



MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Some responses to a reprint (last month) of a letter written by a reader named Jane to the author of swingandhustle@topica.com.

Dear Jane,

After reading your comments about the Swing circuit I felt compelled to offer a few observations of my own.

I am a professional dance teacher, completely HETEROSEXUAL, and while I don't feel exactly loved by the Swing higher-ups, I do feel that you are giving them a bad rap.

Yes, there are many homosexual men and lesbian women in the Swing world. But that is true of all the arts. They seem to work tirelessly to keep the gears rolling forward so that the Swing world and all the arts continues to grow and prosper. Ok, there are a lot of problems with the system, but that doesn't make it bad. And surely to suggest that it's wrong to have a lesbian at the top shows just a little homophobia on your part.

The majority of the circuit is heterosexual. Many people never really have a real boyfriend or girlfriend because this environment offers the opportunity for singles to hook up and date more casually. Certainly you can't suggest these people are homosexual just because a large number of them choose to be single.

That brings me to the subject of men dancing with men and women dancing with women. There is a great need for leaders and followers to gain a greater appreciation for the entire process of dance. It helps to build better dancers. So for leaders to follow and follows to lead really helps them to gain more insight into how this whole dance thing is supposed to work. Not to mention the large number of teachers that are out to sharpen their skills by becoming more proficient on both sides of the lead-follow process. That

certainly does not make us gay.

Maybe you didn't get the sparkly belted guy you wanted or maybe you were dumped by the sparkly belted guy you ended up with for a spandex pants guy. It seems that you're a little scorned and a lot homophobic.

Solution: Maybe you should get a little therapy and just get over it.

Barry Douglas
www.i-hustle.com



Re: "Jane"

"Harrumph and Balderdash"!!!!

Jane is a pathetic woman full of envy, malice and sour grapes!

Not everyone who dances is obsessively on the prowl to find someone to date. On the contrary, most people happen to like dancing as an end in itself rather than a means to an end (i.e. snagging a mate). And whether straight or gay, just about everyone I have ever met in a ballroom setting is friendly, considerate, respectful and exuberantly smitten with the love of dance.

I think that homophobic Jane is bitter because she mistakenly thought that "Ballroom Dancing" was the equivalent of "Dating Service." I would not be surprised to discover that straight men and women intentionally led her to believe they were gay so she would go elsewhere to prowl for friendships and romance.

And with her departure from the dance community, I am sure they all breathed a loud, long and very jubilant collective sigh of relief and "GOOD RIDDANCE"!!

Debra Feldman

Continued on page 4.....

**NEXT MSDA PARTY
MAY 18
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. 586-754-3434

DANCE LESSON

Last month, Tandy Zapinski brought her unmistakable zest and vivacious personality to the lesson. We learned several unique Fun Variations in East Coast Swing. Thanks for raising the energy level, Tandy. It was great!!



This month, Pamela Preczewski, of Dancesport Academy in Dearborn, will be teaching an East Coast Combination Class. It will be an Intermediate to Advanced level combination of steps/a mini routine. We're looking forward to it, Pam! (Check-out the attached Buddy Schwimmer flyer.)

...bio on page 4.

Just a reminder: this club was founded with the concept that the main benefits to the members are the discounts that they receive from the studios and event promoters in the area. It is possible to save a lot of money by being an MSDA member.

PLEASE REMEMBER
TO TAKE YOUR MSDA MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU WHEN ASKING FOR DISCOUNTS AT STUDIOS AND EVENTS. THEY ARE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU THE DISCOUNT BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER.

NEW MEMBERS


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

MARTIN WUNSCH
DENISE VERMILLION

HELP OUR CLUB GROW

AT THE NEXT DANCE:

- 😊 SAY HELLO TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW
- 😊 LEARN THREE NEW NAMES
- 😊 ASK TWO NEW PEOPLE TO DANCE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR
MAY BIRTHDAY
PEOPLE 

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 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.

