

MINNESOTA

DANCER

December 2017



Happy Holidays!
Sleigh Belle Dancers at the Mall of America

Photo by David Chin Photography



DANCER

An Official Publication of
USA Dance-Minnesota Chapter #2011



USA Dance: Who Are We?

We are a nonprofit organization that promotes ballroom dancing. The USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 was formed in 1991. Membership in USA Dance is open to dancers of all levels. USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 sponsors monthly dances and other special dance events. Members receive discounts on admission to monthly dances, as well as other benefits.

The Minnesota Dancer is published monthly by the USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011, to provide information and news about ballroom dancing.

Executive Editor: Bonnie Burton
Layout Editor: Tom Crable
Assistant Editor: Leland Whitney
Advertising: Paul Stachour

Contributions: Articles submitted may be edited for length, clarity, content. Photos should be high-resolution jpg, png, or pdf files. Email submissions to tcrable3s@gmail.com.

Send advertising materials to Paul Stachour at MNDancer.Ads@gmail.com.

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USA CHAPTER MONTHLY DANCES

December
Saturday, December 16
Holiday Gala Dance

Cinema Ballroom
1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul

7-8 pm lesson - V Waltz
Instructor: TBD
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

February
Saturday, February 17

Dance With Us America
10 Southdale Center, Edina

7-8 lesson - Tango
Instructor: Gene or Elena Bersten
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

January
Saturday, January 13

DanceLife Ballroom
Location Pending

7-8 pm lesson - Foxtrot
Instructor: Shinya McHenry
8-11 pm Variety Dance Music

\$5 Students under 25 with ID
\$10 USA Dance Members
\$15 Non-Members

If you join USA Dance at a
monthly dance, you attend that
dance for free!

Submitted by Carol Post

In attendance: Lee Whitney (President), Joyce Thompson (Vice President), Jane Phipps (Treasurer) Carol Post (Secretary), Bonnie Burton, Stephanie Clausen, Gary Stroick and Leslie Whitney. Marla Heisterkamp was excused.

Location: Washburn Public Library, 5244 Lyndale Avenue South, Mpls, MN 55419.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

1. Agenda: September board meeting: Approved.
2. August 2017 board minutes: Approved.
3. Treasurer Report: Approved.
4. Communications Report:
 - a. Minnesota Dancer: Discussed expense of distribution of hard copies of the magazine.
 - b. Website, Facebook and Constant Contact - More Constant Contact bought.
5. Social Dance Report:
 - a. Monthly dances-Sept-Dance With Us America, Oct-American Classic, Nov-Cinema,-Annual meeting, Dec- TBD.
 - b. Project Dance:
 - i. Budget- Fee proposals for member/non member.
 - ii. Sub-team survey-classes for basics/fundamentals, beginning and intermediate. Involve local students. Survey results will be discussed at November meeting.
6. Collegiate Ballroom Dance Coordinator - Article to be written by student group about Labor Day Weekend workshop.
7. Special Projects Report:
 - a. Special events: NBDW 15-24 Sept. MOA performance will include USA Dance flash mob. Flash mob participants will receive voucher at conclusion of MOA event to attend one monthly dance.
 - b. Printed materials (membership, flyers, business cards) available at demos and MOA.
8. National Social Dance Coach(s) Pilot Program in Minnesota:
 - a. Comprised of Smooth/Latin.
 - b. Dance Camp - on site instruction. Dates and venues to be pursued.
9. Membership Report:
 - a. Aug 31, 2016- 302 members.
 - b. Aug 31, 2017- 264 members.

Meeting concluded at 7:30 pm. Next Meeting: 6 pm, Tuesday, October 3, at 2017 Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Communications Committee is seeking a volunteer(s) for the following opportunity:

1. Design/Layout Editor – This person is a member of the newsletter committee and works with the Executive Editor to design, create and prepare our 28-30 page monthly ballroom dance newsletter. Experience with Adobe InDesign is desirable. We'd like a creative, knowledgeable individual who is comfortable meeting deadlines, is detail oriented, and is able to volunteer 8-10 hours per month. We request a minimum 1-year commitment, position to start January, 2018.

Contact Bonnie Burton at bonnieburton@comcast.net or 952.454.4620 for more info.

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DANCER'S NIGHT OUT

USA DANCE

USA Dance – Monthly - 3rd Saturday Variety Dance, December 16, at Cinema Ballroom, 1560 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul. Lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 11 pm. Lesson - TBD. Instructor: TBD.

