

# AMERICAN Dancer

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

For two decades one USA Dance volunteer has been doing all he can for the organization.

## USOC CAMP

The best athletes in the world compete in the Olympic Games, but they train at the Olympic Training Centers, which is where some of the best dancers in the country went to receive some specialized training.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA DANCE

USA NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

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# ON THE COVER

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Some of the country's best young dancers got the opportunity to spend a few days honing their skills at one of the prestigious U.S. Olympic training centers.

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# President's REPORT



As I am writing this report I am winging my way back from the first USA Dance Junior and Youth Elite Dance Camp for our World Team members and alternates, held at the USOC Training Center in Lake Placid, New York.

What an experience it has been! The facility was outstanding, with basic, but comfortable dormitory style rooms and a cafeteria that catered to the nutritional needs of the Olympic athletes who train year-round at the Center while at the same time producing flavorful and healthy meals all day and evening long. Added to that was an outstanding huge gymnasium where our athletes took their DanceSport workshops, and a spacious conference room for lectures, as well as exercise equipment in numerous locations. We could not have had a better venue for our camp.

In addition to the top notch facility, the USOC staff proved to be not only accommodating, but also very generous in sharing their time and expertise with our group, providing lectures for us on physical strengthening, injury prevention and nutrition. We also had the services of a highly recommended sports psychologist who provided two workshops for us in mental strengthening. Needless to say, not only the athletes but many of the officials and coaches took copious notes as we heard what the experts had to share. And these were very interactive lectures, with many questions asked and answered.

One of our young athletes had been suffering from an earlier foot injury that flared up while we were in Lake Placid, and the staff at the Training Center evaluated his foot in the on-site Sports Medicine Clinic, and suggested appropriate corrective action. At its Training Centers, the USOC puts all the services an athlete or coach may need under one roof, and everything is built around making it easy for an athlete to concentrate on the one thing he or she is there for – to improve athletic performance.

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Our Master Coaches, Michal and Susanne Stukan, German 10-Dance Champions and World Finalists, conducted intensive workshops in Latin and Standard technique. They also shared their own training regimen and discussed what a world class athlete needs to do to reach the top. The coaches who accompanied their athletes to the Olympic camp also had an opportunity to offer their suggestions for athlete success as well as to share their areas of expertise. These coaches were: Aira Bubnelyte, Ikaika Dowsett, Rita Gekhman, Alexandria Hawkins, Elena Zakharova and Ronen Zinshtein, and they all gave generously of their time to the athletes.

The USA Dance officials who worked as a team to develop this Olympic dance camp and who came to administer it were: Ken Richards, Vice President of DanceSport, Stan Andrews, National Secretary, Inna Brayer, DanceSport Delegate, Shawn Fisher, Collegiate Competition Chair, and I.

Ken discussed with the athletes their responsibilities while representing USA Dance and the United States of America abroad and what they could expect at a world championship. I added comments on the opportunities flowing to USA Dance as a result of being within the Olympic family and a National Governing Body recognized by the USOC, and also touched on future opportunities for DanceSport to grow as a Pan American and Olympic sport. Stan Andrews shared his knowledge as a food scientist, while Shawn Fisher discussed upcoming studies to test the aerobic and physical stamina of DanceSport athletes and compare it to the physical output of athletes in other sports. Inna Brayer limbered up our young athletes with warm up exercises and choreographed a group routine which they learned and performed to open the show on Saturday night.

The Saturday night show, held in the gymnasium at the Training Center, was organized for two reasons – to thank the USOC for the opportunity to come to their wonderful facility, and also to introduce DanceSport to the staff as well as the Olympic athletes from a variety of sports who were in residence while we were there. Most had never seen a DanceSport competition, so the show consisted not only of Standard and Latin rounds in order to simulate a real competition, but also

# *President's* REPORT

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individual routines in both styles in order to allow each athlete pair the opportunity to shine. While the audience was limited to USOC staff, their families and other athletes at the Center, many were quite intrigued by DanceSport, and had questions of our group following the show. Ken Richards, as MC, did an excellent job of taking the audience through the elements of a DanceSport competition and the individual dances performed in order for the audience to better understand what they were seeing.

I wish to thank our chapters, individual donors as well as the Ernest Borel Watch Company for helping us fund this first camp. We don't want this training camp to be a one-time activity, but hope to be able to offer it on a regular basis as a development opportunity for our juniors and youth, who are the future of our sport. In order to be able to do this, we will need to raise additional funds. This Fall, USA Dance will be starting a new fundraising campaign to make future camps a reality, and we hope that our members will be generous in their support as we work to develop our future champions and raise America's DanceSport standing in the world.

Several members have asked me why USA Dance does not open this camp to lower skill levels and upper age divisions. The reason is that our junior athletes are in the best possible position to absorb the type of training offered by the USOC and to develop their skills while their bodies are in the best condition and at an ideal age to model the new techniques acquired. Additionally, this is a program geared toward those young dancers who have already demonstrated the seriousness of their DanceSport pursuits by achieving elite championship status in their respective age divisions. Finally, the space at the USOC Training Center is necessarily limited, as a block of rooms and access to on-site facilities are reserved for those Olympic athletes who train at the Center for months at a time, or come in on very short notice to train with their coaches. Groups larger than the one we had this year are just not feasible at the USOC Training Center. We hope our athletes of all ages and skill levels understand and can accept and support this training program to develop America's DanceSport youth.

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I would like to close by sharing with you a note I received from the young athletes in attendance at the conclusion of the camp:

“Thank you so very much for organizing this amazing experience. It has been awesome. We really appreciate it for bringing us here and bringing these amazing coaches. You have done so much for us and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We really hope we can come back here again next year! This camp really helped all of us and we are very grateful for it.”

And I in turn wish to thank our dedicated team of national volunteers, all the coaches, as well as our fine junior and youth dancers who inspired us all with their hard work, enthusiasm and desire to learn and grow as DanceSport athletes.

*Lydia T. Scardina*  
National President, USA Dance



MULTI-SPORT  
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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 was a founding member of the Greater Daytona Chapter in 1990.



### ANGELA PRINCE

Angela Prince is the National Public Relations Director for USA Dance, responsible for all integrated PR programs, organization publicity and communications, national media relations, social media relations and brand development. She is also the editorial advisor for *American Dancer* magazine and other publications.

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2013 USA DANCE  
NATIONALS

BRIANT LEYTMAN  
& NINO DZNELADZE

PHOTO BY  
AD STAFF

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## USA DANCE GOVERNING COUNCIL ELECTIONS

USA Dance will be conducting an election this fall for the following Governing Council positions for the 2014-2016 term of office.

National President  
National Senior Vice President  
National Secretary  
National Treasurer  
Vice President For DanceSport  
DanceSport Delegate (four positions)  
Vice President For Social Dance



Election packets will be available from USA Dance Central Office  
[central-office@usadance.org](mailto:central-office@usadance.org) or by calling 800-447-9047  
(Please specify the office of interest so a position description can be provided with the packet.)

All completed election materials (which include any petition, resume of qualifications, photograph and written confirmation of willingness to serve) must be mailed to the National Elections Director to arrive no later than Saturday, June 29, 2013.

Mail all completed election materials to:

Phil Sisk  
National Elections Director  
9620 Evansway Lane  
Richmond VA 23235

Visit [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org) for more detailed information.

## USA DANCE NATIONAL DANCE CRUISE

USA Dance members and friends will be headed to Bermuda, September 29 – October 6. Spaces for the cruise are limited, so participants are encouraged to sign up as early as they can to secure their spot.

Visit [www.dancecruiseusadance.com](http://www.dancecruiseusadance.com) for more detailed information.

# BOOK REVIEW

## BALLROOM WORLD DANCE BOOK BY ALLEN DARNEL

REVIEWED BY JEAN KRUPA

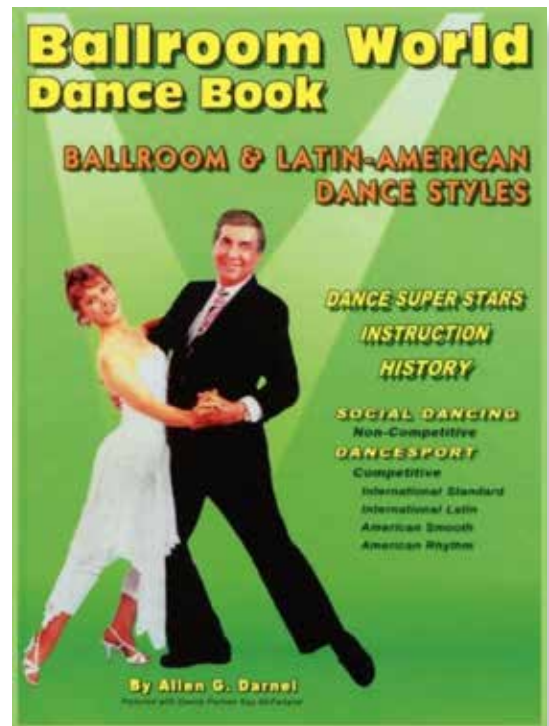
I had the honor of being asked to review the 3rd edition of “Ballroom World” a collection of works by well known student dancers and notable professionals in the world of Ballroom dancing in America compiled by Allen Darnel.