RAYMOND	ROBERT	5/1
LINDA	ABRAMS	5/2
KAREN	NELSON	5/3
TECLA	LAMBERTI	5/4
RUSS	RAGONE	5/7
ZIGGY	PAKIET	5/8
JANET	DEROCHIS	5/11
MARK	MORGAN	5/11
HOPE	LARSON	5/13
SHERRI	KING	5/13
NANCY	MCCAFFREY	5/17
DAZARINE	POOLE	5/18
MARY ANN	MILEWSKI	5/19
DIANE	LEMPINEN	5/21
BOB	BENNANE	5/22
PATTI	MORRIS	5/23
D. DOC	CHAMBERLAIN	5/27



FUTURE PARTIES

May 18

June 22

July 20

August 17

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
29457 5 Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154
734-427-9202
Hours:
Tues - Fri, 10 to 6
Saturday, 10-2:30
Sunday, Closed

LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

SALSA & SWING

Every Thurs night. Pier 500 in Wyandotte. 8PM lessons with Bill Fields. Jimmy Barrios DJ starting at 9PM. NO COVER. 507 Biddle, right on the river. 734-281-0530. See attached flyer.

CINCO DE MAYO PARADE

Mexican Town. Grand Marshall Jimmy Barrios and the Salsa Divas will be on the Pier 500/ Tecate beer Float. FREE NY Style Salsa Street Dance right after the parade at Clark Park. 734-281-0530. JimmyB48073@aol.com

BUDDY SCHWIMMER WEEKEND

May 15-17 Dancesport Academy, Dearborn, MI. 6 Workshops and 3 dance parties. Discount to MSDA members. (313) 724-3262 www.dancesportacademy.com
See attached flyer.

USA GRAND NATIONALS

May 22-26. Atlanta, GA Renaissance Waverly Hotel Biggest Shag/Swing competition in the country. Over \$35,000 in prizes. Workshops, competitions, vendors, plus two ballrooms open all weekend. 770-512-7848 <http://gpsdc.org/>

Ticket available for the Grand Nationals. Contact Sharon Nelson at 248-390-0515 or pres@msda.org.

SUMMER BOOGIE BLAST

May 22-25, Nashville, TN. Hosted by Music City Bop Club. Location: Nashville, TN. Cost: \$40.00 before May 1, 2003, \$50.00 after May 1, 2003. Hotel: Millennium Maxwell House Hotel 615-259-4343. Contact: Sandy Brown 615-859-0251 or email dsb2djs@aol.com. Flyer available at <http://www.musiccitybopclub.com>.

THE AMERICAN OPEN

June 20-22, Lake Conneaut Park, PA. Dance parties, classes and contests. Multiple dance floors, Art Deco ballroom, vintage amusement park on site. Fun in the sun, on the water, in the park and on the dancefloor! <http://artspectrum.org> or info@artspectrum.org or 313-790-2311. Paulette Brockington. \$79 for the whole weekend by 5/5.

FIRST ANNUAL INDY SWING CLASSIC

June 27-29, Indianapolis, IN. 765-522-3251, Tim Tillotson, TimsMail@tds.net <http://www.indyswing.org/> indyswingclassic/

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

July 3-5, Chicago, IL 773-792-8842 Radisson Hotel O'Hare. \$50. 25 hours of open dancing, 5 free workshops, dance exhibitions, no competitions, 2800 sq ft dance floor, hospitalities, free shuttles, smoke free ballroom. <http://www.jitterbugchicago.com/page5.html>



DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS



THE DANCE CLUB's progressive classes begins every six weeks at the Amber House in Warren. Schedule: <http://amberhouse-danceclub.com/> 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. 586-754-3434

AMBER HOUSE's New Classes starting!! Night Club 2 Step, Basic & Beyond With Ken Ptak. 6 Week Session - \$40.00 / Per Person. Classes Meet 1 Hour Each Week. New classes in Swing, Hustle and Cha Cha starting soon.

STARDUST DANCE STUDIO

Friday Night Dance Parties 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM. FMI: 248-356-5678. **\$1 discount to MSDA members.** See *attached class schedule.* <http://stardustballroom.com>

ROYAL OAK ARTHUR MURRAY

Friday night parties every Friday. Call for dates. 9:15 -10:45 PM. \$5. **Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members.** 811 North Main Street, Royal Oak. FMI: 248-548-4770

TROY DANCE STUDIO

\$1.00 discount on every event to MSDA members. They hold scheduled Theme Parties on Tuesdays. 4963 Rochester Rd. Troy, MI 48098. Elaine Marrero, TDS. 248-689-3393.

