traveled to the historic city of Rouen, France to compete against other senior world contenders.

Forty-six couples from around the world, the top two competitors from each country,

demonstrated their Latin capabilities to adjudicators. Couples were eliminated as they danced through three rounds and a final. Tisnabudi and Fleharty finished ranking 30, while Chu and Rogachevskaya finished ranking 33.

Gwénaél Lavigne and Stéphanie Godet, representing France, became the 2011 WDSF World Senior I Latin champions. ■

BY JEAN STODDARD

PHOTOS BY CARSON ZOLLINGER

COMPETITIONS CALENDAR 2012



MAR 30 - APR 1, 2012
2012 NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS
BALTIMORE, MD

April 13-14, 2012
USU DANCESPORT CHALLENGE*
LOGAN, UT

May 12-13, 2012
COLUMBIA STAR BALL-NQE
PORTLAND, OR

June 9-10, 2012
NJ DANCESPORT CLASSIC-NQE
HACKENSACK, NJ

June 29- July 1, 2012
GUMBO DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS-NQE
Baton Rouge, LA

July 28
River City Ball*
Portland, OR

October 5-7, 2012
CAROLINA FALL CLASSIC-NQE
Greensboro, NC

Oct 27-28, 2012
NORTHWEST DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS-NQE
SEATTLE, WA

November 2-4, 2012
CHICAGO DANCESPORT CHALLENGE-NQE
Chicago, IL

Jan 18-20, 2013
THE QUAKE-NQE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Events listed with the * do not accrue proficiency points

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/>

look for future collegiate event updates on FaceBook

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

2012 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NQE

BY BILL ROSE, SENIOR-VP & PRESIDENT/OC CHAPTER #4018

The latest edition of the “Southwest Regional”, one of the older DanceSport competitions within USA Dance, was held on February 4, in Laguna Woods, California. Over its history, it had been produced on a rotational basis between the Orange County and NorCal Chapters, being held in Long Beach, Anaheim, Fullerton and San Jose, California, respectively. Last year the Phoenix Chapter joined in for the first time, holding it in Arizona. However, due to a change in requirements by the DanceSport Council, where additional qualified competitions are being given NQE sanctions, the Southwest Regional may likely become an annual event for the Orange County Chapter. And ... it may have found a new home within the retirement community of Laguna Woods Village (formerly “Leisure World”).

As is quite common with dancesport events, the Southwest Regional typically attracts an audience of largely family and friends of the athletes. However, with the selection by the organizing committee of the largest clubhouse facility within the Laguna Woods Village retirement community, it was hoped that a true spectator audience could be attracted. A concerted advertising effort was aimed at the nearly 16,000 residents. As a result, the evening session which featured the Championship level heats, had an enthusiastic audience made up of many from the local community. This is the generation who discovered ballroom dance in the 1930-40s, when couples danced together to big band music. For many of them, who had never before witnessed dancing of this level, in person, it was a memorable evening.



“...aimed at the youngest couples, seven years old and under...These couples received the largest applause from the audience, many of whom are grandparents.”

A new addition to this year’s event was the “Teddy Bear” division ... aimed at the youngest couples, seven years old and under. Although the entry was limited, it is felt that with exposure, this division will grow, as there are quite a few very young couples in Southern California. Each competitor was awarded a Teddy Bear and a participation medal. These couples received the largest applause from the audience, many of whom are grandparents.



Next year, the National Championships will return to Southern California, at the JW Marriott, in Los Angeles. The Southwest Regional Organizing Committee is already considering how to make improvements to the event, to capitalize on the expected increase in attention and interest. Now that the Laguna Woods Village residents have had their first exposure to high level ballroom dance competition, it is felt that next year the audiences will be even larger.

The challenge for the Orange County Chapter will be to evolve the competition with increased focus on pleasing an audience, who is very familiar with purchasing tickets to live performances at nearby performing arts centers, where seating is reserved, where if you purchase tickets early enough, and spend a little more, you can get the best view. In the past, most of the advanced planning was concentrated on running the competition smoothly for the athletes. The OC Board of Directors feels that with careful consideration and a sufficient volunteer effort, the Southwest Regional NQE can become a successful spectator event, where the competitors will benefit from performing in front of larger audiences. ■



PHOTOS BY BILL ROSE

THE MANHATTAN AMATEUR CLASSIC

CELEBRATES 22 YEARS



The Manhattan Amateur Classic celebrated its 22nd year this January. Over 1,100 dancers from across the country traveled to the Manhattan Center in the heart of New York City for this annual competition hosted by the Greater New York Chapter of USA Dance.

