

MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



"All You Need Is Love"

by Mark Van Schuyver

For eleven years, I've watched dancers fall in love. Let me count the disasters!

First Scenario: When both people are dancers, they are seldom at the same level so there is usually a heavy tension from the start. Unless each has a strong sense of a self-esteem, there are at least three possibilities for disaster.

One: the weaker dancer is jealous of the other's expertise.

Two: one is very outgoing, loves to dance with LOTS of people and the other feels that they should remain primarily exclusive.

Three: One enters competitions with other people, pours on the sexuality necessary for some dances and the Significant Other feels that the dance floor flirtation may carry over into their personal lives.

Second Scenario: When one of the new lovers is a non-dancer, that person will, in the name of love, naively jump headfirst into the sport of dance. The new dancer is likely to be smashed on the rocks of the learning curve and become discouraged at never "catching up" to their partner. It's not much fun to sit on the sidelines and watch your new lover experience joy, passion and flirtation in the arms of other people. It's a Catch-22 situation for both dancer and non-dancer. Somebody has to give up something. Some seasoned dancers simply end the relationship rather than try to explain that dance is not a sin, and that they are not shopping for a new partner on the dance floor. Or, if the new love will not dance at all and exhibits jealousy at the mere mention of the word, the dancer might sacrifice his/her bliss in the name of love.

In the pursuit of a Significant-Other relationship, we all look for a ten on our personal scale. Choosing a Significant Other who has everything going for them, except for dance ability, is not necessarily a step down. I believe advanced dancers can evolve perfectly healthy relationships with new dancers, or even with non-dancers, without sacrificing involve-

ment in their sport-like activity. How? First, use your imagination and pretend that you are on a Man/woman hunt for Mr./Ms. Right. Follow me please.

Statistics

Finding Mr./Ms. right is hard enough, but finding one that dances is a much greater statistical challenge. Consider the millions of people that live in the United States. How many of those folks live within dating distance to you? Now, divide by half to separate the men from the women. Check out their ages, their education, occupation, likes and dislikes. Distill further and you have a few thousand potential Significant Others within your social range.

A high percentage of these "potentials" drive cars and have cats, but how many of these guys/gals dance? How many do West Coast Swing, for example? Maybe .0005 percent? We're talking a very small crowd here. Statistically speaking, a dancer/Significant Other is a tough combination to locate. Should you stop dancing and take up tennis to find a mate? Not yet! Keep searching maybe you will . . .Get Lucky!

Say you get lucky and find a 9.5 on your scale of 10. Nine point five because he or she is a dreamboat in every way. He/she dances a little, or is willing to learn. The number is less than a ten on your scale, because he or she does not dance very well, or is a beginner. Now what do you do?

Well, with 9.5 out of ten points in his or her favor, you know you are going to go for it! In two shakes you will be dancing, romancing, and dining yourselves silly. In the beginning you will hardly notice the many times he or she steps on your feet while trying to impress you on the dance floor.

Pressure Builds

Time goes by and you do start to count the times he or she steps on your toes. The bruises on your arms are not getting better. You long for quality dance time with your friends and regular dance partners. You'd love to go to an advanced class or enter a competition, but you don't dare risk the damage it might cause to your new relationship.

.....Continued on page four.

HALLOWEEN PARTY CO-SPONSORED BY THE MSDA AND AMBER HOUSE.

Saturday, October 30. 8 to 1 AM.
Amber House, 7012 E 9 Mile,
Warren. \$100 for the best
costume. Light buffet included. \$16
in advance, \$21 at the door. \$1.00
off to MSDA members. FMI: (810)
754-3434. **See attached flyer or**
<http://msda.org/amberhalloween.htm>

THE LINE-UP

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

October 24...Tonia Deliz

November 21...Bill Vogel III & Tandy Zapinski

December 19...Joyce Stoughton

January...Tim Constant

NEXT PARTY

OCTOBER 24

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**

DANCE LESSON

Our teacher at the September dance was Cindy Gerald's. Cindy taught a wonderful collection of moves and patterns. Thanks, Cindy.