It covers the why and how we learn to social dance, compete, become an instructor, organize competitions and even a look into running a successful studio. This book could easily be nicknamed the “Ballroom Bible”. It has valuable information for beginners and is a walk down memory lane with over 300 photos for those who have been involved with dance for many years.

It has a very handy reference section with the history and explanation of the dances and also details on the various dance organizations in the U.S.

Mr. Darnell has been in the dance industry for over 53 years and was fortunate to have started at a very young age; he managed the largest dance studio in Houston TX in the 70’s which employed nearly 100 instructors; he has met, taught or danced with the best ballroom and Latin dancers in the U.S. and Britain and has also authored “Two Left Feet”.

This is a very handy reference book with valuable information to all Ballroom dancers. It is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble and would make a terrific gift or addition to your library.



“THIS IS A VERY  
HANDY REFERENCE  
BOOK WITH VALUABLE  
INFORMATION TO ALL  
BALLROOM DANCERS.”

# USA DANCE *heads to beautiful Bermuda!*

*Aboard Royal Caribbean International*



from **\$99900\***

*Departing Bayonne, NJ,  
Sept. 29 - Oct. 6, 2013*

**B**ermuda, 'the jewel of the Atlantic' with its incomparable weather, pink sand beaches, breadth of historic sites and warm, friendly people, is the exciting destination for the Fifth USA Dance National Dance Cruise, September 29 - October 6, 2013 on Royal Caribbean International's beautiful *Explorer of the Seas*.

Leaving from Cape Liberty in Bayonne, NJ, the cruise will feature seven days of fun, food, friendship and more than 60 hours of dancing—including a full schedule of ballroom, latin and club-style dance classes—with America's top professional instructors. The cruise will also include our popular Dance Host program.

***Cabins are limited, so make your reservations NOW!***



\*Based on double occupancy. Cruise taxes and insurance not included.



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online to **[www.dancecruiseUSADANCE.com](http://www.dancecruiseUSADANCE.com)**



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)

# Socially YOURS

## What Does It Take To Become A Better Dancer?

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BY JEAN KRUPA

*Here's the research: In 95% of cases natural talent does not determine who will be an expert at something.*

So what does it take? Hours of Deliberate Practice. It's both quantity and quality. You will need tons of time practicing but it has to be the right kind of practice. Just showing up is not enough, you need to continually challenge yourself with the right kind of effort. "Deliberate Practice"\* is a specifically defined term. It involves goal setting, quick feedback, and countless drills to improve skills with an eye on mastery. It is not "just showing up" and, plain and simple, it is not necessarily fun.

*Here are some key elements:*

- Don't be passive. Video yourself for review.
- Practice is not just repetition. Be critical and keep trying to improve on the elements of the skill.
- Alone time. Why? You need alone time to really engage in deliberate practice.
- Practice a lot. It'll likely be eight weeks before you have a basic level of capability but years before you are proficient. "One factor determined how better dancers improved and that was how much they practiced."
- Know the "Sweet Spot". While practicing, you want to succeed 50-80% of your attempts. Fewer than that and you'll be confused and feel like it's

all luck. More success than that and you're not pushing yourself. How do you know when you found the sweet spot? Sensations: Frustration, difficulty, awareness of errors. You're fully engaged in an intense struggle— as if you're stretching with all your might for a nearly unreachable goal, brushing it with your fingertips and then reaching again.

### *Have Determination*

It takes perseverance along with persistence. Plain and simple, you can't improve if you give up. Researchers have found determination is more predictive of success than IQ. And you must be committed, it may sound cliché but it is "the key".

### *Find A Great Mentor*

You want someone who does not go easy on you, who will give you quick focused feedback and stresses fundamentals. The best coaches use the system of "Explanation, demonstration, imitation, correction, and repetition." Breaking down proper technique, quickly correct errors and getting you to repeat until it is second nature.

### *Focus on the Negative*

How often do you hear that recommended? It's true: An eye for the negative will make you more likely to learn from your mistakes. Novices focus on positive feedback ("good job!") because hearing they're doing well helps them stay committed. If you are committed to improving your dancing you need to focus on negative feedback ("You're doing that incorrectly") if you are interested in progress. The shift to focusing on negative feedback is the mark of a better dancer.

### *Focus on Improvement*

When challenged, focus on getting better — not doing well or looking good. Focusing on getting better increases motivation and make practices more interesting. When perfectionism is focused on internal goals it's great and enhances performance. When you are trying to impress others, it's a negative.

### *Fast Feedback*

You need to know what is working and what isn't so you can course correct as soon as possible. Whether feedback comes from a teacher, a friend, or even a video of yourself, you can't get better without it.

### *It's Worth it*

It's important to keep in mind that training for improvement does not live in a vacuum. Deliberate Practice is stressful at the moment but will bring greater joy and ease in dancing later. Using your best skills is one of the most powerful ways to increase happiness. This has been proven time and time again.

Happy Dancing!

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# 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

## MARVIN BECHTEL

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In March of 2013, the Heartland Chapter celebrated 20 years of service of Marvin Bechtel, our long-time Treasurer, Board member and dance enthusiast.

Coincidentally, 2013 also marks a 20-year anniversary of the Heartland Chapter.

Marvin and his wife Greta have been dancing for over 30 years. Shortly after discovering ballroom dancing, Marvin got involved in a leadership role serving as president of a different local dance club, Continentals, years before our Indianapolis USA Dance chapter was formed. After Marvin “retired” from leading the other club, The USA Dance tapped into his skills as a volunteer.

Marvin and the Chapter grew together. During his 20 years of volunteer work for USA Dance, Marvin has worn multiple hats and performed numerous work duties, from greeting people at the door and DJing to setting up and cleaning before and after the parties, and book-keeping.

The social dancers come to our parties to have a good time. The amount of time and effort that goes into organizing a party is not transparent to an average party-goer. The volunteers have to set up the tables, chairs and decorations at the dances, as well as snacks and the sound system. When the dance is over, all the tables and chairs have to be folded up and put away, and the sound system and decorations have to go back to the storage unit.

Marvin performed all of these tasks and many more with passion, charisma and endless amount of energy.

Among the many facets of his volunteerism, the one that Marvin is remembered for the most is handling Heartland’s finances. At some point, Marvin let us know that he was good at bookkeeping and he inherited the job of a treasurer.

Marvin also helped with all the Chapter fundraisers, from working with his wife Greta on numbering auction items, to sorting, taking money, and keeping records of the event. While doing fundraisers, he worked with Riley Children’s Hospital, La rue Carter Hospital, Angel Flight, and anomalies for Pediatric Neurology.

Marvin also became involved with the Penrod Arts Fair. Known as the “Indiana’s Nicest Day,” the Indianapolis Penrod Arts Fair kicks off the second Saturday of each September on the breathtakingly beautiful grounds of the Indianapolis Art Museum. Considered one of the largest single-day art fairs in the nation, the Penrod Arts Fair has been attracting visitors for nearly half a century. Marvin eventually took on the responsibility of contacting and setting up the Heartland’s booth and organizing our Chapter exhibitions there year after year.

Marvin has performed all if these duties while remaining our faithful treasurer.



Besides being hearty volunteers, Marvin and his wife Greta were and remain avid dancers, and performed at many USA Dance events, including our annual Christmas Parties, Penrod Arts Fair, Indianapolis Nursing Homes and retirement Centers and WMYS Radio Life Style and fitness Expos. Marvin and Greta were also involved with an entertainment group at the renovation of the Garfield Park Center, as well as taking an active part in many events at the Indiana Roof, and the 500 Festival ball at the Indiana Convention Center.

We estimated that with all the dance functions that Marvin was involved with, he and his wife Greta danced at least 4 nights a week. This is over 4,000 (!) nights in 20 years! He was still our treasurer.

While Marvin was a valuable volunteer for our local Heartland chapter, he was also a great resource for the National USA Dance organization. When he joined the “Nationals” as an Assistant Treasurer, the event became more profitable. Marvin was also asked and readily agreed to be a treasurer of the youth college network (YCN). When he joined the “Collegiate National Championships” team, the event became more profitable.

While Marvin is one of those people that everyone enjoys working with, he required that event organizers have budgets, and stick to them. A simple premise, but one that turned money losers

into profitable events, and allowed profitable events become even more profitable.

He alternated working the Intercontinental DanceSport Festival dance events between London and Daytona Beach for several years. Marvin was usually up at 6-6:30 every morning for this one week event and didn't go to bed until after everything was over with well after midnight. During the last year of the event Marvin was the Organizer for the whole event.

Marvin was also invited to be the Treasurer for the Nationals DanceSport Championships in Minnesota for 2 years, and executed this task with Marvin-like passion and reliability.

In 2013, after 20 years of continuous service and dedication to the Heartland Ballroom dancers, to USA Dance, and the promotion of ballroom dancing nationwide, Marvin retired from the Heartland Board and from his duties as a Treasurer. It has been a pleasure working with this wonderful person and a dedicated professional.

