DANCE BULLETIN

USA DANCER

Where The Beat and Friendly People Meet
www.usadancememphis.com

June 2016 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

The heat had already arrived in Memphis as eighty-two USA Dance members and their guests gathered at Covenant United Methodist Church to celebrate the *Commin' of Summer* early this month. A festive atmosphere descended upon the Ballroom Dancing devotees as the music started and the line-of-dance progressed around the floor. Mounds of strawberries, shortcake, and whipped cream along with copious quantities of water melon on our buffet table added to our celebration of summer drawing near. Carole Eady never fails to capture the ambiance of our events with her decorating skill and this month was no exception. She was up to her usual lofty standard with center pieces on the tables and buffet that featured large Hydrangea clusters.

Everyone in attendance was treated to a Pro-am Tango showcase by our Group Class instructor this month, Joseph Rukendorfer and his student, Gail Cockrell. We really appreciate the trays of delightful food brought by our dancers to supplement the buffet table for the enjoyment of everyone. Obviously, many of our dancers shine in the culinary arts as well as on the dance floor. Our thanks again go out to Tim Hnat for his expertise with our sound equipment as well as with a camera. We, of course, do not want to forget our music committee for the work they do each month in selecting and recording the music for our dances. A great round of applause to each and every one of these volunteers who add so much to our events.

Next month we will celebrate the United States of America and the freedom we enjoy as citizens. We extend a very cordial invitation for you to dress in your patriotic colors and join us on July 9.

Dance Photos - June Dance

Joseph Rukendorfer
and Student Gail Cockrell

Showcase - USA Dance, chapter 2012 - June 11, 2016 Photo/ Tim Hnat Art./ Sylvia Rose

Some guys dance with two women!

Get that camera out of my face!

Our Camera Master at work

If I had
a hammer...

Wow!
It is HOT in here!
POINTS
MATCH
POINTS

I'm getting really tired of that flash! If ya'll grab him, I'll take the camera away and beat him with it!

PERIOD
PLAYER-FOUL
MATCH
DANCE

Renewing USA Dance Members

The following USA Dance members renewed their membership since the last newsletter:

Karen Craig, Woodson McRae, Sylvia Rose, Bill Beck, Helen Phillips, Mary Ann Waddell, Robert Haynie, and Jerry Rubio.

USA Dance Membership Has Impressive Benefits

Renewing your membership is a smart money move. The discount on admission to our monthly dances will cover most of your renewal cost over the next year. In addition to the $3 admission discount, being a member of USA Dance is special and has its unique privileges.

Membership gives you the opportunity to look on the web site anywhere in the US and find locations to dance when you are traveling. It also offers the following products, services, and companies that are participating in the USA Dance Membership Benefits program:

Vacations: Fun-Jet/TNT Vacations, Orlando Vacations, World Travel Holdings.
Hotels/Motels: Wyndham Hotels, Motel 6, Red Roof Inns, Orland Vacations and World Travel Holdings.
Auto Rentals: Avis/Budget
Office Depot Supplies
Azigo Online Shopping Mall
VPI Pet Insurance
Insurance: Group Auto and Home Insurance (Liberty Mutual Ins Co – call 1-888-323-1207 for a free rate quote.

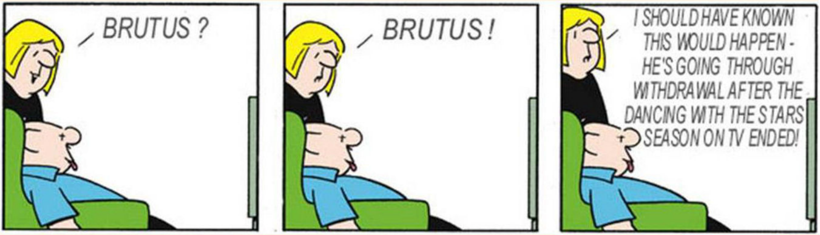
A new benefit program for all interested USA Dance members has been added recently. USA Dance and DSI London have launched an official partnership. This celebratory and unique collaboration between USA Dance and DSI London provides a direct financial benefit to all USA Dance social and DanceSport members, from youth to adult, who will receive a 10% discount off of any and all retail purchases from the DSI London online catalogs. USA Dance members will simply provide an official discount code when ordering. The 2016 DSI London retail catalogs are easily accessible from the DSI website www.dsi-london.com and offer the most extensive collections of online dance products and services in the industry. Why not check it out.