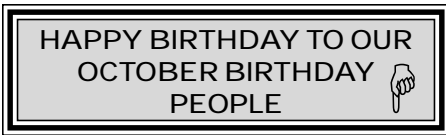


Our teacher on October 24 will be Tonia Deliz of Dance Avenue. Tonia will teach East Coast Swing, including some exciting syncopations. Tonia's bio is on page four.

NEW MEMBERS

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

- Edis Tokovic
- Roberta Jackson
- Sandy Strubank
- Kristina Petzer
- William Jefferson
- Mark Elliot
- Nancy Henderson
- Kenneth Wilson
- Bess Miller
- Ann Tocco
- Scott Soderberg



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.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| TOM RUPP | 10/1 |
| SHARON NELSON | 10/7 |
| JEANETTE DROUILLARD | 10/8 |
| JOYCE STOUGHTON | 10/9 |
| TIMOTHY CARMICHAEL | 10/10 |
| DUANE KREGER | 10/10 |
| DAVID MICHALSKI | 10/11 |
| LINDA JAWORSKI | 10/12 |
| CATHY KUBICKI | 10/14 |
| ROBERTA NOCHTON | 10/14 |
| ALEX ADAM | 10/16 |
| BELINDA MILLER | 10/16 |
| SUZI CLATWORTHY | 10/21 |
| MICHAEL LEVAUL | 10/26 |
| GINNY WOLF | 10/27 |
| ANN TOCCO | 10/26 |



FUTURE PARTIES



- November 21
- December 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



Detroit USO Swing Dance.
 Sat. Oct. 9: Brodhead Armory in Detroit. Tuxedo Junction is performing. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Dinner packages with dance lessons are available from \$35. <http://www.tuxedojunction.org/brodhead.jpg>

HALLOWEEN PARTY
 Friday, October 29. 9 to 12 PM. Stardust Ballroom. \$8/person. Costume contest, Palm Reader, Pizza. FMI: 248-356-5678 <http://msda.org/stardusthalloween.htm>

HALLOWEEN PARTY
CO-SPONSORED BY THE MSDA AND AMBER HOUSE.
 Saturday, October 30. 8 to 1 AM. Amber House, 7012 E 9 Mile. See page one for details.

BEATA HOWE WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 24
 West Coast Swing
 Ann Arbor's Dance Classics
 4029 Carpenter Road
 Ann Arbor, MI
 (734) 975-9055
 To register or FMI:
 Joyce Stoughton-Kim (734) 973-2575 or jas.amdance@juno.com
See attached flyer.
 \$3 DISCOUNT, off the package, TO MSDA MEMBERS. You must show your card at the door. Classes include Intermediate WCS, Advanced Technique, Wraps & Turns, Hitting the Breaks and Cool-fun-moves-which-are-easier-than-they-look. Register and pay by September 30 to save 30%.

2nd ANNUAL AMERICAN LINDY HOP CHAMPIONSHIPS

October 29,30,31, 1999
 Sheraton Hotel, Stamford, Conn
 Workshops plus the semi-finals and final round action of the American Showcase Division. Norma Miller, Master of Ceremonies. George Gee and the Jump, Jive and Wailers. Meal/hotel package: \$165. (203)359.1300. FMI: Paulette Brockington. (313)869.9385 or www.artspectrum.org.
See attached flyer.

SWINGIN' AT SEA

March 5-12, 2000
 Caribbean Dance Cruise
Yes, tickets are still available and several MSDA members are going! Hosts: Beata Howe, Robert Cordoba and Deborah Szekely. West Coast Swing Dance package. Sixteen instructors. FMI: Beata: (818) 500-YEAH
 Reservations: (800) 503-9600

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

THE DANCE CLUB classes begin each month at the Amber House in Warren. FMI: Call Bill Scheff at (810).734.3434. Private lessons available. **See attached class schedule for special offers.**

STARDUST DANCE STUDIO offers our members a discount of \$1.00 off the admission fee for their the Stardust Showcase & the 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.

