DANCE BULLETIN

USA DANCER

Where The Beat and Friendly People Meet

www.usadancememphis.com

June 2017 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

Temperatures rose to seasonal levels as a joyous crowd of sixty-three USA Dance members and their guests gathered at Covenant for our June event to celebrate the coming of Summer in the Mid-South. Carole Eady, our Director of Amazing Décor, captured the essence of the festivity with creative centerpieces featuring sand buckets and flip flops on the tables around the dance floor, and a "water tower" with floating Hydrangea on the buffet. Evidence of her excellence can be seen in many of the photos in this month's newsletter.

Tim and Nastasya Hnat were traveling during our June event, so Mr. Frank Elliott from the Jackson Ballroom Dance Club filled in Tim's usual job on the sound equipment. He did an outstanding job floating the music across the floor and making our announcements possible. Sylvia Rose took over as photographer for our event. Most of the photos in this month's newsletter are examples of her work. We extend a LARGE thank you to both of these talented individuals for their time and aptitude to insure the success of our June dance. A special thank you goes out to our dancers who supplemented the buffet with their superior recipes for the enjoyment of everyone. It is obvious to all who enjoyed this delicious cornucopia that our dancers excel in the cooking arts as well as the dancing arts.

Next month we Celebrate the USA and all the freedoms we enjoy. Mark your calendar now to be a part of the fun on the 2nd Saturday of July at Covenant United Methodist Church. We look forward to sharing a dance floor with you on the 8th.

Dance Photos - June Dance

USA Dance June 10, 2017 on...
The New Gym floor at Covenenant United Methodist Church
Music Delivery
USA DANCE
Your volunteers setting up the Summer's a-Commin Dance
USA Dance, chapter 2012 ~ June 10, 2017
Photo by Sylvia Rose
Put the Money in the Bowl NOT take it OUT!
Yum! Yum! Yum!
Now promise you won't tell anyone!
Are you sure she said that!?!?
Our Fill-in Photographer at Work
Are you sure you lost it around here?

USA Dance - Greater Memphis Chapter, extends a warm welcome to **Petra Dodd** who joined the Chapter since our last newsletter. We look forward to your being a part of our dance family. See you on the dance floor.

Renewing USA Dance Members

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

Karen Craig

USA Dance Membership Has Some Impressive Benefits

Renewing your membership is a smart money move. The discount on admission to our monthly dances alone will cover most of your renewal cost over the next year. In addition to the new $4 admission discount, being a member of USA Dance is special and has its unique privileges.
For information on these and other programs, 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 or 901-355-3297) 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.

PEANUTS
I ALWAYS GET HUNGRY AFTER I'VE BEEN DANCING...
BUT AS SOON AS I'M THROUGH EATING, I WANT TO DANCE AGAIN.. THEN AFTER I'VE BEEN DANCING, I WANT TO EAT SOME MORE...
I'M GOING TO END UP BEING A FAT DANCER!
SCHULZ

Why Special Shoes for Dancing?

Robert B. White

There are many dancers in this area who simply go on to the floor in their street shoes and dance the evening away. Most dance venues do not require one to wear "Dance Shoes" so why spend the money for them?

If one works in a small machine shop, warehouse, or other occupation that falls below the radar of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), one can work in street shoes also but it is not advisable. The reason for specialized work shoes varies depending upon the work. Steel toed work shoes protect one from objects that could crush toes. Work shoes with non-skid soles protect against falls on wet or oily surfaces. Some insulated work shoes protect the feet from extreme temperatures and others from electrical shocks. Such specialized shoes make work performance safer and better. These same principles apply to dance shoes.

Dance shoes are specialized shoes that allow one to dance safer and better. Dancing in your normal street shoes, in those venues where they are allowed, puts you at a significant disadvantage because it makes it more difficult to use your feet properly. Street shoes are designed with soles and heals to help one move about on a wide range of surfaces – concrete sidewalks, asphalt drives, stone/metal staircases, etc. Dance shoes are designed for only one surface - the dance floor. Normal street shoes are almost never as soft as dance shoes thus dancing in them places stress on the feet in ways that walking does not. The soft uppers of dance shoes allow one to flex their feet to the best of their ability and make turns and pivots not comfortable or possible in street shoes. The soles of dance shoes are made of suede, so your feet will glide properly over the floor with the correct amount of slide while minimalizing the chance to slip and fall.

Once you decide to invest in dance shoes, the first issue to consider is size, especially since dance shoes are normally "sized" by where the shoe is manufactured. A size 10 manufactured in England is different than a size 10 made in the USA. There are also Chinese and other Asian sizing systems, so be aware of this when you are shopping. This is not an unsurmountable problem but you need to be aware of it. These different sizing systems are relatively easy to translate with a conversion chart. This is most important if buying dance shoes online. If you choose a store that specializes in dance shoes and have one of their experts fit a shoe to you, this issue is null. Dance shoes that are too tight are miserable to wear and those that are too loose are dangerous. The point here is to make sure you purchase dance shoes that fit properly.