From all of us at Heartland Chapter, we would like to say our collective thanks to Marvin for all his years of service! We couldn't have been this successful without you!

BY ROGER GREENWALT AND RON WRIGHT



# the PUBLIC EYE

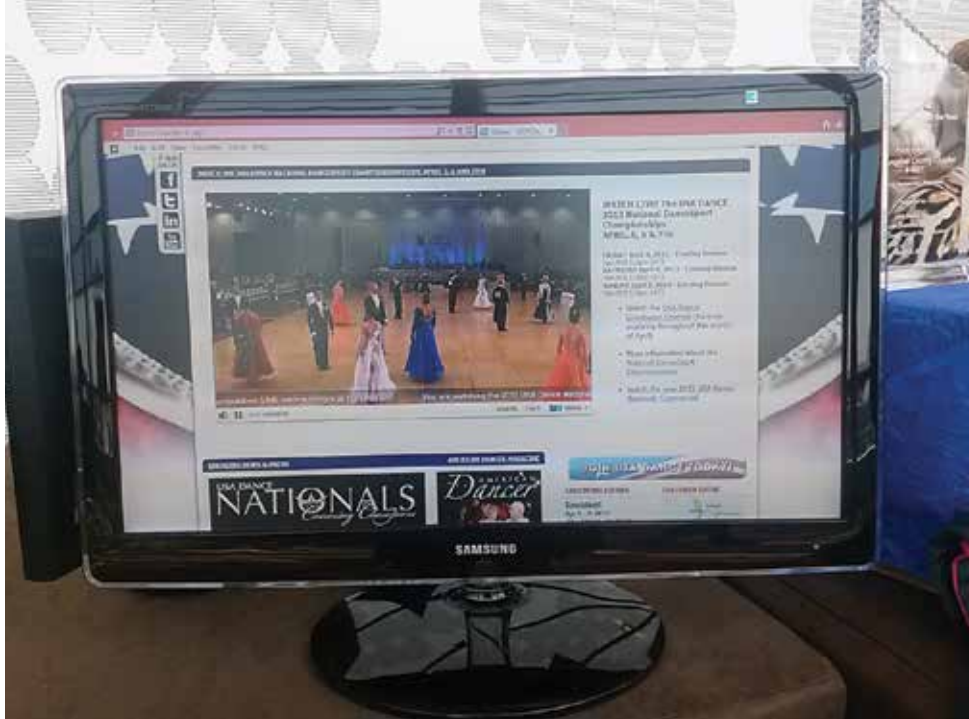
Angela Prince

## USA DANCE NATIONALS LIVESTREAM BREAKS ALL DANCESPORT COMPETITION RECORDS!

The USA Dance 2013 National DanceSport Championships in Los Angeles were “livestreamed” on the internet for the first time in our history. USA Dance had considered the technology for several years, reviewed numerous proposals, but was essentially looking for a distinctively creative, technology-advanced resource that worked well in collaboration and willing to pioneer in a way never done in the dance industry – offering a more personal, dynamic livestream opportunity to all of our members and to the world – and, at least for this inaugural year, at no fee to the viewer.

We only had one week to get the word out once the deal was approved. But what dance organization has more than 22,000 members or the social media connection that we have in the U.S. or via our additional connection with the World DanceSport Federation and the U.S. Olympic Committee?

Paradigm Digital quickly produced for us a 30-second high-powered commercial incorporating 30 minutes of highlight footage from two previous USA Dance Nationals events.



TOTAL VIEWER MINUTES 1,013,510  
 TOTAL VIEWER STREAMS 56,865

The USA Dance 2013 Nationals Livestream channel was created by Paradigm Digital and Access Dance on the USA Dance website [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org) which linked directly to the actual Livestream Channel. It was also uploaded to YouTube. So viewers could actually tune in from any of the three locations, but the promotional program directed them first to our website. Then, we launched our email and social media campaign pre-Nationals and throughout the three days at Nationals as Paradigm Digital filmed all of the evening competitions and two afternoon sessions.

No doubt, we knew the public relations value would be huge if we pulled it off. USA Dance members and supporters who had never attended Nationals could see first-hand the positive happening in DanceSport, families and friends of dancers who couldn't attend this year could see them in action; we'd reach new member prospects, our sponsors would get additional outreach, etcetera...but the PR door opened further and wider than expected.

If you watch reruns on the Livestream Channel now, you'll hear the emcees announcing every time

we hit another 100,000 viewer minute mark or added a new country). Even the audience in their seats at Nationals began hitting Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and texting friends, sending real-time photos to their connections.

**Final record-breaking results?** The USA Dance Nationals achieved more than one million thirteen thousand viewer minutes in April (and we're still counting)...and our livestreamed event reached 12 countries, primarily the USA, but achieving especially strong viewership in United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Australia, Canada, Ukraine, Italy, Peru, Argentina, Phillipines and Poland.

If you'd like to watch the re-runs of the USA Dance 2013 Nationals now, just visit [www.usadance.org](http://www.usadance.org) home page, [www.livestream.com/usadance](http://www.livestream.com/usadance) . . . and please share!

Thank you to everyone who made this possible – the Executive Committee for its approval, the DanceSport Council, Nationals Organizer and Volunteers, the WDSF, our dancers and audiences.....together we made this happen!

## ANNOUNCING BRAND NEW ERNEST BOREL FUNDRAISING INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR USA DANCE MEMBERS



In January, Ernest Borel announced a new funding program to support USA Dance. Although details will be officially determined by Fall, Ernest Borel will donate to USA Dance 20% of the retail cost of any of its watches sold to a USA Dance member (with active membership status) during 2013.

Essentially, if a watch retails for \$500, the donation would be \$100; and if the watch retails for \$10,000, the donation would be \$2,000. Needless to say, USA Dance is extremely pleased with this generous funding program and encourages members who would be buying a watch during the year, to consider the offerings of our sponsor Ernest Borel.



Members can view the watch collections online at [www.ernestborel.ch](http://www.ernestborel.ch) and either write to the company via its website "contact us" section or write to USA Business Development Manager Thomas Huggler at [thomas.huggler@ernestborel.ch](mailto:thomas.huggler@ernestborel.ch) for details.

Throughout the year, the support of Ernest Borel brings important funding to many USA Dance initiatives, including the support of the athlete training camp at the USOC training center held in May in Lake Placid, NY, scholarships for athletes, support to National Qualifying Events, advertising in American Dancer magazine and other programs.

New advertising by Ernest Borel will showcase USA Dance DanceSport couples as ambassadors later in 2013.



THOMAS HUGGLER, PIETRO MELONI, BRUNO TONIOLI AND ANGELA PRINCE

## USA DANCE ADULT LATIN DANCESPORT COMPETITORS TO APPEAR ON UPCOMING LISA OZ SHOW

USA Dance often receives calls from television production companies and casting directors for dancers. We've auditioned for America's Got Talent and our dancers went to top 10 twice. We've had at least 30 or more of our dancers on Dancing With The Stars. Our member talent has also been on talk shows like Oprah, competitions like Maury Povich's Amazing Kids, reality tv like MTV's Made, and game shows on Nickelodeon TV, not counting the many newscasts and morning shows, sometimes teaching the news anchors to dance.

Right after Nationals, we received a quick turnaround casting call for two male dancers who could dance on a talk show with a guest author who became a ballroom dancer and the show's host. So we auditioned our new Latin Adult Champion

Pasha Stepanchuk and Vice Champion, Nikita Malakhov, since they lived in the NYC area where the filming would occur...and they were selected.

DanceSport Council Member Inna Brayer (our former Adult 10-Dance National Champion), who also resides in NYC, helped the PR Director with recruiting the talent and then accompanied them to the tv studio to be sure everything went well. Sometime in the Fall, you'll see Pasha and Nikita on the new health and wellness Lisa Oz Show (Lisa is Dr. Oz's wife), produced by Veria Living.

According to Inna, Nikita and Pasha led the two ladies successfully in International Cha Cha, she also said Lisa Oz was a quick learner!



GUEST AUTHOR, PASHA STEPANCHUK, LIZA OZ, NIKITA MALAKHOV, INNA BRAYER

## ON THE RED CARPET: USA DANCE STAR QUALITY AWARDS BRING CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS TO NATIONALS IN LOS ANGELES, CELEBRITY MEDIA FOLLOWING



BRUNO TONIOLI, ZENDAYA COLEMAN, VAL CHMERKOVSKIY  
NATIONALS PHOTOS BY CARSON ZULLINGER

“IT WAS QUITE A WEEK IN LA, AS USA DANCE ENTERTAINED NUMEROUS PRINT, TELEVISION AND MAGAZINE MEDIA, IN ADDITION TO ABC-TV’S DANCING WITH THE STARS PRODUCTION CREW WHO FILMED VAL AND ZENDAYA AT NATIONALS SATURDAY NIGHT.”

Since USA Dance celebrity ambassador Carrie Ann Inaba was unable to attend Nationals this year due to the death of her father, USA Dance invited ABC-TV Dancing With The Stars Judge Bruno Tonioli to serve as honorary judge and present the 2013 Star Quality Awards, along with USA Dance National Sponsor Ernest Borel.

