



# MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## THE IMPORTANCE OF DANCING WITH BEGINNERS

The following is a terrific article written by Larry Fournier of the Great Lakes Swing Dance Club. The section at the end, in italics, contains editorial comments. Thanks a lot, Larry. SN

"While there is no question that dancing with a better partner will make you "look good", and with such a partner you can concentrate more on styling details because the lead or the follow doesn't need so much attention, it is not the best way to practice leading and/or following skills. If learning leaders only dance with accomplished followers and vice-versa, they won't develop great leading/following skills because they won't "need" to. Now, let's suppose that you are a great leader or follower.

What happens if you dance only with other great dancers? Your lead and follow skills will gradually "deteriorate" because you're not working them very hard. After some months without exposure to beginners, you may be surprised to find that you can't dance with them very well, even though they seem to do okay with other beginners. You learn how to dance better by dancing with more experienced partners. But you learn how to lead/follow better by dancing with less experienced partners. Your skills are put much more to the test dancing with a beginner than with an experienced dancer. It is easy to lead/follow a great dancer. All your weaknesses as a leader/follower show up with beginners. Dance with them and ask yourself why each incorrectly led/followed pattern didn't work and, when you figure it out, work on incorporating the fixes into all your dancing!

You can't become a good dancer by dancing "only" with the same person.

*Continued on page four....*

## NEXT PARTY

**AUGUST 13  
at the AMBER HOUSE**

**Lesson 3 PM**

**Dance Party 4PM-8PM**

*Our parties are at the Cabaret  
Ballroom located inside 'The  
Amber House, 7012 E Nine Mile  
Road, Warren, MI. 810-754-3434*

## THE LINE-UP

We are happy to announce our list of teachers for future MSDA dances.

August 13 ..Yvonne Bouche' & Art McDuffy

September 17...Mike and Inge Evans

October 13...Barry Douglas

## WE NEED YOUR HELP GETTING CINCINNATI TICKETS!!!!

**Tickets are sold out for the Fall Convention by the Cincinnati Bop Club. There are often MSDA members who want to go but don't have tickets. If you know of any tickets available, please contact Sharon Nelson at 248-926-5484 or by e-mail at: [sfnelson@att.net](mailto:sfnelson@att.net). I'm keeping a list and will let the members know. The more of us who go, the more fun it will be so let's ask anyone we know from previous conventions or from other cities if there are any tickets that we could purchase. Thanks for your help. S.N.**

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

**To Bob Campbell  
and Louise Zaleski**



*They're  
engaged!!!*



## DANCE LESSON

Last month, Tim Constant taught a dynamite lesson in Intermediate/Advanced East Coast Swing. He broke his own record and had 52 people on the floor for the lesson. Thanks again, Tim, for all your support and for getting the word out about the club



This month, we look forward to Yvonne Bouche' and Art McDuffey as our guest teachers. This professional team will be teaching a very enjoyable and useful lesson in Intermediate East Coast Swing Amalgamations. Please see page four for a bio.

**NEW MEMBERS**

The MSDA warmly welcomes the following Dancers to the club. Thanks so much for your support!

- THOMAS BASHAW
- RICHARD BONAFEDE
- FRANCINE CLAY
- JULIA RAMSDEN
- TODD TATE
- LINDA WEBB
- LOIS WHITE
- DAVID YOUNG
- RITA YOUNG



The MSDA has a birthday party every month for those with birthdays during that month. We announce the members' names, have a birthday dance especially for them and serve cake. We also have a small gift for those present at the party in their birthday month. Please be sure to open it before leaving the party...it needs to be laminated.

- |                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| CINDY COCHRAN       | 8/1  |
| TIM CONSTANT        | 8/2  |
| LOLA MCCRAW         | 8/2  |
| IVAN FOX            | 8/4  |
| EMILIO TORRES       | 8/12 |
| SUZY NEAL           | 8/13 |
| MARY JANE LAZOEN    | 8/15 |
| SEAN MCDONNELL      | 8/17 |
| FRANCINE CLAY       | 8/19 |
| ROSEMARY KORNACKI   | 8/20 |
| DAVID KAZMIROWSKI   | 8/21 |
| JIM SAFFOLD         | 8/21 |
| PAM JAMES           | 8/22 |
| BETTIE DEMARS       | 8/22 |
| MARY FARR           | 8/25 |
| TOMMY WHISMAN       | 8/26 |
| GREG HAMILTON       | 8/28 |
| ROSEMARY BALDARELLI | 8/29 |
| TONY WALKER         | 8/30 |