DANCESPORT ACADEMY OF MICHIGAN

23666 Park, Dearborn, MI 48124 313-724-3262. The studio has Friday night open dances, \$8. Sat night dances are \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.** <http://www.dancesportacademy.com>

ARGENTINE TANGO DETROIT

7758 Auburn Road, Utica FMI: 586-254-0560
An instructor from Deliz DanceSport is teaching Salsa & Swing on Mondays! **\$1.00 off all events to MSDA members.**
Lori@argentinatangodetroit.com
<http://www.argentinatangodetroit.com>

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? To subscribe **free** to all the latest dance news, visit her website at: <http://dancemichigan.com>.

Instructors, DJ's, Studios and Bands may advertise for free. You can print out a huge list of area dance floors or check out the Information Station at the monthly dance for her list.

RHYTHM -N- SHOES DANCE STUDIO

\$1.00 discount to MSDA members on Thursday night dances. 9 to 11 PM. Suzie Brecht is the manager of the studio, as well as a teacher and the DJ. 2172 Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills. 284-334-0299. See *attached schedule.* RhythmNShoes@aol.com.

DANCE ART COLLECTIBLES

By Linda Jaworski: A large collection of wonderful dance related art and collectibles. 10% discount on unframed posters and 15% off framed posters to MSDA members.

DELIZ DANCESPORT

231 Eureka Road, Wyandotte, MI 48192 734-281-1969. M-F, 1pm-10pm, Sat. by appt. 734-281-1969 or delizdance@aol.com

DANCE ELITE BALLROOM STUDIO

6315 Haggerty, W. Bloom. American and International Ballroom Dancing. Group and private lessons for all ages. Maros Reves, Professional Dance Instructor. Competitive dance coaching. Friday nights: 8PM. dance lesson, party from 9 to 12. Saturday night dance parties, 9 to midnight, \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.** 248-926-8522. <http://eliteballroom.com>. See *attached schedule.*

NEW!!! CEO VIDEO

Still and video photography services. "Documenting precious, once-in-a-lifetime, loving memories of special occasions. **\$50 off the Diamond Wedding Videotaping Package (5% of \$1000), 5% discount on any other services.** Matt Trupiano. matt@ceovideo.net, 586-596-5240. <http://www.ceovideo.net/> (He also knows of some Golden Retriever puppies who need a home. :-))

PERSONAL TRAINER

Muscle toning, strength & balance training to increase your dance endurance & poise. At your gym. **10% discount per session to MSDA members for first 5 training hours.** Madelyn Kleitch, ACE certified. <http://personaltrainermk.com/> 313-882-5422.

COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Contact Meagan Woodbury if you are a male dancer between 40 - 70, & you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on cruise ships. **\$5 discount for MSDA members.** 586-775-1933

DINING WITH SINGLES

Now you can join other available, like minded, single people for evenings of fine dining and dinner theater. It's fun, it's affordable and it's without the social pressure of one on one blind dates. **\$20 membership discount to MSDA members.** Type MSDA in the comments form. <http://www.diningwithsingles.com/>

SWING TIME STUDIO/DANCE HALL

G-4510 VanSlyke Road- Flint Swing, Ballroom, Latin, Country & Social. Group Classes & Private Instruction available. 2200 sq. ft of Floating dance floor. **\$1.00 off any workshop or Dance party to MSDA members.** Instructors: Terri Sweet-Tim Johnson-Tim Constant-Dave Wolf. Contact Terri at (810) 762-0101. swing42@sbcglobal.net

REMINDER: Show your **MSDA** card at GLSDC and MSSHD dances to **get in at their member prices** Just show your card and save. The GLSDC schedule is at: <http://danceaway.com/GLSDC/calendar.html>. They have a club dance every Wednesday in Flint at Bugsy's. MSSHD is on the 2nd Sunday of the month : bbudzyn@comcast.net <http://www.michiganswing.com/>

HUBER & BREEZE

30% discount on all Rentals, Sales, Repairs of New & Used Disc Jockey Equipment. 33540 Groesbeck Hwy. Fraser, MI (586) 294-3950

LYNCH'S

Three Locations:
Warren: (586) 751-1780
15% discount to MSDA members.
They carry various trims for costumes, teachers' shoes, tights, etc.

GUEST INSTRUCTOR PAMELA PRECZEWSKI

Pamela Preczewski came to ballroom dancing after pursuing a career as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She received her Bachelors degree from the University of Michigan in Accounting and went on to receive a Masters of Science degree in Taxation from Walsh College in Troy. Pamela continued her career as a CPA and Tax Professional in both national and local firms throughout most of her involvement in ballroom dancing on either a full or part-time basis until December, 1999.