And once again Nationals was further enriched by the experience. Not only did Bruno Tonioli bring his magnetic personality and expertise to this special award program, he also invited numerous Los Angeles and Hollywood celebrities to attend as his guests, and all were extremely impressed by our organization, the “real star” talent and the performances. Attending were Hollywood legendary movie and stage actress Anne Jeffries, also a Golden Globe Award winner, Emrhys Cooper, professional dancer and actor, Craig Young, CEO of Brits in LA, and Kim Morgan Green, award winning movie actress.

It was quite a week in LA, as USA Dance entertained numerous print, television and magazine media, in addition to ABC-TV’s Dancing With The Stars production crew who filmed Val and Zendaya at Nationals Saturday night. We received great in-depth coverage by ABC-TV nightly news and had six dancers performing on Good Day LA, FOX TV and event highlights on Channel 6 Orange County. There was a great interview with Bruno at Nationals by Extra TV and write ups by several celebrity media – Beverly Hills Times, Hollywood Today included.

Beverly Hills Times story at  
[www.beverlyhillstimes.com](http://www.beverlyhillstimes.com)



BRUNO TONIOLI ANNOUNCING STAR QUALITY AWARDS

“NOT ONLY DID BRUNO TONIOLI BRING HIS MAGNETIC PERSONALITY AND EXPERTISE TO THIS SPECIAL AWARD PROGRAM, HE ALSO INVITED NUMEROUS LOS ANGELES AND HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES TO ATTEND AS HIS GUESTS.”



CRAIG YOUNG, THOMAS HUGGLER, BRUNO TONIOLI, KIM MORGAN GREEN, PIETRO MELONI ON RED CARPET



EMRHYS COOPER, ANNE JEFFRIES, BRUNO TONIOLI ON RED CARPET



INTERVIEW WITH BRUNO TONIOLI AT NATIONALS BY ABC-TV



INTERVIEW WITH BRUNO TONIOLI AT NATIONALS BY EXTRA TV

# USA DANCE NATIONALS

*Crowning Champions*



KEVIN MORALES & ELINA KHOTINSKAYA

SOME OF THE DANCERS  
TOOK THE TIME  
TO ANSWER SOME  
QUESTIONS, SHARE SOME  
EXPERIENCES, AND EVEN  
IMPART THEIR DANCE  
WISDOM FOR AMERICAN  
DANCER'S READERS.

BY MICHAEL MECHAM

Dance Awesomeness: the quality of inspiring an overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, or fear; causing or inducing awe through the movement of one's feet or body, or both, rhythmically in a pattern of steps, especially to the accompaniment of music.

There was a whole lot of dance awesomeness going on at the 2013 USA National DanceSport Championships.

From beginning dancers to the most advanced and experienced dancers, the level of professionalism and entertainment was incredible, and the amazing talent wasn't confined to the dance floor.

Volunteers and organizers were constantly on the lookout for ways to improve the way things were running and making sure everyone was happy. Thanks to all the great staff members and amazing dancers, it was another wonderful competition.

Some of the dancers took the time to answer some questions, share some experiences, and even impart their dance wisdom for American Dancer's readers.

NATIONAL PHOTOS BY AD STAFF  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## WHO: TJ STANTON & DASHA GOYKHMAN

### STYLE: YOUTH 10-DANCE, LATIN & STANDARD

TJ and Dasha have been dancing together for a little over a year and a half. They met prior to their partnership at the Ohio Star Ball competition and both ended up looking for a new partner around the same time.

Throughout their partnership they have had a lot of success. They have recently been focusing on their Standard dances, which showed with their fourth place finish at the 2013 National DanceSport Championships.

Dance practices and competitions take a lot of TJ and Dasha's time, especially with a four-hour round-trip commute for practices, but they still find time for other hobbies. TJ is an accomplished musician and has played the piano for 12 years. He also enjoys reading stage plays while chowing down on a Charleston Chew. Dasha uses her free time just hanging out with friends and family.

TJ joked, "Hopefully we'll have time to become world champions and still get an education." While neither TJ nor Dasha plan on making ballroom dance their career, they both hope to dance throughout their lives because of all the benefits that it brings.

Dasha's father Val expressed a sentiment shared by many ballroom parents. "I enjoy every minute of watching them dance and grow," he said. "Through ballroom dancing I have seen Dasha become a woman."

Both TJ and Dasha agree that ballroom dance has helped them develop skills and characteristics that will help them continue become whatever they hope to be in the future.



## WHO: JOHN & KATHY LINN

CATEGORIES: SENIOR 2 LATIN & STANDAR, SENIOR 3 LATIN & STANDARD

PARTNERS: 10 YEARS

Ten years ago a John and Kathy Linn decided to take a chance and enter a ballroom competition. They had been learning and dancing on their own socially, but as former college athletes, they decided they wanted to add a competitive edge to their lives again.

They have been competing ever since.

John began social dancing in order to keep up with his colleagues at medical conferences, but Kathy's social dancing began much earlier. "Daddy always danced with me," Kathy said. She started to get emotional as she talked about her father who had recently passed away. Even during a difficult time John and Kathy found comfort in dance and in being in the company of the many friends they have made throughout attending dance events and competitions.

With seven children and five grandchildren John and Kathy have always been busy, but since they started dancing they have been able to squeeze it in as often as they can. After primarily teaching themselves for over nine years, John and Kathy found some coaches to work with them a few months before the 2013 National Championships. Their hard work paid off and they felt more confident than ever heading into this year's national championships.

John and Kathy hope to be able to continue dancing together as long as they can.

## WHO: POLINA ZAYTSEVA & ANGELICA LOWE

CATEGORIES: JUNIOR 1 AND PRETEEN 2

While the dancing at nationals is amazing and the beauty of the dancers is breathtaking, it's the little nuances that make the whole experience memorable. There are vendors selling their beautiful goods, mothers and coaches helping their dancers put on makeup and fix their hair, photographers roaming around, and younger children entertaining themselves after sitting for hours watching ballroom dance.

Polina Zaytseva and Angelica Lowe are two young ladies who found a way to keep themselves busy when they weren't watching the dancers or competing themselves. They walked around the dance floors and the hallways giggling and picking up any sparkly rhinestones they could see and adding them to their collection.

When asked if they were having fun the girls looked at each other and nodded with a little more giggling, but when asked about dance, the shyness and uncertainty disappeared and was replaced with happy confidence.



JOHN & KATHY LINN

## WHO: MIKE MONOKANDILOS & CARA LOO

CATEGORIES: JUNIOR 1 LATIN, STANDARD, 10-DANCE (2012 CHAMPIONS)

“You get to have fun, and compete, and try your best,” Polina said about why she comes to nationals. “Even if you lose, you learn more and afterwards it’s like ‘phew.’”

Angelica added, “It’s fun because you get to be competitive and work on teamwork.”

For such young dancers it was obvious that these two girls enjoy their sport as they rattled off information about their favorite dances and competitors. It is obvious that someday these two girls will be inspiring other dancers at future competitions.

At the 2012 USA National DanceSport Championships Mike Monokandilos and Cara Loo competed in the Junior 1 category and took first in Latin, Standard, and 10-dance. Before they competed at the 2013 Championships they shared some of the advice they have tried to follow that they feel have made them better dancers.

Mike: Concentration is the key to not getting confused or messed up; you just have to think of every dance separately.

Cara: During practice, it’s good to think of a specific dance to work on.

Cara: We have a good partnership because we aren’t afraid to tell each other what works, and we’re open with each other.

Mike: In order to get better you just have to keep working and don’t give up.

Cara: Even if it gets hard, you just have to imagine your goal and don’t stop until you get there.



TYLER LI & ANGELICA LOWE



MIKE MONOKANDILOS & CARA LOO

## WHO: SAMUEL HACKE & REBECCA NOVIK

CATEGORIES: YOUTH 10-DANCE,  
LATIN & STANDARD

“Practice makes perfect.” This is a statement that parents and coaches have been using for generations to encourage their protégés to put in that additional time that is required to hone their talents. If this statement were true, or if the perfecting results of that practice were a little more forthcoming, then there would have been hundreds of perfect dancers at the 2013 National DanceSport Championships. One of those couples would be Samuel Hacke and Rebecca Novik.

Sam and Rebecca have been dancing together for four years and put in an average of seven hours of practice each week. That’s 1,500 hours of practice. While this amount of practice time isn’t unusual among the top-ranking dancers, what is additionally impressive is how these dancers manage to squeeze that practice time in with everything else that is going on in their lives.

Dance has helped Sam and Rebecca to manage their time and energies a little better. “I have definitely found the value of hard work,” Rebecca said. Sam added, “Dance has helped me to become more controlled and taught me that when I mess up I just need to try harder.”

Sam’s Parents Andrej and Iveta have both been competing and coaching most of their lives, and they expect hard work and dedication from all their students, including their son. “As dance teachers we have high expectations,” Andrej said, “but we are also very encouraging.” They also enjoy the educational and social benefits that they have seen Sam gain through ballroom dance.