For information on this program, visit our website at
http://usadance.org/news/usa-dance-announces-an-exciting-opportunity-for-our-members/
Then go to http://usadance.org/extra/membership-value/ and click on the link

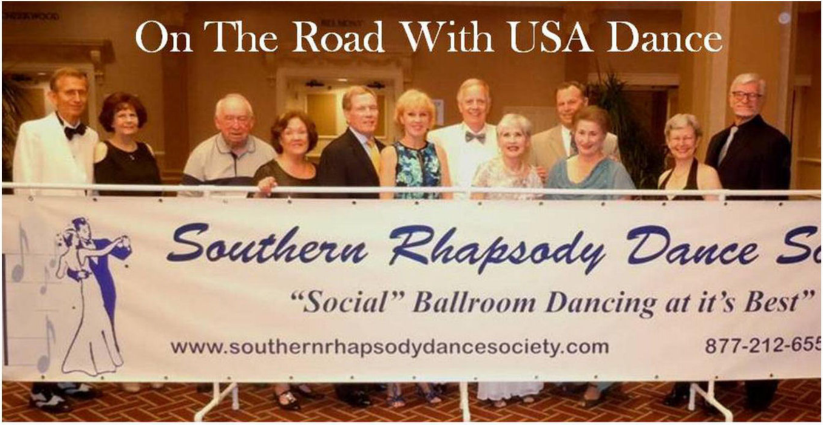
Members also receive a subscription to the USA Dance magazine, *American Dancer*.

Please renew your membership before the expiration date. Once your expiration date passes, the National Membership Computer pulls your name from the active member file.

Our members are the strength of our Chapter. If you experience any problems with the online system please let your Membership Chairman, Doyle Caldwell (dylcaldwell@yahoo.com) know promptly so that we may assist before your membership expires. We surely do not want to lose you as a part of our dance family.

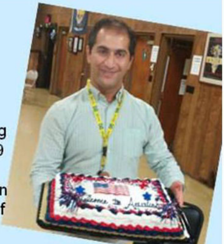

BRUTUS ?
BRUTUS !
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN - HE'S GOING THROUGH WITHDRAWAL AFTER THE DANCING WITH THE STARS SEASON ON TV ENDED!

On The Road With USA Dance


Southern Rhapsody Dance S
"Social" Ballroom Dancing at it's Best"
www.southernrhapsodydancesociety.com
877-212-655

A contingent of USA Dance members (pictured above) along with other dancers from the Memphis area took their dance shoes to Nashville over the Memorial Day week-end to join the annual Southern Rhapsody Dance Society for this three day event. The Sheridan Music City, with its spacious ballroom and elegant Southern decor, was chosen for this year's event. Dancers from all over the country travel to be a part of this event which has become such an iconic facet of Ballroom Dancing in the Southeast. The action on the dance floor to the tempo of live bands is always outstanding and the opportunity to meet such a variety of dancers from other locations and USA Dance chapters is wonderful. A great time was had by all who attended!

WELCOME TO AMERICA



Arman Sahakyan, USA Dance, Greater Memphis Chapter, newest Ballroom Dance Instructor was sworn in as an *American Citizen May 2, 2016*. Born in Yerevan, Armenia, Arman trained in the Arts and Dance, graduating in 1995 from the 'Culture Palace'. He then moved to Moscow with his family, continuing his studies and instructing. Leaving his family, Arman came to Memphis in 2009 to teach dance. Stepping out on his own in 2011, Arman has since been instructing Dance, entering into other business endeavors and traveling to Latin American countries of Argentina, Cuba and Brazil, to study the ethnic dances of those countries, sharing these Ethnic styles of Latin Dance with his students .

Jim Wiseman, Dir. of group Ballroom classes for L.Y.F.T. and VFW in Jackson, TN., surprised Arman with a *Welcome to America* party at the VFW after Arman's group class on Tuesday, June 7.

Arman will tell you, with pride, that his love of freedom and the laws which protect the rights of citizens and the love of this country is what brought him here and then so proudly take the oath of American Citizenship. *We all of the Dance community say: " Welcome to America and Congratulations, Arman".*

Why USA Dance? What does it really offer to our community?