**FUTURE PARTIES**



- September 17
- October 15
- November 19

**Please note: Some of the dates are not on the 3rd Sunday due to holidays or convention dates.**

The birthday cake for our parties is provided by Dave Michalski. He gives us a great discount and will give any MSDA member a discount too. Dave's shop is located at:

**Gallery of Cakes**  
 10626 W. Warren  
 Dearborn, MI  
 313-581-5702  
 Hours:  
 Tues - Fri, 10 to 6  
 Saturday, 10-2:30  
 Sunday, Closed



**MICHIGAN DANCE CLASSIC**

August 18-20  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 810-694-7625

**CHICAGOLAND COUNTRY AND SWING DANCE FESTIVAL**

Rosemont, IL  
 August 20-21  
 616-473-3261

**GLSD AT FRANKENMUTH SWING FEST**

August 26, 2000  
 Frankenmuth Heritage Park  
 45 x 65 wood dance floor  
 6 PM Dinner, 7 PM Cha-Cha lesson,  
 8-11:30 Dance  
 Members: All for \$10 pre-purchased.  
 DJ & instructor: Dave Wolf. BYOB.  
 810-733-7340

**MOTOR CITY JAM**

September 8-10  
 Eastern Michigan University  
 Ypsilanti, MI  
 313-869-9385  
 PauletteBrockington@yahoo.com  
 or <http://artspectrum.org>

**CHICAGO CLASSIC**

September 28-Oct 1  
 Chicago, IL  
 773-202-1823

**SOS FALL MIGRATION**

September 15-24  
 N Myrtle Beach, SC  
 (Shagger's heaven)  
 888-767-3113

**AMERICAN LINDY HOP CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Oct 27-29  
 Stanford, CT  
 313-869-9385  
 PauletteBrockington@yahoo.com  
 or <http://artspectrum.org>

**DALLAS DANCE**

Nov 3-5  
 Swing & Hustle Championships  
 Dallas Cabaret Championships  
 Workshops, prizes, inc. a cruise.  
[www.dallasdancefestival.com](http://www.dallasdancefestival.com)  
 214-366-DANCE

**SUNSHINE STATE DANCE FESTIVAL**

Nov 23-26  
 Fort Lauderdale, FLA  
 513-754-1070  
 Swing & Hustle Competitions,  
 Jack & Jills, workshops  
 3 separate dance floors  
 Country, Swing & Hustle, Line  
 Dance  
<http://www.danceconnection.org>

**US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Nov 24-26  
 Century City, CA  
 800-537-8937



**DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS**



**AMBER HOUSE** offers **TUESDAY ECS & LINDY LESSONS WITH TIM CONSTANT.**

ECS: 6:30 to 7:30. Lindy: 7:30 to 8:30. \$5 per lesson. **THURSDAY NIGHT DANCES** include a terrific country DJ plus lessons. See attached flyers. FMI: Call (810).734.3434. **THE DANCE CLUB** classes begin each month at the Amber House in Warren. Private lessons available. Mambo, Hustle, ChaCha - Tango - Waltz - FoxTrot - Swing - West Coast. Huge Dance Floor! Amber House, 7012 E. Nine Mile Road (Just W. of VanDyke) Warren, MI

**STARDUST DANCE STUDIO** offers our members a discount of \$1.00 off the admission fee for their Friday night parties. Everyone is welcome. Party is from 9 PM to 12 AM. FMI: (248) 356-5678. **See attached class schedule.** 10% discount to members. NO DISCOUNT IS OFFERED AT THEIR ANN ARBOR LOCATION.

**DANCE AVENUE DANCE STUDIO**

offers MSDA members a discount of \$1.00 off their Thursday night parties. FMI: call Dance Avenue at (313) 565-3329. **See attached class schedule.**

**ROYAL OAK ARTHUR MURRAY**

Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members off the \$5.00 charge for Friday night parties. Party..9:15 PM-10:45 PM. FMI: (248) 548-4770.

**TROY DANCE STUDIO**

They offer \$1.00 discount on every event they hold. They have scheduled Theme Parties on Tuesdays. Theme parties have hors d'oeuvres and drinks included. Open House for new students includes free group lessons the last week of each month. FMI: Elaine Marrero, TDS. (248) 689-3393.