Rebecca’s mom Larisa has also seen the benefits of ballroom dance. “When I see her dance it gives me so much joy, and she loves it! It just gives her so much pleasure when she dances.” Another thing that makes Rebecca happy on the dance floor is wearing a dress that she has designed. “I just liked drawing,” Rebecca said. “I

always ended up drawing dresses, so I designed one for myself, and I love it.”

With the 2013 DanceSport Nationals done, Sam and Rebecca have already begun preparing for their next competition hoping that a little more practice will get them that much closer to perfection.



SAMUEL HACKE & REBECCA NOVIK  
REBECCA IS WEARING THE DRESS SHE DESIGNED



## DANCING THEIR WAY TO NATIONALS

BY BARBARA WALLY

Like the couples on the floor during session 5, spectators Emily Niemi, Tanner Allison, Chloe Hyman, and Ethan Binkley danced their way to the National Dancesport Championships in Los Angeles. The students in the “Dancing Feet” school program, pioneered by the Antelope Valley Chapter (4037), crowned their 10 week program of instruction by taking first place in grade level competition at the High Desert Dance Classic in Palmdale, CA. The program, which has been in existence since 2007, is open to fifth through eighth graders at 19 schools in six California districts.

Adding to the excitement, the young dancers had an opportunity to meet with Kevin Zaverniaiv and Gabriella Pustilnik from Brooklyn, New York, who are competitors in Youth Latin Pre Champ and Champ divisions. Still in costume, Kevin and Gabriela patiently and graciously answered questions about their experiences as Ballroom dancers and future aspirations, and posed on the red carpet with the young dancers, as well as the teachers who accompanied them and Dancing Feet program director Linda Chesnutt.

Whether we see these young people in a future competition or not, the memories of their day at Nationals will inspire them to be dancers for life!

KEVIN ZAVERNIAIV & GABRIELLA PUSTILNIK WITH STUDENTS



### WHO: PAUL & LOUISE GIULIANO

#### CATEGORIES: SENIOR 3 AND SALSA

Paul and Louise Giuliano have become regular faces at the USA National DanceSport Championships. In fact, they have won the Senior 3 10-dance category seven out of the last eight years. Paul shared his three keys to dancing success. “Don’t take it too seriously. Enjoy it. And don’t criticize each other.”

Those keys to success have helped Paul and Louise on and off the dance floor. They didn’t really start dancing until after raising two sons and each having successful careers. “You become new friends again after raising kids,” Paul said, and dance lessons for their 25th wedding anniversary was one way to kindle that friendship even more.

Dancing gives the Giulianos’ lives purpose. “Once we stop dancing, we stop growing,” Louise said, “but the great thing is, there is no end to the journey.”

Paul and Louise have been very successful in their dancing and Louise had some advice to give dancers of any level. “Find a coach with good basics, and find out what your goals are.”

# STAR QUALITY AWARDS

## PRE-TEEN II GOLD Tyler Li & Anjelica Lowe



Ken Richards, Thomas Huggler, Bruno Tonioli, Pietro Meloni  
(Left to right, not including couple)

## JUNIOR II STANDARD Mike Monokandilos & Cara Loo



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

## YOUTH TEN DANCE Patrik Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmariski



Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli, Thomas Huggler

## ADULT LATIN Kiril Kulish & Jenna Johnson



Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli, Thomas Huggler

## ADULT NINE DANCE Damian Pataluna & Irina Morozova



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

## SENIOR 1 STANDARD David & Liva Wright



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

**JUNIOR II TEN DANCE**  
**Mike Monokandilos & Cara Loo**



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

**YOUTH LATIN**  
**Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmarzki**



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

**ADULT STANDARD**  
**Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova**



Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli, Thomas Huggler

**ADULT RHYTHM**  
**Craig & Samantha Abaya-Campos**



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

**SENIOR 1 SMOOTH**  
**Jonathan Medlin & Malin Allert**



Thomas Huggler, Pietro Meloni, Bruno Tonioli

The USA Dance Star Quality Awards were first launched with great success at the 2008 USA Dance Nationals in Baltimore. The 2012 Star Quality Awards were sponsored by the Ernest Borel Swiss watchmaker. The awards are outside of the traditional judging that occurs at Nationals. The awards were presented by Bruno Tonioli, and Ernest Borel representatives Thomas Huggler and Pietro Meloni. Following the final round of each division, the awards were presented to the one couple that exhibited “star performance” qualities.

# TOP FINALISTS - USA DANCE 2013 NAT



## Junior I Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) 141 Dennis Matveev & Valerie Dubinsky - MA
- 2) 118 Kristers Smits & Sophie Shvartsman - NY
- 3) 193 Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor - WA
- 4) 419 Matteo Laudati & Katherine Sulimov - CA
- 5) 315 Alex Lukasik & Konwalia Owczarz - NY
- 6) 425 Max Firestein & Nicole Mtchedlidze - NJ



## Junior II Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) 272 Mike Monokandilos & Cara Loo - CA
- 2) 141 Dennis Matveev & Valerie Dubinsky - MA
- 3) 431 Gregory Rybakov & Naomi Spektor - NJ
- 4) 329 Kinsley Lin & Michelle Yiu - CA
- 5) 193 Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor - WA
- 6) 352 Joshua Lishnevetsky & Angela Gerzberg - NY



## Junior I Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 141 Dennis Matveev & Valerie Dubinsky - MA
- 2) 193 Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor - WA
- 3) 315 Alex Lukasik & Konwalia Owczarz - NY
- 4) 118 Kristers Smits & Sophie Shvartsman - NY
- 5) 419 Matteo Laudati & Katherine Sulimov - CA
- 6) 125 Allen Mirnyy & Alexa Oaks - CA



## Junior II Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 329 Kinsley Lin & Michelle Yiu - CA
- 2) 272 Mike Monokandilos & Cara Loo - CA
- 3) 141 Dennis Matveev & Valerie Dubinsky - MA
- 4) 316 Justin Lin & Sasha Dubinsky - MA
- 5) 119 Sebastian Lowe & Anastasiya Zaytseva - CA
- 6) 431 Gregory Rybakov & Naomi Spektor - NJ
- 7) 155 Daniel Bernecker & Polina Dickenson - WA



## Junior I Championship Ten Dance (SCRPJWTVFQ)

- 1) 141 Dennis Matveev & Valerie Dubinsky - MA
- 2) 193 Erik Linder & Rickie Taylor - WA
- 3) 118 Kristers Smits & Sophie Shvartsman - NY
- 4) 315 Alex Lukasik & Konwalia Owczarz - NY
- 5) 419 Matteo Laudati & Katherine Sulimov - CA
- 6) 125 Allen Mirnyy & Alexa Oaks - CA



## Junior II Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

- 1) 329 Kinsley Lin & Michelle Yiu - CA
- 2) 272 Mike Monokandilos & Cara Loo - CA
- 3) 141 Dennis Matveev & Valerie Dubinsky - MA
- 4) 316 Justin Lin & Sasha Dubinsky - MA
- 5) 431 Gregory Rybakov & Naomi Spektor - NJ
- 6) 155 Daniel Bernecker & Polina Dickenson - WA

# ATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS



## Youth Championship Latin (CSRPJ)

- 1) 300 Briant Leytman & Nino Dzneladze - CA
- 2) 509 Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmariski - NY
- 3) 309 Denis Bykov & Michelle Klets - CA
- 4) 440 Stanislav Pavlov & Jessica Karpishin - NY
- 5) 333 Dmytry Dmytrenko & Cheyenne Murillo - UT
- 6) 171 Nazariy Blagyy & Nicole Agaronnik - IL



## Youth Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) 302 Robert McShinsky & Grace Anderson - UT



## Youth Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 509 Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmariski - NY
- 2) 324 Mikhail Vorobiev & Sonya Tsekanovsky - WA
- 3) 517 William Stansbury & Jenny Sokolsky - CA
- 4) 440 Stanislav Pavlov & Jessica Karpishin - NY
- 5) 379 TJ Stanton & Dasha Goykhman - NJ
- 6) 144 Samuel Hacke & Rebecca Novik - NJ
- 7) 314 Alexei Mitchell & Alexis Turko - NJ



## Under 21 Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) 340 Evgeny Raev & Gabrielle Sabler - NY
- 2) 498 Kiril Kulish & Jenna Johnson - CA
- 3) 391 Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova - NJ
- 4) 309 Denis Bykov & Michelle Klets - CA
- 5) 333 Dmytry Dmytrenko & Cheyenne Murillo - UT
- 6) 433 Nikolai Tarasov & Sasha Kondrashov - CA



## Youth Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

- 1) 509 Patryk Ploszaj & Anna Kaczmariski - NY
- 2) 324 Mikhail Vorobiev & Sonya Tsekanovsky - WA
- 3) 440 Stanislav Pavlov & Jessica Karpishin - NY
- 4) 381 Eric Ascione & Ciara McCurdy - UT
- 5) 434 Ryan Raffloer & Shelby Joy Cole - NY
- 6) 401 Christian Yeung & Samanta Filip - NY