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 so much going on, you almost need to stop in to keep informed! 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.

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://members.aol.com/dancealert/index.html>.

Check out our Information Station for her list of **Dance Floors** in the area.

CENTER STAGE SWING PARTY Every Friday Swing Night at Center Stage in Canton. Ford Rd one block east of I-275. Dance Lessons in Lindy Hop & Swing: 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. With Rotating Instructors: Tim Constant, Ian & Claire, Jon Ross and Many others. Open Dancing: 9:30 p.m. till 2:00 a.m. With DJ's: Cochese and Del V. All ages till 10:30 p.m. FMI: Center Stage: (734) 464-8447 or Tim Constant:

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!!!

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. We'll try to hook you up. (248) 926-5484 or sfnelson@worldnet.att.net

NEW MSDA FEATURE This is way cool! If you'd like to receive your newsletter by e-mail a few days before it arrives by snail mail, please let me know. Send me (sfnelson@worldnet.att.net) your e-mail address with the word 'YES' in the subject line. If I can omit sending you a hardcopy, please make a note of that in the message. You'll need Acrobat Reader to open and print it. It's available for free at www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html#reader.

MSDA DANCE ATTENDEES, PLEASE NOTE:

The white ticket you receive when you enter our parties is to be used for a free soft drink or an alcoholic beverage. If you choose not to drink one, please turn it in at the bar. This is a direct part of the payment process to the Amber House! Remember: we need to help support Bill through food & drink purchases! We want to keep having our parties there.

CONGRATULATIONS to last month's Dance Card Contest winners: Lola McCraw and Susan Jones won free admittance to an MSDA dance, Rian Klefstad won a club button and an MSDA license plate and Scott Soderbreg won a George Gee and the Make Believe Orchesta CD. Peter Disalvo won \$25 in the 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 Bob Campbell for tickets.



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

GUEST INSTRUCTOR TONIA DELIZ

Tonia Deliz has been a professional ballroom dance instructor for 15 years. She specializes in all of the American and Latin dances as well as International Latin. She has competed professionally in the International Latin style and has won several top teaching awards over the years. She is co-owner of Dance Avenue in Dearborn. Her speciality for the past two years has been club style salsa dancing, where she is considered one of the top instructors in the Metro Detroit area. She will be teaching East Coast Swing patterns with syncopations.

.....
...continued from page one.

You hang in there. "I can change him/her," you think. "I can wait; I can endure; it is worth it. Love will conquer all!"

Meanwhile, your new love is desperate to impress. By now he/she realizes how much dance means to you. He wants to play the game of dance with you at your level. He takes lessons, talks to others, and tries and tries to please you by being your dance partner as well as your lover. He leads with an intense and almost angry focus; or, she follows inserting spins and syncopations months or years beyond her current skill level. He is now on a very serious mission to make you happy and be your dance man/woman.

Dancer's Blues

After a few months of this, your life as a "dedicated dancer" seems at an end. Your old dance partners have abandoned you for people who actually say yes when asked to dance. (You don't want to abandon your lover) Opportunity to compete has come and gone. You've lost your edge and your self-esteem is in the dumper. Maybe you don't even want to go out anymore. It's not worth the hurt and the feeling of loss. It's not worth the frustration of dancing with a beginner, song after painful song . . . a beginner that you care deeply for, a beginner that you love but do not have the heart to hurt. You start to think that dance is not so important after all. Your Significant Other plays tennis so maybe it's time to take up a new Sport.