Reprinted with permission of the author:
Don Davenport, President SW Florida Chapter #6049

First of all, most of us think about dancing as a night out, maybe a dinner dance, our local clubs such the Elks, Moose, VFW, American Legion or just a special night spot we enjoy. That's FUN and that's what dancing is all about, right? Well maybe. After all, I always considered myself a pretty good barroom dancer.

After taking ballroom dance lessons at various dance studio's and learning many lovely figures that I usually forgot or seldom had the opportunity to dance with others, sometimes including my partner I felt there must be a better way. That's when we discovered the local chapter of USA Dance. Not only did they hold social dances but they participated in community activities that fostered the growth and enjoyment of dance. There were "Black-tie Balls", dance showcases, competitive dancing, social dances with dance lessons to introduce the novice dance to this new world. Needless to say I was overjoyed to find this organization.

Then I came face to face with the facts that somebody has to run this organization and it's all based on VOLUNTEERS! What an eye-opener. Being a retired military guy you can imagine what I thought about volunteering. Foolishly, I jumped right in and there were a squad of folks that worked very hard to make things right, and the few worked hard so the many could enjoy the WORLD OF BALLROOM DANCE.

This group improvised and tried different ways to make the joy of dance spread and then, suddenly an eye-opener, we found that the National organization of USA Dance had many tried and proven methods of furthering the mission, "To Improve the Quality and Quantity of Ballroom Dance in the United States of America".

As I studied these resources one dramatic fact came out, dancing is good for your health, physically, mentally, socially you name it. This is not just for us elders but for everyone.

Well, it's a little late in life for me to become a doctor but this is where I can contribute to my community, not just to further my own passion for dance but to share with as many folks as possible a happy and FUN way to good health.

Let's face it, dancing is not yet an Olympic Sport but it's on it's way! As you read your copy of the "American Dancer" magazine note how many true ATHLETES there are in this sport. We can not all be athletes, but we can enjoy recreational social dancing throughout our lives and encourage others to do the same!

You can make a difference! Join USA Dance, volunteer some of your time in helping others enjoy this sport and most of all DANCE!!

SUMMER'S
a-commm-n'
Group Class Tid Bits

HERE'S WISHING EVERYONE HAPPY SUMMERTIME DANCING !

Joseph Rukendorfer instructed classes in June giving dance enthusiasts a challenge in perfecting some intricate patterns and technique in TANGO and our Beginners began to look like pros dancing the Viennese Waltz.

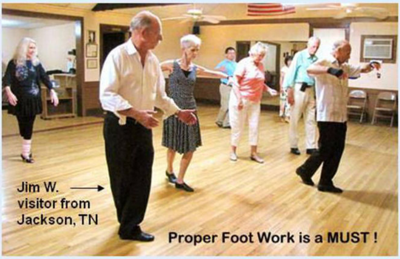
We want to thank Gail Crockrell for assisting Joseph with the classes.

There will be NO group classes in July or August but we want you to dance with us July 9 at 'Celebrate America' and August 13 at the 'Ice Cream Social'.

Viennese Waltz & Tango with Joseph, 6/5/16

On Our Toes Learning the Beautiful Vinnese Waltz

Prep in Tango for 'Fall-away-Snap & Fan


Jim W. →
visitor from
Jackson, TN

Proper Foot Work is a MUST !

Classes Begin after Labor Day: Sundays, September 11, 18, 25 and October 2.

Watch for the announcement on our Web Site and Face Book Page – hint /JJ-WCS

Our group classes will sponsor 'Split The Pot' for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Child Life Program at Classes during Sept., Oct., & Nov....We will draw the winning ticket at the Nov. 13th group class the Sunday after the annual charity Ball. Tickets are $1 ea. Or 6 for $5. We will be waiting for YOU in September !

All classes taught at Berclair Civic Club, 743 Novarese at Tutwiler, Memphis, TN. Only $7 per class and students with ID $3. *Join USA Dance, chapter 2012 at Group class and receive 2 Free Classes - your choice; one complimentary monthly dance (recorded DJ music) plus the National magazine 'American Dancer' Free... More info :901-386-2003,* ***CU on the LOD - Sylvia Rose Group Class Dir.***

We arrived at Covenant in the late June sun,
a while before the USA Dance fun had begun.
As the dancers laced their shoes to suit,
the dance floor in stillness lay mute.
Soon the music surrounded us with dance tempo song,
and continued with us all evening long,
As Foxtrot, Waltz, and Rumba captured our feet,
and made our evening fun complete.