## Under 21 Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 244 Valeriu Ursache & Catherine Gilsig - MA
- 2) 391 Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova - NJ
- 3) 517 William Stansbury & Jenny Sokolsky - CA
- 4) 335 Fernando Lareu & Julia Rudyak - MA
- 5) 433 Nikolai Tarasov & Sasha Kondrashov - CA
- 6) 403 Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya - NY

# TOP FINALISTS - USA DANCE 2013 NAT



## Under 21 Championship Ten Dance (SCRPJWTVFQ)

- 1) 391 Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova - NJ
- 2) 433 Nikolai Tarasov & Sasha Kondrashov - CA
- 3) 403 Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya - NY
- 4) 250 Nathaniel Tsiperfal & Sophia Brodsky - CA



## Adult Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

- 1) 391 Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova - NJ
- 2) 403 Kevin Morales & Elina Khotinskaya - NY
- 3) 331 Dimitriy Solomakha & Gabriela Sevillano - NC
- 4) 230 Christian Solares & Whitney Myers - CA



## Adult Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) 246 Nikita Malakhov & Nadezda Vlasova - NJ
- 2) 340 Evgeny Raev & Gabrielle Sabler - NY
- 3) 498 Kiril Kulish & Jenna Johnson - CA
- 4) 391 Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova - NJ
- 5) 492 Edward Golbert & Maryanna Krasko - IL



## Adult Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) 696 Daniel Tran & Taylor Kinney - CA
- 2) 195 Craig & Samantha Abaya-Campos - NJ
- 3) 206 Damian Pataluna & Irina Morozova - KY
- 4) 446 Elijah Armstead & Deenie Tusalem - AZ
- 5) 186 Zedric Marrero & Lisbeth Acosta - NY
- 6) 231 Matthew Shimizu & Jennifer Crown - MA



## Adult Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 196 Mechyslav Pavlyuk & Gemma Arnold - NJ
- 2) 169 Yuriy Nartov & Yuliya Blagova - NY
- 3) 244 Valeriu Ursache & Catherine Gilsig - MA
- 4) 391 Taras Savitsky & Tatiana Seliverstova - NJ
- 5) 331 Dimitriy Solomakha & Gabriela Sevillano - NC
- 6) 521 Tyler Wilson & Annie Seeley - UT



## Adult Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) 151 Paul Freitas & Kelly Glasheen - CT
- 2) 287 Zachary Lapidus & Katie Crutchfield - NY
- 3) 291 Zachary Bordonaro & Victoria Gilbert - MA
- 4) 356 Anton Sidorov & Ekaterina Cooper - GA
- 5) 477 Jonathan Medlin & Malin Allert - NC
- 6) 442 Nels Petersen & Theresa Kimler - MN
- 7) 147 Renzo Aida & Ivana Veliskova - MA

# ATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS



## Adult Championship Nine Dance (WTFVCRSBM)

- 1) 206 Damian Pataluna & Irina Morozova - KY
- 2) 130 Eric Nielsen & Olga Rostapshova - MA
- 3) 265 Daniel Fisher & Kami Orr - ID
- 4) 108 Jayson Mamaclay & Alicia Alvarenga - NY
- 5) 103 Carmine Rucco & Maria Bolyard - AL
- 6) 264 Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 7) 410 Bill Underwood & Patti Underwood - PA



## Senior I Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) 462 Irsan Tisnabudi & Cami Tisnabudi - TX
- 2) 359 Roger Korsiak & Teresa Tison - CA
- 3) 266 Gifford Gavieres & Holli Hornlien - CA
- 4) 122 L. Andrew Prouty & Ilona S. Prouty - NY
- 5) 220 Edwin Bugarin & Charlotte Bugarin - HI
- 6) 501 Sean Lin & Vivian Lin - NY



## Senior I Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 290 David Wright & Liva Wright - CT
- 2) 503 Xingmin Lu & Katerina Lu - NY
- 3) 203 Thomas Yim & Kelly Cheng - CA
- 4) 334 Angus Sinclair & Dara Campbell - CA
- 5) 463 Dan Manea & Mia Hu - CA
- 6) 285 Tulga Ersal & Ilkin Ersal - MI
- 7) 367 Michael Chen & Ling Ma - CA



## Senior I Championship Ten Dance (SCRPJWTVFQ)

- 1) 505 Todd Marsden & Susanna Hardt - CA
- 2) 204 Glenn & Bonnie Wuennenberg - NJ



## Senior I Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) 103 Carmine Rucco & Maria Bolyard - AL
- 2) 264 Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 3) 398 Robert Clasen & Estella Clasen - NY



## Senior I Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) 477 Jonathan Medlin & Malin Allert - NC
- 2) 308 Mike Lynch & Rose-Ann Lynch - VA
- 3) 346 Jason Bertram & Sirinda Sincharoen - CA
- 4) 478 Eric Batchelor & Brigit Venza - MD
- 5) 264 Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 6) 271 Robin Gaslin & Jean Gaslin - KS



## Senior I Championship Nine Dance (CRSBMWTFV)

- 1) 264 Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA

# TOP FINALISTS - USA DANCE 2013 NAT



## Senior II Championship Latin (SCPRJ)

- 1) 122 L. Andrew Prouty & Ilona S. Prouty - NY
- 2) 175 Richard Chiang & Iris Chiang - CA
- 3) 220 Edwin Bugarin & Charlotte Bugarin - HI
- 4) 501 Sean Lin & Vivian Lin - NY
- 5) 254 Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 6) 406 John Linn & Kathy Linn - TN
- 7) 369 Robert Blank & Martha Estevez - CT



## Senior II Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) 264 Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 2) 410 Bill Underwood & Patti Underwood - PA
- 3) 475 Philip Caluen & Alexandra Caluen - CA
- 4) 398 Robert Clasen & Estella Clasen - NY
- 5) 449 James Herbert & Sharon Jones - MA



## Senior II Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 120 Hans Stork & Ans Stork - AZ
- 2) 167 Glenn Okazaki & Anne Ho - HI
- 3) 374 Lonny Tsang & Susan Tsang - IL
- 4) 476 Thomas Yu & Yuko Naululani Yu - MD
- 5) 421 Vincent Feingold & Irina Feingold - NJ
- 6) 301 Terry Yeh & Glendy Yeh - CA



## Senior II Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) 308 Mike Lynch & Rose-Ann Lynch - VA
- 2) 190 Joseph Brogan & Shelly Brogan - VA
- 3) 368 Anthony & Marina Sanchez-Torres - CA
- 4) 264 Edward Rogers & Trisha Rogers - CA
- 5) 143 James Kleinrath & Melody Singleton - CA
- 6) 348 Leland R. Whitney & Leslie M. Whitney - MN



## Senior II Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPI)

- 1) 501 Sean Lin & Vivian Lin - NY
- 2) 254 Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 3) 474 Michael Otero & Diane Darling - MA\*
- 4) 406 John Linn & Kathy Linn - TN
- 5) 369 Robert Blank & Martha Estevez - CT\*
- 6) 204 Glenn & Bonnie Wuennenberg - NJ\*

\*Not Pictured



## Senior II Championship Nine Dance (CRSBMWTFV)

- 1) 264 Edward Rogers and Trisha Rogers - CA
- 2) 410 Bill Underwood and Patti Underwood - PA
- 3) 449 James Herbert and Sharon Jones - MA

# NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS



## Senior III Championship Latin (SCRPJ)

- 1) 175 Richard Chiang & Iris Chiang - CA
- 2) 406 John Linn & Kathy Linn - TN
- 3) 254 Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 4) 369 Robert Blank & Martha Estevez - CT
- 5) 192 Edward Huang & Corrina Huang - TX
- 6) 139 Calvin Ota & Debra Ota - HI



## Senior III Championship Rhythm (CRSBM)

- 1) 410 Bill Underwood & Patti Underwood - PA
- 2) 349 Carl Blevins & Lelia Blevins - FL



## Senior III Championship Smooth (WTFV)

- 1) 698 Charles Wang & Betty Liu - CA
- 2) 143 James Kleinrath & Melody Singleton - CA
- 3) 410 Bill Underwood & Patti Underwood - PA
- 4) 348 Leland R. Whitney & Leslie M. Whitney - MN
- 5) 449 James Herbert & Sharon Jones - MA
- 6) 312 Peter Quintero & Marilyn Stechert - CO
- 7) 349 Carl Blevins & Lelia Blevins - FL



## Senior III Championship Standard (WTVFQ)

- 1) 120 Hans Stork & Ans Stork - AZ
- 2) 301 Terry Yeh & Glendy Yeh - California
- 3) 374 Lonny Tsang & Susan Tsang - IL
- 4) 225 Winston Chow & Lilly Chow - CA
- 5) 198 Hiroshi Kawanami & Juliana Kawanami - CA
- 6) 254 Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY



## Senior III Championship Nine Dance (CRSBMWTFV)

- 1) 410 Bill Underwood & Patti Underwood - PA
- 2) 349 Carl Blevins & Lelia Blevins - FL



## Senior III Championship Ten Dance (WTVFQSCRPJ)

- 1) 254 Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 2) 406 John Linn & Kathy Linn - TN
- 3) 369 Robert Blank & Martha Estevez - CT
- 4) 192 Edward Huang & Corrina Huang - TX
- 5) 139 Calvin Ota & Debra Ota - HI
- 6) 402 Alexander Voshchin & Marsha Voshchin - MA
- 7) 284 Meneleo L. & Elizabeth A. Macagba - OR



## Open USA Dance Salsa Natl Championship (S)

- 1) 528 Javier Rebollar & Ekaterina Ivanova
- 2) 696 Daniel Tran & Taylor Kinney - CA
- 3) 186 Zedric Marrero & Lisbeth Acosta - NY
- 4) 254 Paul Giuliano & Louise Giuliano - NY
- 5) 514 Harvey Sevilleno & Jenny Remington - MI

# TREASURE TIER

## NATIONAL QUALIFYING EVENT CIRCUIT

This is not a merit based program, it's truly a  
"thank you for supporting our events"  
to those couples who go our NQEs.