Defeated Lover

Meanwhile, your boyfriend/girlfriend is thinking, "This dancing business is not for me!" By now he has finally faced the fact that he cannot gain years of dancing skill and ability in a few short weeks or months. Truth is, he can't play at your level and may never be able to. This is a very painful moment for him. The natural response will be to try to influence you to quit dance and do something else. "How about tennis?" they might suggest.

Split Up or Face Up?

It is at this time in the relationship that all such couples must decide between splitting up and facing up to their different skill levels and needs as dancers. Many couples simply walk away from the recreation. This is an unacceptable compromise in which the once excellent dancer loses forever the joy of dance, and the new dancer never has a chance to know the satisfaction that a high skill level brings. Both lose and the relationship will be badly damaged, if it survives.

Dance is a sport like chess. When I was a child, my father played chess with me for hours at a time. I loved it. He tolerated my learning curve. He took great joy in helping me learn. But he did not get better when he played against me. Only when he matched his wits against an opponent of equal or higher skill level did he grow as a player.

Dance is exactly the same. Dance is not making love in a vertical position! It is like a sport in which the players strive for perfection and

continually challenge themselves to do more and do it better. To advance they must practice with people at or above their skill level. What would happen, for example, if a couple like the one I've just described started playing tennis together? Suppose he is an A rated payer and she is a beginner. Chances are they would play together quite often and both would enjoy it. But you can bet that he would not give up his seat in the tournament! He would keep his standing practice sessions with his A rated tennis buddies.

Wanting her to get better and enjoy the sport, he would naturally encourage her to take tennis lessons and to enter competition at the beginning level. He would help her find partners at her level and coach her and encourage her to grow as a player. Gradually, and without pressure, jealousy, or competition from him, she would obtain a higher skill level. They would enjoy playing together more and more. Eventually they would find themselves playing doubles with friends and in competition. They would, in effect, live happily ever after in the world of tennis and their relationship would never suffer a scratch. ***But what about dance?*** Why is it so much easier to imagine our couple growing old together in a blissful tennis-partner life than in a dance-partner relationship? Simply because tennis is considered by all to be a sport and dance is considered by non-dancers to be a romantic occasion. Aye! There's the rub.

What To Do

If you happen to be the more advanced dancer in a romantic relationship with a non or new-dancer and you want to keep your love alive without sacrificing your dance, try the following.

1. Explain from the very beginning that dance is like a sport.
2. Take your new partner to a competition, and show them dancing on tape. Introduce them to your dance friends and partners. Make it clear to them that these are sport partnerships, not romantic partnerships. Take them with you to your advanced lessons and let them watch you work with your partners.
3. Make it clear that dance partners are like tennis partners. Tell them you need love from them and not another dance partner.
4. Dance with your partner in non-threatening ways such as slow dancing, freestyle dancing, or by taking a class in a dance that neither of you know.
5. Encourage them to take lessons at their level and do ***not*** participate as their partner.
6. Encourage them to dance with others at their level and help them find social dance partners and friends.
7. Involve yourself in a non-dance activity with your new love. As you take your first tennis or climbing or ski lesson, point out the similarity to dance.
8. Don't expect your partner to catch on right away. Give it time. Be honest and open with your feelings. If they truly love you they will come to understand.

If you are the non or new-dancer in a relationship with an advanced dancer, remember that:

1. He or she loves to dance and will love dancing with you regardless of your skill level.
2. Always remember that dance is like a sport in terms of the challenge at equal levels and that your advanced friend will need to play at their own level. This does not mean that they don't enjoy dancing with you! Remember the tennis analogy shown above.
4. Be very honored by the time your advanced friend spends dancing with you. Learn and enjoy and always thank them. Encourage them to dance with others and maintain dance partnerships with folks at their level. Be part of it by watching and praising.
5. Take lessons and seek partners at your level. Only by doing this will you gain skill and come to know the great joy that the sport of dancing brings.

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



HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
THE PARTY IS **SUNDAY,**
OCTOBER 24! SEE YOU
THERE.



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