Heel size is also an issue to be considered when buying a dance shoe. The heel of most men's ballroom shoes, much like street shoes, is 1" height. It is not uncommon to find men's dance shoes, specifically designed for Latin-American dances, with what is called a Cuban heel, at a 1 ½" height. It is possible to find higher heels in men's dance shoes: however, keep in mind there is nothing wrong with wearing a 1" heel for social dancing. Now I am about to step out into dangerous territory in which I have no personal experience – ladies dance shoe heel height. I do know that high slim heels in all ladies shoes have been popular for years, and ladies dance shoes are not an exception. Personally, I have never quite understood how women even walk in some of them, but I have seen some outstanding dance performances by women wearing very high slim heels. Please keep in mind that all my ladies dance shoe advice is based on information from my dancing/life partner wife, and other ladies with whom I have danced. I am told that for ladies, the higher the heel the harder it is to dance and accordingly the stronger and more flexible the ankles will need to be. I suspect that the knowledge of proper heel height for a lady is a personal decision, and the quality of this decision is directly proportional to the length of dancing experience. I do feel safe in recommending that ladies not wear heels higher than they can comfortably dance in.

While on the subject of dance shoes, I should mention the care of such shoes is significantly different from other shoes. Since the soles of dance shoes are made of suede, they must be cleaned periodically with a metal wire brush expressly made for this purpose. This not only cleans dirt and debris from the soles, but by simply brushing along the shoe sole from the back towards the front, the nap of the suede can be restored. I have found it advantageous to use shoe trees in my dance shoes when they are not in use. Shoe trees help to maintain the shoe's shape between uses. And if you use unfinished red cedar shoe trees, you will find they absorb excess moisture left in the shoes as well.

The famous English poet, John Dryden, once said; "Dancing is the poetry of the foot". So...equip yourself with the proper footwear and enjoy the "poetry" to its fullest.

JUNE bUG Tid Bits

the LOOK says it all!
Stephanie Korpitz
Romance with Bolero ~ Flirt with Cha Cha
USA Dance, June 2017 Group Class

LOOK AT THAT HANDSOME MAN YOU ARE DANCING WITH! Feel the energy, dance the emotion of the music! Demonstrating the how-to for the Girls using the under arm turn of the Bolero, the "Look" received big smiles and *ooоos.* Stephanie then put the "LOOK" on the guys and they actually giggled, but said 'WE LOVE IT!

Element of Bolero ~ For the Men
Cha Cha Cha
Cross Triple Step
Cha Cha Knee Flick Fun

Our Summertime Sweetheart, Stephanie Korpitz instructs with the Fred Astairee Dance Studio of Memphis. There was no showcase this month as to music and other issues BUT Stephanie was asked to perform a showcase at our Annual Ice Cream Social on Sat., Aug.12.~ Stephanie said: " Can I do two" ? YES! YES!

Students progressed each week, adding elements of technique, styling and amalgamations so as to thoroughly enjoy expressing the music of Bolero and Cha Cha in their social dancing. USA Dance thanks and appreciates ***Stephanie*** *for giving of her time to instruct group classes for USA Dance.*

NOTE: NO CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR JULY OR AUGUST

Please keep up with our exciting class schedule for Fall to be announced. Instructors for Fall are Mr. Joseph Rukendorfer, Independent and TWO NEW INSTRUCTORS: Ms. KayLeigh Richardson Berenzy of BlueSuede Ballroom and Mr. Mike McKerlie of the Fred Astaire Studio.

Join the Happy, Friendly group of USA Dancers, 156 national chapters, a non profit organization which offers discounts on dance wear, books, instructions, workshops, and publishes the national magazine "American Dancer". All Memphis Group Classes are held at Berclair Civic Club, 943 Novarese at Tutwiler, $7 per class/ Students $3. Visit our Web. Site: www.dancememphis.com and F.B page. Greater Memphis. Chapter 2012~

CU on the LOD ~ Sylvia Rose, Group Class Dir.~ for more info, ph: 901-386-2003 Article/ Photos by Sylvia Rose

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As the USA Dance crowd gathered on this special June night,
and moved on to the dance floor with steps so light.
The ballroom tempo floated across with its enchanting tone,
and our hearts and feet felt a captivating moan.
The joy we felt on this evening was in full swing,
for the Waltz, Foxtrot, and Rumba was king.
Here together we shared our dancing heart,
and dreaded the hour when we must depart.