**Diamond Tier** - Couples have attended at least 7 NQEs will receive: Lapel pins with a white diamond (faux) stone, three free entries at nationals, one free program/couple, VIP seating for the entire weekend, the couples' names listed in the National program, the couples' names listed in the AD following Nationals.

**Emerald Tier** - Couples have attended 5-6 NQEs, will receive: Lapel pins with a green emerald (faux) stone, two free entries at nationals, one free program/couple, VIP seating for one evening session of their choice at Nationals, the couples' names listed in the National program, the couples' names listed in the AD following Nationals.

**Ruby Tier** - Couples who have attended 4 Nationals Qualifying Events will receive: Lapel pins with a red ruby (faux) stone, one free entry at nationals, one free program/couple, the couples' names listed in the National program, the couples' names listed in the AD following Nationals.

### Diamond Tier:

Joseph & Shelly Brogan

### Emerald Tier:

Ted & Eunmee Damianos

Vincent & Irina Feingold

Paul & Louise Giuliano

Glenn & Bonnie Wuennenberg

Albert & Laurie Sprano

### Ruby Tier:

Ed & Melissa Moore

Mark & Nina Lozovnoy

Pat & Loren Salerno

Daniel Shafir & Ellen Anshelevich

Howard Willis & Adyleen Philippi

Daniel & Laurie Flynn

Kyle & Tina Ross

Bob Giordani & Brigitte Gerl

Gary Reber & Haru Wladyka

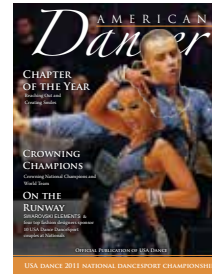
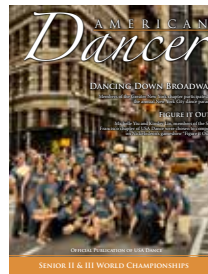
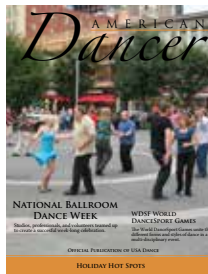
Jonathan Towne & Leigha McReynolds

James Herbert & Sharon Jones

Sean & Vivian Lin

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# The Gem State Classic

BY MICHAEL MECHAM



PHOTOS BY BILL ROSE

One thousand dancers, three thousand costumes, seven thousand spectators, and two days of intense ballroom competition. This is the Gem State Classic.

Shawn and Janie Fisher, owners and directors of Idaho Ballroom Academy, put on the annual Gem State Classic in Rexburg, Idaho. For years the competition has focused on creating a competition environment that is inviting to new competitors. There are no adult or senior categories at the competition, so the competition is comprised entirely of children and teenagers.

“It’s an incredible competition,” said Bill Rose, who acted as the official USA Dance representative at the competition. “I love seeing all the kids get out on the dance floor and just have fun. It’s a very unique competition, and I would like to see more like it.”

The Gem State Classic has also been the location for the National Youth Cabaret and Showdance Championships for the past two years. The race to be crowned champions was a close one, and several teams took home a trophy in the Showdance categories. Idaho Ballroom Academy came out the victors in one of the categories by a mere two-tenths of a point. Some of the other winning teams were Timpanogas High School, Enlight Ballroom, and In Motion Dance.

The National Youth Cabaret competition was the biggest it has ever been. Again the scores were tight, but in the end there could be only one champion, and that was Josh McBride and Mariah Black, from Enlight Ballroom in Cache Valley, Utah.

The dancers were incredible, the costumes were brilliant, the spectators were enthusiastic, and after two long days of competition, everyone left another incredible Gem State Classic with smiles on their faces.

# National Adult Formation & Cabaret DanceSport Championships

BY MICHAEL MECHAM

Logan, Utah is a relatively quiet college town. Utah State University sits up on a hill, but on April 12 and 13, the week after the USA National DanceSport Championships in Los Angeles, the campus hosted the National Adult Formation and Cabaret DanceSport Championships.

The Idaho Ballroom Academy from Rexburg, Idaho took two teams down to the competition and ended up taking first and second place in the Adult Latin formation competition. “We did great!” said Heidi Fisher, one of the dancers on the first place team, “it was so much fun just dancing with everyone.”

The cabaret competition was intense with several of the competitors returning from last year’s competition to try again. Each performance had its own unique character and flair, but at the end of the day Josh McBride and Mariah Black from Enlight Ballroom in Cache Valley, Utah went home with the trophy.

The formation and cabaret events are still relatively small as far as the numbers of competitors go, but the amount of talent is incredible. Any dancers who think that they have what it takes should definitely look into this competition in coming years.



IBA TEAM MEMBERS. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOY HENDRICKSON

## Cabaret Champions

- 1) Josh McBride & Mariah Black
- 2) Jacob Bjork & Kayla Fowers
- 3) Tanner Scholle & Mckenna Durham
- 4) Glenn Belnap & Madison Dugger
- 5) Sumner Bird & Sara Leslie

# WDSF World Championships



## Senior II Standard

Calvia, Spain – April 27, 2013

Calvia is located on the Island of Mallorca off of the Spanish mainland and situated in the Balearic Sea, which leads out to the Atlantic Ocean by way of Gibraltar.

Trying to find the cheapest flights with the least amount of time for stopovers/transfers was a chore. It's not easy trying to keep days off from work to a minimum. My partner Anne, acting travel agent, did a pretty good job researching and coordinating the different airline schedules and prices. After the Nationals, we only had two weeks before the World Championships, and it was a last minute decision to go.

We left Honolulu on a Tuesday afternoon, four days before the competition.

We stayed overnight in LA for an early (Wednesday) morning flight to JFK in New York. There, we transferred to an overnigher, arriving in Barcelona, Spain on Thursday morning and again transferring to a flight to our final destination, Mallorca, Spain, and arriving at our Hotel on Thursday afternoon.

What a trip that was going to Mallorca. Hoping to rest on Friday and adjust to time difference of 12 hours. The competition starts at 10:30 am Saturday morning. (It was not enough time)

Anne and I danced two rounds placing 67 out of the 144 couples. I'm glad we did not have to do the re-dance to qualify to the 2nd round. We were hoping for a third round call back, but missed it by a few marks. Oh well, next time!

Anne and I was the only couple from the US. There were two couples from Canada.

We took the first flight out early Sunday morning, to Barcelona. Transfer to JFK, another transfer to Los Angeles, arriving Sunday night for a good nights rest and back home to Honolulu by Monday afternoon. That was a trip! Very tiring, but we made new friends from other countries and saw old friends there, and that made up for everything.

The WDSF was concerned over a lower turnout of competitors than usual.

We usually compete against 220 to 240 couples at the World Championships. This year, although there were more countries participating, there were almost a hundred less couples than previous years. I believe the lower turnout of competitors is because of the repeat venue year after year. I would like to see it held in other countries as well. I suspect this may hold true for the other senior competitors from the other countries, thus the low entries in Mallorca this year.

We did our first World Senior II Championships in Liege, Belgium.

This is our third trip to Mallorca. Twice for the WDSF World Open Senior II Standard Championships, once for the WDSF World Open Senior III Standard Championships. I vote for Asia next year?

BY GLENN OKAZAKI & ANNE HO



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GLENN OKAZAKI

# USOC CAMP

BY LISA DUBINSKY

This May, USA Dance introduced a new initiative and organized a one-of-a-kind World Team Dance Camp at the USA Olympic Training Facility for the nation's top Junior and Youth DanceSport Athletes. The purpose of the camp was to prepare competitive dancers for the world championships and to ensure their overall readiness for upcoming challenges and performances.

USA DanceSport chose ten partnerships, ranging from Junior I to Youth, based on their results at the 2013 USA National DanceSport Championship in Los Angeles, California. Mikhail Vorobiev and Sonya Tsekanosvky, William Stansbury and Jenny Sokolsky, Gregory Rybakov and Naomi Spektor, Mike Monokadilos and Cara Loo, Kinsley Lin and Michele Yiu, Erik Linder and Rickie Taylor, Dennis Matveev and Valerie Dubinsky, Justin Lin and Sasha Dubinsky, Joshua Lishnevetsky and Angela Gerzberg and Alex Lukasik and Konwalia Owczarz were invited to participate in the Olympic Training Camp in Lake Placid, New York. On Wednesday, May 22, 2013, the dancers and their coaches arrived at the fabulous facility in Lake Placid.