Project Dance - No Project Dance for December.

WEEKLY DANCES

Awakened Dance (at 'nMotion Dance Center) - Fridays, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 9 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Wednesdays, Practice Party, 8 – 9 pm.

Dancers Studio – Thursday, Variety Dance, 8 - 9:30 pm.

Dance With Us America - Thursday, Practice Party, 8:15 - 9 pm.

Costa Rica Ballroom – Wednesday, Practice Party, 8:15 - 9 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom– Fridays, Variety Dance, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 9:30 pm.

Ballroom & Latin Dance Club - Fridays, lesson 7 - 8 pm and dance 8 - 10 pm.

OTHER DANCES

Argentine Tango Milonga - Second Saturday of each month, December 9 , class at 8:30 pm and dance 9:30 pm - 1 am. See mntango.org for more information.

Café Bailar Dance Club – Saturday Variety Party, December 9 and 23, at Costa Rica Ballroom, lesson 7:30 – 8:30 pm and dance 8:30 - 11 pm.

Cinema Ballroom – Variety Dance, December 1 and 15, lesson 7 – 8 pm and dance 8 – 11 pm.

Dancing with Jerry O'Hagan and His Orchestra - December 10, Cinema Ballroom, 6:15 - 10 pm.

Tapestry – Variety Dances, 1st and 3rd Sundays, December 3 and 17, dance 6 – 9:30 pm.

Twin Cities Rebels – WCS and Variety Dance, December 3 and 17, at DanceLife Ballroom, 7 – 10:30 pm.

Cinema Ballroom - Winter Showcase - December 2, 5 - 10 pm.

Dance With Us America - Winter Showcase - December 2, 5 - 10 pm.

DanceLife Ballroom - Winter Showcase - December 9, 6 - 10 pm.

Dancer's Studio - Winter Ball Showcase - December 15, 7 - 11 pm.

American Classic Ballroom - New Year's Eve Dance Party and Food Drive - December 31, 8 - 12 pm.



USA Dance–Minnesota #2011
cordially invites you to our

Holiday Gala Dance

Saturday, December 16, 2017

Performances
Refreshments & Fun!

7 pm Lesson
8–11 Variety Dance

CINEMA BALLROOM
1560 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN



DANCE CONTACTS

If you would like to be listed on this page, send your contact information to tcrable3s@gmail.com

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BLUE MOON BALLROOM
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www.mndance.com

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www.dancewithusamerica.com

DANCELIFE BALLROOM
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320.763.6432
danceclub@lakesideballroom.org
www.lakesideballroom.org

LATIN DANCE CLUB OF UMN
Email: latindc@umn.edu
sua.umn.edu/groups/directory/group/3713/

LINDEN HILLS DANCING CLUB
www.lindenhillsdancingclub.org

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SOCIAL DANCE CLUB
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STARDUST DANCE CLUB
stardustdanceclub@gmail.com

SUBURBAN-WINTERSSET DANCE CLUB
Woman's Club of Minneapolis,
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis
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TANGO SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA
612.224.2905
www.mntango.org

TAPESTRY FOLKDANCE CENTER
3748 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis
612.722.2914
www.tapestryfolkdance.org

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COMPETITION CALENDAR

December 2, 2017

California State DanceSport Championships - 2018 NQE

Oakland, CA

January 12 - 14, 2018

Snow Ball Dancesport Competition

Minneapolis, MN

January 12 - 14, 2018

Manhattan Amateur Classic - 2018 NQE

Jersey City, NJ

February 2 - 4, 2018

Southeastern Dancesport Championships - 2018 NQE

Birmingham, AL

February 16 - 18, 2018

Mid-Atlantic Championships NQE

Hosted by Mid-Eastern USA Dance chapter # 6001, Bethesda, MD

February 16 - 18, 2018

Senior IV National DanceSport Championships

Hosted by MidEastern USA Dance chapter # 6001, Bethesda, MD

April 6-8, 2018

National DanceSport Championships

Baltimore, MD

June 29 - July 1, 2018

Gumbo DanceSport Championships NQE

Baton Rouge, LA

LYNNE'S DANCE NEWS

Dance events for every day of the week.
Updated daily.

www.lynnesdancenews.com



WEEKEND GETAWAYS, LUXURY DANCE CRUISES, DANCE DESTINATIONS

Ballroom Events

113th Weekend Getaway *Black Tie Gala*

Friday April 13th - Sunday April 15th 2018

Rates starting at \$419pp

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June 15th - 17th

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No
Project Dance
in
December



Author Suzi Blumberg is an avid social dancer and frequent contributor to Minnesota Dancer. She works at Donaldson Company global headquarters in sales.. She is active in her church including dancing with a Hebrew worship dance team, gardening and walking her two bichons.