**CHANGE OF PACE CLOTHIERS**

Located at 2045 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake, MI 248-332-1811. 10% discount offered to all MSDA members. They have men's & women's clothing, shoes & accessories! Wonderful quality, everything from funky to elegant. They also do expert alterations! Check out their wonderful sales rack. No discount there, but none is needed. Great buys on dance clothing!!!

**DANCE ALERT**

Want to receive the latest e-mail news on dance related events in Michigan? Want to know where the hottest dance floors are? E-mail Brenda at dancealert@aol.com and visit her new website at:

<http://dancemichigan.com>

**NEW PAGES** have been added: **Instructors, DJ's, bands and Event Coordinators may advertise for free.** Also, check out our Information Station for her list of Dance Floors in the area.

**LYNCH'S**

Three Locations:  
Warren: (810) 751-1780  
Dearborn: (313) 565-3425  
Wyandotte: (313) 281-8108.  
15% discount to MSDA members.  
They carry various trims for costumes, teachers' shoes, tights, etc.

**HUBER & BREEZE**

30% discount on all Rentals, Sales, Repairs of New & Used Disc Jockey Equipment. Musical instruments & vocal lessons also available.  
33540 Groesbeck Hwy.  
Fraser, MI (810) 294-3950

**COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?**

Megan Woodbury, MSDA member, is the lady to contact if you are a male dancer between 45 and 70 and you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on the cruise ships. Megan works for Lauretta Blake and has been a 'tester' for the Michigan, Windsor and Ohio areas for eight years. You can reach her at (313) 886-9394.



**TRAVEL PLANS?**

We have a listing of clubs, associations, studios, and dance events in other cities throughout most of the United States. If you would like to check out the dance action in a city you're planning to visit, call or e-mail either Sharon. or, check out our links page at <http://msda.org/links.htm>. We'll try to hook you up.

(248) 926-5484 or [sfnelson@att.net](mailto:sfnelson@att.net)



**BE SURE TO FILL OUT A DANCE CARD OR TEN AT EACH PARTY. WE USE THOSE TO CHOOSE WINNERS FOR THE DOOR PRIZES.**

**CLUB POLICY ON ADVERTISING**

I'd like to discuss an issue that may not be clear. This newsletter promotes certain studios, events and businesses. We do so in return for discounts offered to our members. We do **not** take money for the ads or flyers. The newsletters are paid for out of membership fees and party entrance fees. We try to limit the local flyers placed on the Information Station to those events that offer discounts, and the same goes for anything that is passed around during a dance, either with or without our knowledge. Occasionally someone sneaks one in that we don't catch. My point is this: if you want to reach our extensive list of members, the only way to do so is to give them a discount. What's the problem with offering a small discount to an event? It seems to me that 90% of something is better than 100% of nothing. This club is structured to benefit the members and it will stay that way. BTW, anyone who wants to come in and pass out flyers must pay to get in and must clear it with me first. The flyers **must** have an MSDA discount to be passed out or to be allowed on the Information Station or anywhere else at the dance. This includes "By Invitation Only" events or any other name you choose to come up with to circumvent this rule. You're still using club resources. Thanks for understanding.

Sharon Nelson



**CONGRATULATIONS** to last month's Dance Card Contest winners: Rian Klefstad & Patti Morris (of course) won free passes to an MSDA dance, Catherine ? won an MSDA t-shirt and Geri Smith won a CD. Delane Kildal won \$90 in the 50/50 Raffle.

**BE A JACKPOT WINNER! REMEMBER THE 50/50 RAFFLE.**

At each party, you can buy an arm's length worth of tickets for \$5.00. The raffle drawing is at 6 PM. Just see Steve Lenahan for tickets.

**GUEST INSTRUCTORS**

**Art McDuffy and Yvonne Bouche'**

Art and Yvonne are professional ballroom competitors and instructors. They are experienced in all forms of ballroom and latin dance, and have taught in many of the Detroit area top studios. Having trained with the top coaches in the country, they have won many competitions such as...Harvest Moon, Indiana Challenge, Detroit Star Ball, Michigan Dance Sport, and held the championship 'nine dance title' for the Dancers Circuit Cup in 1997. They feel very fortunate to have been able to obtain the best training available and are looking forward to sharing it with you. For contact call...248-399-4978.



...Continued from page one.