At the training center, dancers met with USA Dance officials Ken Richards, Stan Andrews, Lydia Scardina, Shawn Fisher, and Inna Brayer. Dancers were excited to see their friends from all parts of the United States. They were thrilled to meet master coaches, Mikhal and Susanne Stukan, the German 10 Dance Champions and WDSF Cup, and European Cup Professional Ten Dance Finalists, who provided instructions on the most innovative Ballroom and Latin techniques.

Each day, dancers attended lectures, seminars, and group and individual practices. On Thursday, May 23, Dr. Mara Smith presented a workshop on mental strengthening. Peter Toohey, the Head



PHOTO BY LISA DUBINSKY



PHOTO BY SHAWN FISHER

Medical Provider at the USOC Training Center, instructed athletes on injury prevention. There were also lectures on nutrition and physical strengthening by Brad DeWeese, the USOC strengthening coach. DanceSport athletes worked with the top Olympic sports professionals, who instructed athletes in many disciplines. In the evening athletes took part in rounds organized by the team of coaches.

Even though the dancers and the coaches trained and learned for many hours, they still had time to socialize. On Saturday the athletes and the coaches, accompanied by the USA Dance organizers, explored the USA Olympic skating arena, strolled down the main street of Lake Placid, and enjoyed some crepes at a local restaurant. The dancers also celebrated Erik Linder's birthday with cake in the facility's cafeteria.

The culmination of the training camp took place on Saturday night. Many residential athletes from all over the world gathered for a very special performance in the gymnasium. Parents rushed in,

cameras ready, to capture the magical moments. The evening started with a speech by Ken Richards who gave an overview of the Ballroom and Latin dance program. Inna Brayer choreographed a fast paced cha cha relay, performed by all the DanceSport athletes. The evening concluded with individual demonstrations by the dancers. The performance was fast paced, precise, and elegant. The spectators cheered and applauded, and when the athletes and the organizers posed for a group photograph, they had tears in their eyes.

On Sunday, the camp drew to an end. Many of the dancers wanted to stay longer and one even suggested to stay for a month. It was wonderful for dancers not only to increase their knowledge in the discipline, but also to form a long lasting bond with their friends and fellow competitors

The dancers, coaches, and parents are extremely grateful to the USA Dance organizers for putting together such an amazing camp for dancers at Lake Placid.

# 2013 WORLD GAMES

BY MICHAEL MECHAM

USA Dance DanceSport athletes are incredible. In July a few impressive dancers will be able to show just how incredible they are at the World Games in Cali, Columbia.

DanceSport has only been a category in four previous World Games. Participation in the World Games is a huge step for the goal of DanceSport becoming an Olympic event, because participation in past World Games is included in the evaluation criteria used to select new Olympic sports adopted by the International Olympic Committee.

The 2013 USA National DanceSport Championships was the first competition to crown national Salsa champions. The event also served as preparation for the Salsa event at the World Games.

The United States will be sending participants to compete in the Standard, Latin and Salsa DanceSport categories. Each of these couples will have their work cut out for them as they compete against the world's best dancers.

# COMPETITIONS

## CALENDAR 2013-2014

**\*July 27, 2013**

**SOUTHERN STAR MID-SUMMER CLASSIC**  
TAMPA, FL

**August 10-11, 2013**

**HEARTLAND CLASSIC - NQE**  
Indianapolis, IN

**\*September 7, 2013**

**KANSAS CITY DANCE CLASSIC**  
Stanley, KS

**September 28, 2013**

**NEW ENGLAND DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS - NQE**  
DANVERS, MA

**October 4 - 6, 2013**

**CAROLINA FALL CLASSIC - NQE**  
Charlotte, NC

**October 12 - 13, 2013**

**NORTHWEST DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS - NQE**  
Portland, OR

**November 1 - 3, 2013**

**CHICAGO DANCESPORT CHALLENGE - NQE**  
Chicago, IL

**November 9, 2013**

**CALIFORNIA STATE DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS - NQE**  
EMERYVILLE, CA

**February 15 -16, 2014**

**MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS - NQE**  
Bethesda, MD

**March 28 - 30, 2014**

**NATIONAL DANCESPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Baltimore, MD

Events listed with an asterisk (\*) do not accrue proficiency points. Competitions noted as "NQE" are National Qualifying Events for the National DanceSport Championships.

**look for future event updates at**

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

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Tan Satin Sandals (2 pair) "Lorraine",  
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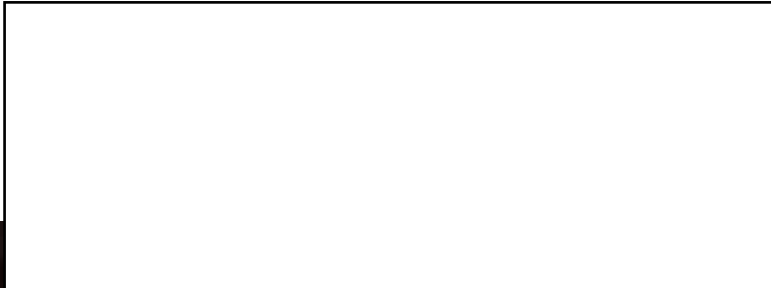
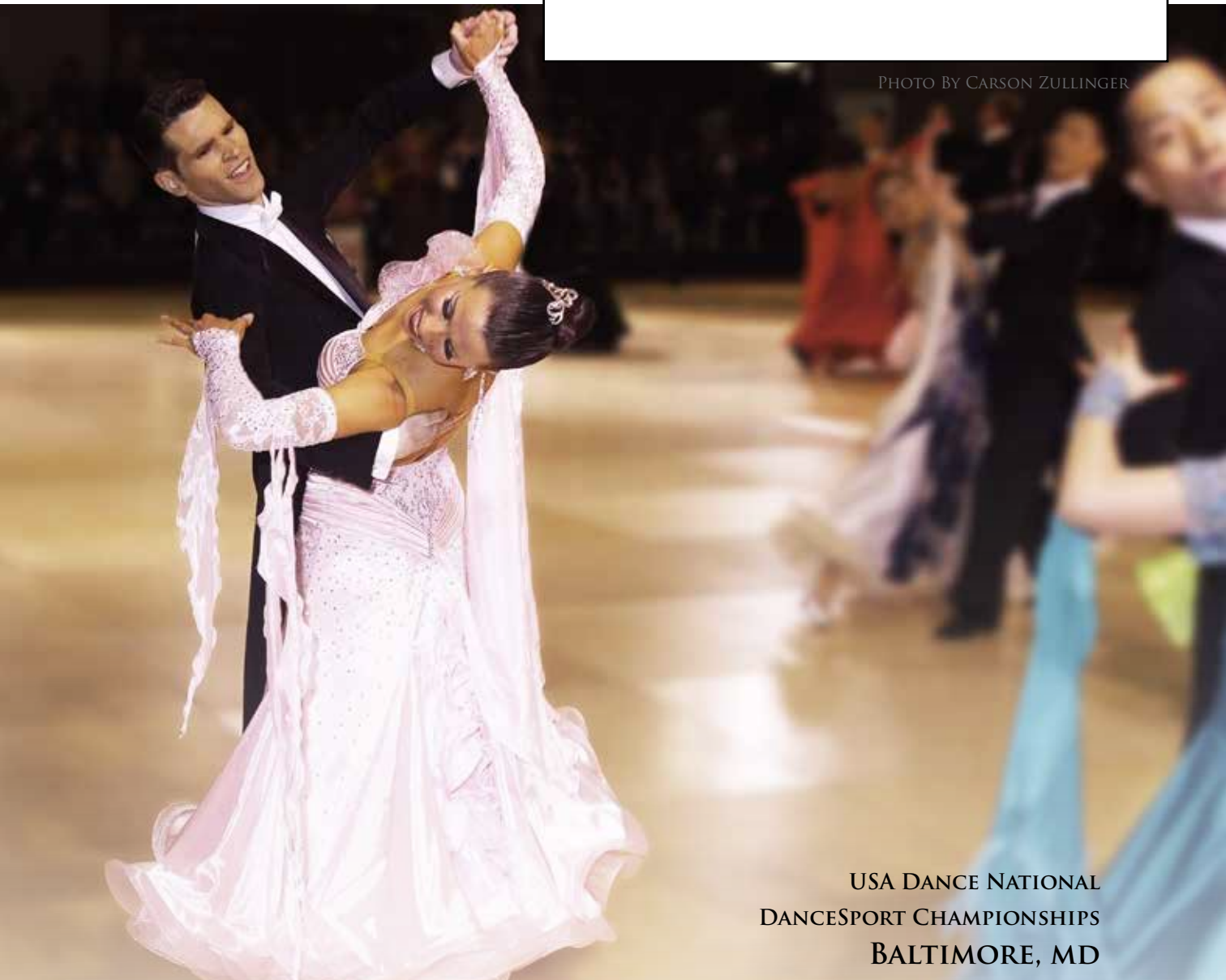


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