Sleigh Belle Dancers to Perform at Holiday Gala in December

By Suzi Blumberg

We have a special treat coming to us at the December 16th USA Dance: the Sleigh Belle Dancers will be performing! Their jazz and high-kick numbers bring cheer, fun and happiness to their audiences all around the Twin Cities. This is their tenth year and five of the eighteen ladies have been in the group since it started. The Sleigh Belle Dancers believe dance is an expression of the human spirit and all have one common goal—to give to their community and spread holiday cheer to people who need it the most.

The group is a self-managed, volunteer holiday dance ensemble. Director Lori Goldstein, says, “They are an incredible group of women whose zest for life is ever-present in their dancing.” The age range is from 15 to 60 and the ladies come from all walks of life including high school students, a doctor, IT specialists, teachers, engineers, healthcare workers, administrative assistants, dance studio owners and some are even cancer survivors.

Performing for us at the USA Dance Minnesota Holiday Gala

Dance will be Barbie Albers, Amanda Ayd, Jodi Ayd, Sarah Rudell Beach, Pat Dechaine, Diane Frey, Trish Foster, Lori Goldstein, Kym Latterell, JoJo Latterell, Melissa McCabe, Sara Madler, Gretchen Novak, Marie Reilly, Stevie Roles, Shannon Salneck, Nicky Thorvilson and Bonnie Warhol.

Each year they have new costumes and learn three new dance routines. Tryouts and workshops are in July and August. They look for people who have intermediate to advanced dance expe-





rience. Practices are two hours and in July and August, practices are twice a week. September practices are once a week. They perform from September to February. This year's calendar is full and includes Mall of America, West Coast Swing Club, Rosedale Center, and they will be a part of the St. Paul Winter Carnival royalty coronation this year.

Lori Goldstein and Yvonne Viehman co-founded the Sleigh Belle Dancers. They thought it would be fun to get a troupe together to do kick/jazz numbers. The group started off with ten and now have eighteen members. In the beginning, Lori and Yvonne were the choreographers but now it's done by Heather Hildebrandt, who also coaches the team.

Yvonne doesn't dance with the team any longer, but she helps co-

ordinate the dates and locations and she MC's the shows. Yvonne recently said, "Though my schedule no longer allows me to perform with the ladies, I am right there with them in spirit. As a dancer on this team, it helped me to envision the precision of the New York City Rockettes, to give a little wink to someone in the audience, to continue kicking when your legs were aching and your toes crying "get me out of these shoes"! It takes patience to learn all of the nuances of the choreography – the tip of your head, the pointing of your toe, the turnout of your foot to make the dance come together. However, all the hours of preparation certainly pay off when the performance comes to fruition. It's exhausting and exhilarating all at the same time! I just witnessed these lovely ladies dance on November 26 at Rosedale Mall and every one

of them executed the choreography flawlessly, they let the music move through them and allowed the joy to envelop them as that joy was reflected back at them in the smiles of those watching! Way to go Sleigh Belle Dancers – mission accomplished!"

If you would like to be a part, either by donating or dancing, please contact Lori Goldstein at sleighbelledancer@live.com. Check their website www.sleighbelledancers.com for events and performances and like them on Facebook.

Be sure to mark your calendar for December 16th and attend the USA Dance Minnesota Holiday Gala Dance so you can enjoy the Sleigh Belle Dancers perform! If you're not in the Christmas spirit by then, they'll definitely help you get there!



Twas the Day Before Danceline!

*By Deborah J. Nelson/
Satin Stitches Ltd.*

Deborah J. Nelson is the founder, President, and head designer of Satin Stitches Ltd.

This vintage Satin Stitches Poetry is a special holiday poem lovingly created decades ago by Margaret, a Satin Stitches employee, with minor updating for this year, by Deborah.

The simple term - "Danceline", used to be the term for our State High School Dance Team Championship, back in the 1980s.