Dancing only with each other, you will become good at dancing with each other with all the mistakes and bad habits that become "correct" for you. There is a certain type of leader that one encounters again and again if one has been dancing for any length of time: the guy who only wants to dance with the best followers because he believes they are the only partners who can match his high skill level. Often, what is **really** going on is that only the best followers can compensate for his mistakes or idiosyncrasies. They make him look good. But the guy continues to think he's the best because he insulates himself from feedback. Dancing with poor to average followers is a good reality check. If none but the best can follow your leads, I respectfully suggest your leads could use some work." LF

*It has been a concern of mine for some time that the habit of some dancers is to focus on dancing mainly with friends or only with the 'best' leaders or followers. This is what causes a club to become known as an 'unfriendly' place for newcomers. Many times I've heard an account from a member describing the chilly reception he or she received while visiting another club, and how they intend to never go back. We were all newcomers at one time and can remember the gratitude and excitement we experienced when we were asked to dance by a total stranger, especially if that person was a*



**Dance Web Site of the Month**

The MSDA has recently joined the National Fastdance Association and is already a member of the Rhythm & Blues DJ Association. Next is the Cincy Bop Association. We do this in order to help support and promote swing dancing in all its forms. Please visit their sites and help keep swing dancing alive.

**NFDA:** <http://www.fastdancers.com/>  
**R & B DJ Assn.:** <http://venus.spaceports.com/~narbdj>  
**Cincinnati Bop Club:** <http://www.cincibop.com/>

*good dancer. So, when I look around our dances, I'm very happy when I see our members inviting new people to dance. It's a wonderful way to test those lead and follow skills, plus it encourages the visitors to return, thus adding to the pool of dance partners. If you don't ask new people to dance, it indicates that you are either: stuck in the fear of the challenge, somewhat on the snobby side, don't have much interest in self-improvement (i.e. think you are already the best) or have lost empathy for newbies. Whatever the reason, it's unfortunate because it reflects on all of us, and we all lose. We lose new additions to our dance family and we lose because you pass up opportunities to become a better dancer. The funny thing is, the person who complains the most about other people is usually the worst dancer. Larry's article explains beautifully how this comes about.*

*In an effort to make it easier to identify new people, I'm going to be passing out buttons to new members and first time visitors. These buttons will say something like, "I'm new here. Yes, I'd love to dance!" Please be alert for these buttons and ask these people to dance. I will also have buttons available that say only "Yes, I'd love to dance!" or "May I have this dance?" for times when you go to other clubs, either locally or out of town.*

*One further thought. I really want to thank those of you, both leaders and followers, who have always asked a lot of different people to dance, including the new dancers. Your dance cards reflect your diversity and your interest in helping our wonderful family of dancers grow. You know who you are. Give yourself a pat on the back and a hug. SN*

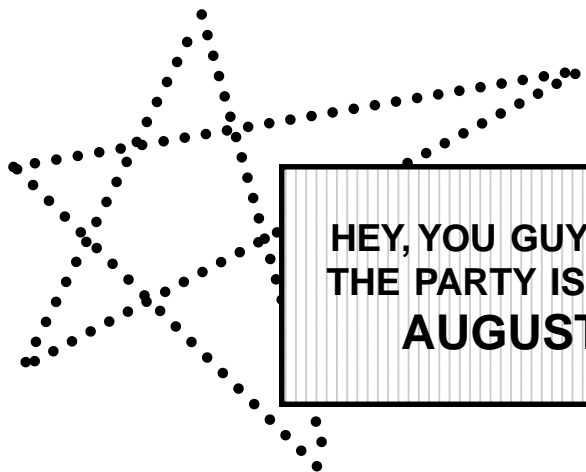
**UPDATE ON PROJECT BUILD THE FLOOR**

By Louise Zaleski and Bob Campbell

Just a note to update you on the fundraiser for the Amber House floor...Bob and Louise are gearing up to begin the 2001 Entertainment book sale. They will be attending a workshop August 9 to learn more about it.

At the August 13 MSDA dance, at approximately 5 p.m., Sally Patrick, our sales rep from Entertainment Book, will do a brief presentation and will be available to answer questions. Don't miss it. Sale of Entertainment Book will begin in September. We'll keep you posted as soon as we know more. LZ

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION  
SHARON NELSON  
2152 SHANKIN  
WOLVERINE LAKE, MI 48390



**HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 13!**



**MANY THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**