The Manhattan Amateur Classic, more commonly known as the MAC, spanned a full three days. This year the MAC Organizing Committee changed the schedule of some of the events to accommodate the large number of dancers. The committee decided to move the Syllabus American events from the Sunday session to the Friday day session and all the Adult Novice events from the Friday and Saturday night sessions to the respective day sessions.

This year, the MAC attracted a record number of Open level competitors, according to Scott Perlman, the competition's registrar. Perlman has been a volunteer at the MAC for the past four years and this was his first year as the sole registrar. Both the Friday and Saturday night sessions were scheduled to have at least six and a half hours of dancing, and that was without the Novice events. Veronica Barnes, a competitor who danced both Novice and Pre-Champ Smooth in addition to two Standard events, said, "Personally, I liked [Novice] being [run] during the day. It allowed for a nice break if you were doing Novice and Pre-Champ." Matthew Harkins, a first-time Novice Standard competitor, said, "By having Novice in the same session as Syllabus, dancers on the cusp of Open have an opportunity to dance it without worrying about spending the entire day or even multiple days at the [competition]."

The Syllabus American events had previously been held on Sunday morning before the Pre-Teen, Junior, Junior II and Youth Syllabus events. Over the years, the Pre-Teen through Youth categories have grown to now feature about 12 hours' worth of dancing. Perlman said, "There are a lot of studios in the area for young dancers. The MAC is mandated to have all age categories, and it allows for these young dancers to compete against many other dancers in their age group."

The MAC also attracted some media coverage. Yang Chen, one of the Emcees and the President of the Greater New York USA Dance Chapter, said, "The MAC usually gets some level of media attention. For example, last year we were featured on the FOX morning show on Friday." This year, The Wall Street Journal and the Daily News of New York City were at the competition taking pictures and reporting on the dancing. The Daily, an online magazine, was also at the competition filming some of the dancing during the Friday night session.

MAC was once again a National Qualifying Event. The level of competition was high, with numerous couples in various categories vying to qualify for the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships in Baltimore, Maryland at the end of March. We look forward to seeing many of the couples that qualified at MAC competing at Nationals in a few months. ■ BY NICOLE BARRON

USA DANCE NORTHWEST DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

By: LAUREL PRESTON, NWDSC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBER



Our Seattle Chapter of USA Dance welcomed competitors from multiple U.S. states and the BC Province of Canada to the Northwest DanceSport Championships held on January 14-15, 2012, a National Qualifying Event. Feeling that ambience and convenience were important, we again selected the elegant SeaTac Airport Hilton Hotel as our venue.

TOP LEVEL JUDGES

We were honored to have former U.S. champions and Blackpool finalists on our adjudicating panel, which included the

unflappable Stephen Cullip (chair), Jeanette Ball, Stuart Cole, Olga Foraponova, Michel Guimond, Tom Hicks, Anya Klimova-Preston, Elizabeth Knoll, Trevor Luff, Maja Serve and Denis Tremblay. Popular MC, Michael Wachal, handled his duties with poise, style and humor throughout the two days of the competition. It was great to have National observer Barbara Wally, on hand to deal with costume regulations. Thanks to our donors, \$3100 in scholarships were awarded.



Local favorites Nathan Murstein & Polina Dickenson (above) and Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor (left) in a hotly contested Junior Latin event. Photos: Steve Walters.



Pre-teens Alexander Tovmach & Galit Zilbervarg. Photo: Garrett Gibbons.

CRAZY FOR KIDS

As usual, the Saturday daytime session was bursting with kids and their relatives; as our area has an active program of training for young dancers, including the new "Dancing Classrooms" program. We put four deck captains on for this session! Junior events were hard fought, with national champions Nathan Murstein & Polina Dickenson and Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor vying for top honors. With the poise of those twice their age, these Juniors amazed and delighted the audience.

SATURDAY NIGHT BLOCKBUSTER

We were thrilled to debut our new blockbuster program of top events on Saturday night which produced a full ballroom of loudly enthusiastic guests who thoroughly enjoyed the events and general dancing. In previous years, we split up our top events on two nights, but decided to try a new format where we put all the top events (including Championship



The Ballroom Dance Company Latin Formation Team from Oregon (above). Senior I Standard winners Mark Jun Ma & Dior Huang from Canada (right). Photos: Ivo Dmitrov & Steve Walters.

Latin, Senior I Championship Standard/Latin and formation team events) onto one night so that we could better attract spectators. Clearly this is a winning formula!