*'Twas the day before Danceline,
When all through Satin Stitches
Not a scissors was cutting,
Not a needle was stitching.
The costumes were hung
With their hooks, loops, and
labels,
In hopes that the check
Would soon be available.
The employees were sprawled*

*In their comfortable lounge,
While visions of dancers
Soon to be prancing, abound.
And Debbie in her rolled up
sleeves
And we in our sweaters,
Had just collected our wits
From the last set of zippers.
When all of the sudden
There arose such a clatter,
We sprang from our chairs
Wondering what was the matter!
Out to the office,
We dashed in a flash,
To hear Cheryl answer the
phone*

*And say- "Satin Stitches", natch.
The sun shone in
On the empty cutting table,
Making the costumes even more
Sparkling, if that were able.
Then, what to our wondering
Ears should we hear,
But, "Sure we have time!
What do you need, dear?"
More rapid than power ma-
chines,
The order was made.
Then Debbie whistled and shout-
ed,
And called them by name.
Pattern Haley! Measure Mer-
cedes! Cut Jan!*

Pin Margaret! Sew Lidia!

Sew Leticia! Press Tran!

Stone Rebecca! Post Lisa! Let's
alert the media!

To the Cutting Machine!

To the Power Machine!

Now cut away! Pin Away!

Sew away all!

So to the machines

The sewers, they flew

With arms full of spandex,

And sequins, too!

And then in a twinkling

We heard the cutting machine
go.

The whir and vroom

Of each sewing machine sew.

As I drew in my breath
And was looking around,

In the back door, an overnight
delivery

Arrived in a mound.

Then came the zippers

And now it was time

For hooks and bags and, Please

Do not forget the hang tags!

Then Gabrielle was found,

Our leggy dress form,

And we oohed when we saw her

All sparkly adorned!

A wink of Debbie's eye

And a twist of her sleek hair
mop,

Soon let us know

We had done a fantastic job!

The customer arrived

And went straight to her cos-
tumes,

And spoke not a word

As she inspected each one.

She stood far back

To get a good view,

And smiling with approval

For her team, she knew.

Debbie sprang to the dress rack,

To her team gave a whistle,

And away the costumes flew

With the speed of a missile!

Then we heard Debbie exclaim

With the check in her hand

Good luck to all

And see you next year!

We hope that you all have a safe
and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all
a GOOD NIGHT!



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DANCE DEMO NEWS

Hi Dancers,

Hope you are enjoying these winter days and getting in lots of dancing!

Below is an opportunity to dance at the following venue:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm

Rosedale Mall - East Court

Rosedale, MN

Please contact Yvonne Viehman at 763.245.7936 or email me at danvman@aol.com for further details.

Share Your Talents

Share your talents and experience with the team of USA Dance Minnesota Chapter #2011 by:

- Writing articles for the Minnesota Dancer.
- Interviewing members of the dance community on topics of interest.
- Graphic Designer.
- Illustrator.
- Publication Distribution.

For more information, contact Bonnie Burton at bonnieburton@comcast.net or Tom Crable at tcrable3s@gmail.com.



Paul Stachour works in software quality assurance for life critical systems. He has taught dance part-time for five years.

Lead or Follow or Both

Part 9

Turning the Follower Corner

By Paul Stachour

Have you ever been out for a long walk? One where you could see far ahead the corner of a road where you intended to turn? When even though you walked for a long time, the corner did not seem to get any closer? I've felt like that often in my quest to become a good follower on the partner dance scene. But recently, over the last nine months or so, a number of items have happened that tells me that the corner where I am to turn is not far ahead. Allow me to describe some of these experiences.

At venue A, at the beginning of a lesson, the dance teacher looked around, counted those there, and said: "We have seven leaders and three followers for tonight's dance lesson. So people don't have to sit out, Paul and M, would you dance the follower role tonight?"

At venue B, at a variety dance, the DJ played only three tangos the whole night. For each one, as I approached a lady to ask her to dance, before I could ask, she held up her left hand and smiled and said "May I lead this one?" That happened with three different la-

dies.

At venue C, as the lesson prior to the dance was ending, and where I had danced follower with a couple of partners who were learning how to lead, the male dance teacher said: "I see you are dancing follower quite well. I can't seem to dance follower worth beans."

At venue D, where there were six students, the dance teacher said to two of them: "J and N, I know that you two dance only lead and follow respectively. The rest of the class dances both roles, and does so reasonably well. I want you to know that it is okay that to dance just one role as everyone else rotates and learns the pattern in both dance roles."