Pamela first pursued her interests in ballroom dancing as an amateur in 1987 at a local Arthur Murray's studio. She became a professional instructor and competitive dancer eighteen months later. In 1992 she became a co-owner of Dance Avenue in Dearborn. At Dance Avenue, Pamela specialized in all of the American and International ballroom and Latin dances where she won several top teaching awards for her participation with her students at ballroom competitions. In June, 2001 she opened the DanceSport Academy of Michigan, Dearborn, with her competitive dance partner, Alex Young. Pamela has been dancing competitively, as a professional, since 1990. During that time she and her various partners traveled throughout the United States and Canada competing in the American Smooth and International Standard divisions and has been a Rising Star finalist at many competitions over the years. In August of 2000, Pamela met Alex Young. The couple began training and coaching immediately in the International Standard division and competed together at the 2000 Ohio Star Ball. They have been competing ever since.

At the all new DanceSport Academy of Michigan, Pamela and Alex, work daily to create a world class ballroom dance environment and ballroom dance programs that will allow their clients achieve standards of dance equal to the best dancers in the world.

DANCESPORT ACADEMY ANNUAL SPRING SHOWCASE



Come join us for our Annual Spring Showcase on Saturday-May 10 from 5-11pm. This is always a fun event as there is plenty of good exhibition dancing, a fabulous catered dinner and an evening of general dancing with the music DJ'd by Michael Derscha. The schedule for the day is as follows:

5-7:00pm Exhibitions and Cocktails \$15/person
7-8:00pm Catered Dinner
8-11:00pm General Dancing w/DJ Michael Derscha \$15.00/person
Enjoy the whole day for only \$30.00/person!!! This means the dinner is on us!!! Please call Kelly with your reservation by May 10 or come in and purchase your ticket as seating will be limited!!!



MORE REPLIES TO "JANE".

.....continued from page 1.

Dear Jane,

Thank you for sharing your homophobic magical childlike thinking. I am glad I have not been where you have been in the dance community. WOW! Most of the dancers I know dance for the exercise sport to keep themselves fit & enjoy that 'tribal' interaction that is a primal part of being human. I have never inquired about any dancers sexual orientation. Why? It never occurred to me. A well trained dancer can both lead & follow. This is important to have this skill - because it can just be 'fun' to dance & play like children, by changing lead & follow - especially if one has no attachment to the outcome, other than to just have fun. Your anger resounds because of your deeper issue of abandonment. Very interesting you have chosen dance to hurl your lance. Most dancers that I have had the experience of knowing, love to dance, just because it is fun. Sounds like that is the main ingredient that you are missing from dance. A relationship would be a benefit. A sexual, magical, 'sweep me away Romeo', relationship is probably not going to happen anywhere. I would imagine you have this problem in any arena you are involved. Jane, Take notes: 1) Self love is key. If you don't love yourself you can't love anyone else. 2) No one is going to sweep you up & make yours a storybook life. 3) Dance with everyone & interact on a respectful, human base - you will be a better dancer. 4) Dance for the fun, the sexual play on the dance floor, the interaction with other humans that are enjoying the sport just like you. 5) Do not have expectations - enjoy each dancer for the dancer & human being that he/she is. If you are homophobic - that is your issue- don't try to tag others. There are gays everywhere - they are not contagious. They will not rape you or harm you. And for heavens sake, why would you care about sexual orientation? Do you plan to have sex with every male in dance? Everyone on the face of the earth has a message for everyone else - good or bad, right or wrong - don't be so judgemental. Dance for the beauty of the sport. OR NOT - find another sport to participate in. But I betcha wherever you go, whatever sport you join in, there will be gays- so what? You want the perfect life partner? Buy a doll or a dildo. There is nothing perfect - especially humans. You are 32 - Grow up, because in 30 years you will be 62, & thinking the same thing. Madelyn, a heterosexual lead & follow.



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 usually around 6 PM. Anyone can enter. You must be present to win.

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION
SHARON NELSON
PO BOX 1125
WALLED LAKE, MI 48390
<http://msda.org>
pres@msda.org



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,
MAY 13, 2003!!



Thank you for
you support!!