FABULOUS FORMATION TEAMS

The audience loved the creative and entertaining formation team events. The Ballroom Dance Company from Oregon wowed us with *three* team entries, conventional Latin and Standard teams and an all-girl team novelty entry reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland's tea party with terrific props and costumes. The appealing youth from the University of Idaho Ballroom presented a standard entry, while the USA Dance Seattle Dance Team garnered well deserved appreciation for their Latin and Standard entries. Seattle loves formation teams, so we hope that you will all return again. Our vision is to have this be a destination comp for formation teams.

CANADIAN COMRADERIE

Seattlites like to think of Vancouver, Canada as our sister city of dance. Because of their huge university dance club of over 1,000 members and active amateur organization; their dance community has grown to an enviously large size, and we each attend each other's comps, cheering each other on. This year, 10% of our couples hailed from Canada and we were so pleased to welcome them!

CHAMPIONSHIP EXCITEMENT

With all the championship events on Saturday night, it was a very lively evening indeed. We had new champions Dmitriy Vorobiev & Kseniya Sovenko from Washington winning Adult Championship Standard and a \$400 scholarship. Canadians Mark Jun Ma & Dior Huang won the Senior I Standard. Then it was time for the sizzling Adult Latin Championship event, where Alexey Gavrilov & Natasha Zrazhevskaya of Washington danced their way to first place and a \$400 scholarship.

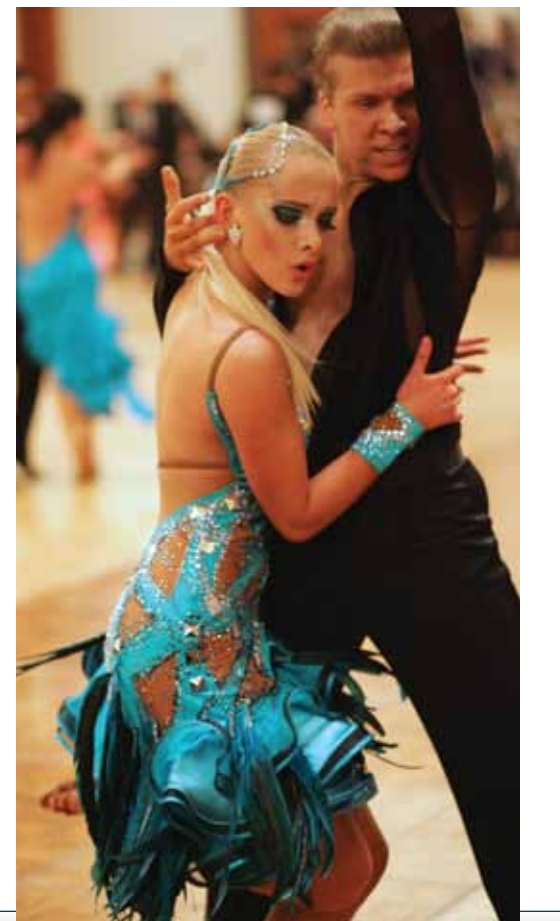
Niall Byl (Oregon) and Victoria Korohod (Washington) received the "Champions of Tomorrow" award for outstanding effort on the path to greater success. The award was founded and sponsored by 2009 World Cup Latin finalist, Ekaterina Zakharoff. Other results can be found at www.nwdsc.org.

ONWARD AND UPWARD!

Plans began for the next competition almost immediately after this event concluded, especially since we are returning to our traditional October dates, which are now only nine months away. We would like to offer more scholarships and formation team events, and further grow into an even larger competition. Thank you to everybody who competed, attended, donated and especially volunteered! ■



Adult Championship Standard & Latin Champions Dmitriy Vorobiev & Kseniya Sovenko (above) and Alexey Gavrilov & Natasha Zrazhevskaya (below). Photos: Ivo Dmitrov.



Mark your calendar now for the next NW DanceSport Championships on October 27-28, 2012

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STANDARD GOWNS

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Standard dress. Red. Stoned upper portion. \$500 + shipping. Photos available. gmdance12@gmail.com. 848-219-6894. [1]

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Latin shoes, good condition. EU size 38 1/2. 2" heel. \$25 + shipping. Dark tan satin. gmdance12@gmail.com. 848-219-6894. [1]

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OTHER

Veloz and Yolanda "Dansation of 1946" - 17 page program dedicated to this famous ballroom dance couple when they appeared (and performed) at concert in Appleton, Wisconsin Life Stories, introduction of Latin dances to north American audiences, pictures from their work in movies; highlights of their lives \$35. 727-412-2984 [1]