At venue E, I was dancing west-coast-swing with female R and we were switching lead and follow. Both of us noticed that, on that particular evening, I seemed to be pivoting in balance quite well. As the song ended, she gave me a free spin, and I managed to spin three rotations in balance before stopping. I had never done that before!

At venue F, I was dancing a cha cha with female D. She led a pattern that we'd been taught some time back. I missed it the first two times, but did it okay as follower the third time. I still have not figured out how to lead that pattern and make it happen when I am the leader and she is the follower.

At Venue G, at the conclusion of the variety dance, a female instructor W came up to me and said: "I'm disappointed. You did not ask me to lead you once tonight. And I like doing lead when we dance together." I apologized, and said there were too many ladies there for me to dance just one dance as leader; let alone dancing with many as follower. I did remind her that it was okay for her to ask someone to dance in either role; that I also like people asking me to dance as well as me asking them.

At venue H, when I asked female B to dance, she said: "You have forgotten that I do not dance foxtrot; however, please reserve the next waltz for me; and I'll lead, if that is okay with you."

At venue I, while a rumba was playing, I approached female K and held up both hands. Some would interpret that as “Can we start this dance in a two-hand hand-hold?” However, she smiled at me and held her left hand up with her right hand to the side. She was thus clearly signaling to me: “Oh, you’ve said you’ll do either dance role. I want to take the leader role for this rumba.”

At venue J, when I asked female D for an east-coast swing, she said: “Sure. Do I get to lead?”

At venue K, when the DJ called for people who had had birthdays the previous week, and I was the only one who responded, I asked for the dance to be west-coast-swing. I further asked those who chose to pair with me for the birthday dance to lift either their left or right hand, depending upon which role they wanted, with me to take the alternate one. The first person to join me was female E, who held up her left hand and said: “I’ll dance with you first, so the others can understand what you meant.” I got about 50-50 leaders and followers for that birthday dance.

At venue L, when I asked female J for a cha-cha, she said: “Would you lead instead of follow tonight? I know you usually lead on the country 2-step and I lead on the cha cha. However, I’ve had a rough day today, and I want to glide instead of think.” My reply was: “Sure, I’ll lead tonight. It is always your choice as to whether you wish to dance any dance, who you want to dance it with, and what role you will take.”

At venue M, as I was leaving, I thought about who I had danced with that night, which dances I had danced with them, and which role I did. By my count, I danced one out of five dances in the follower role.

At venue N, I asked female T if she might be interested in doing a dance with me at an upcoming showcase. She replied: “Yes, I might be interested; which role are you thinking about doing?” We wound up dancing a rumba together at the showcase, and alternating who was leading after every pattern.

At venue O, female J came up to me and said: “They are playing a salsa. I lead salsa. May I lead you?”

At venue P, male S came up to me and said: “Hey, Paul, how about us doing this one?” I inferred that he was implying that we would swap lead and follow during the dance. That was a correct inference, and we swapped roles while we danced a cha cha.

At venue Q, I asked female J if she might be interested in doing a dance with me at another upcoming showcase. She replied: Yes, I might be interested; which role are you thinking about doing?” We did two dances at that showcase: a tango (which I led) and a west-coast-swing (which she led).

So what do I NOT do as a follower? I’ve not yet had the guts to join the followers’ line at a mixer. I envy the gals who seemingly easily join the leaders’ line. I am concerned that some of the gals in the

followers’ line would tell me I don’t belong there. (I have witnessed a number of guys in the leader’s line telling gals in that line that they are in the wrong place. That cannot be a good experience for those gals.) I fear many of the guys in the leaders’ line would tell me “I don’t dance with guys” and brush on by me.

I have a further concern that some of the followers will resent my dancing with a particular lead they had hoped to be paired during the mixer. Such followers might be those who don’t ask guys to dance. They may see the mixer as their only opportunity to meet new guys in a comfortable way.

I seldom ask a male to dance with me in the alternate (followers) role and even less often for them to take the follower role. I have a whole set of articles pending about asking for a dance in the alternate role, and some of the issues that I see others and me facing when asking for a dance in an alternate role. I’m still working on good ways to make such requests. I’m also apprehensive about asking anyone for a dance where they would dance a role that I have not already seen them take.

To summarize, I think I’m getting pretty close to turning the follower corner. No matter whether you dance either role or only one, please consider coming along and dancing with me, so we may both enjoy the next leg of the walk/dance.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

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