DANCEMART

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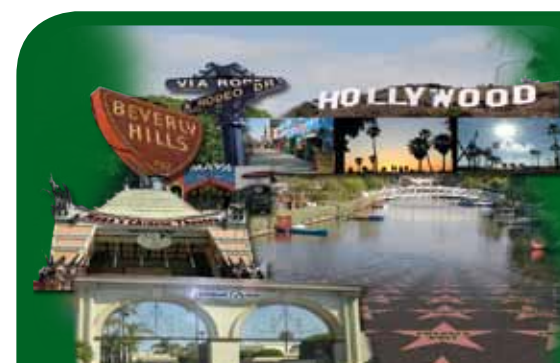
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Paris Hotel & Casino

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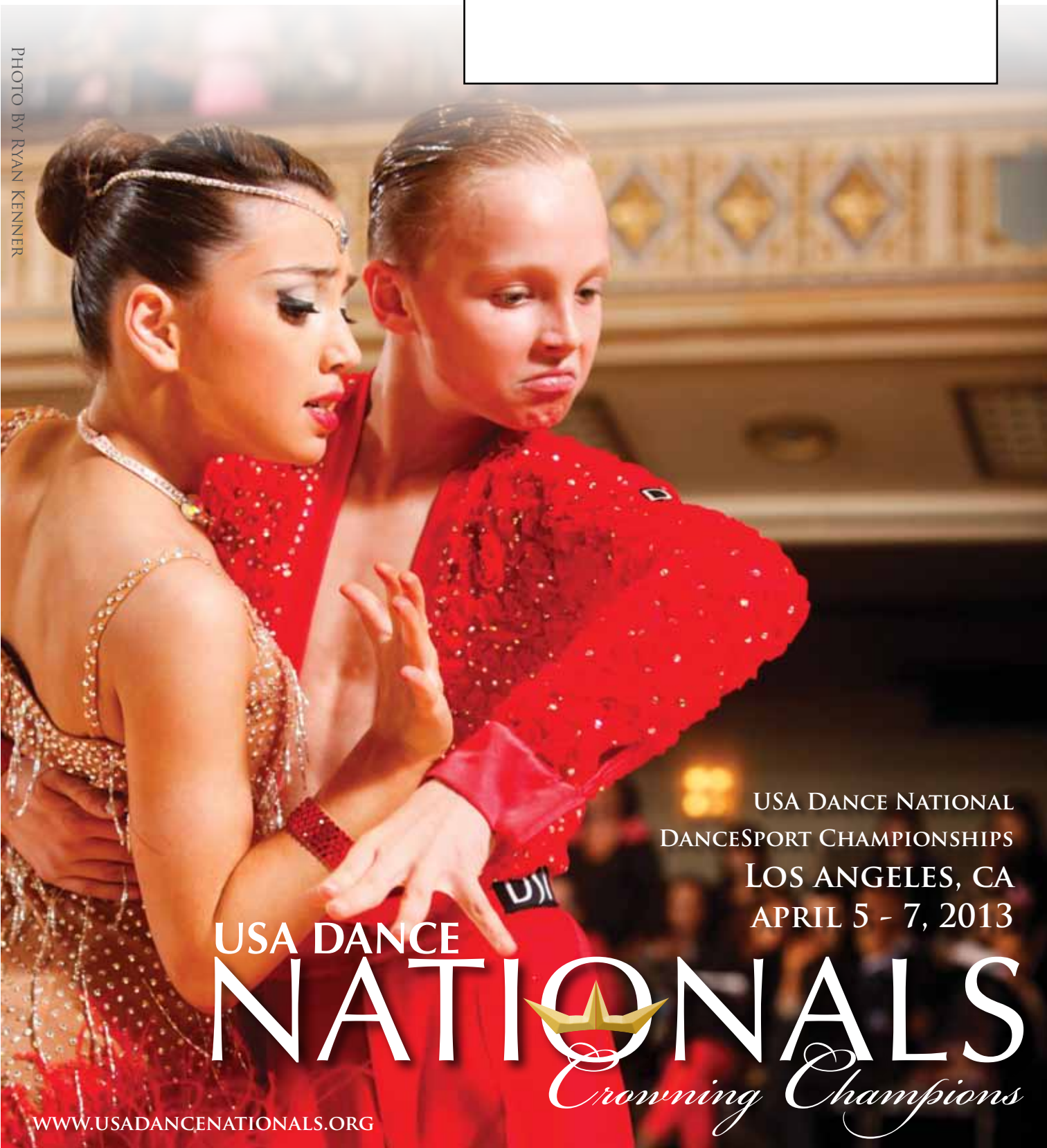


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PHOTO BY RYAN KENNER



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