

September 2020 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

The Dance Desert caused by COVID-19 has continued through another month. A few classes (including of course, our own Berclair program) have resumed under very stringent rules/regulations to protect the participants, but none of the regularly scheduled dances. We all look forward to our dance opportunities opening again, along with the prospect of safely mingling with our friends on the dance floor. At this point, the date we can resume our monthly dance event is uncertain -- but please know that we ARE committed to re-starting as soon as we possibly can!

Local dance studios and independent dance instructors are the backbone of quality dance activity in this area. This is where we learn the basics of each style, the patterns to make our time on the dance floor exciting, and how to fully enjoy our time together moving to the tempo of the music. When the pandemic ends, and it will, we can depend upon these professionals to help us regain the competence we have lost over recent months of absence on the dance floor.

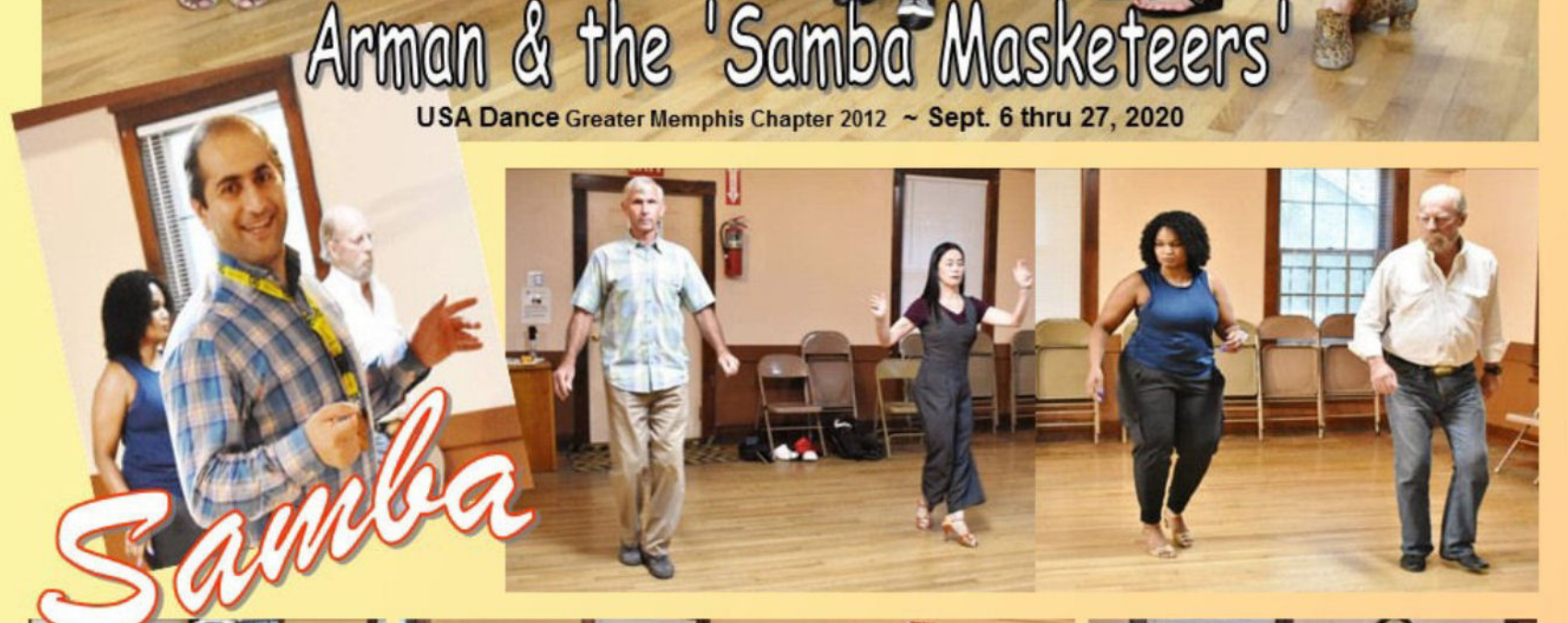
Over the years, our Chapter has been honored with numerous showcases at our monthly dances by professional instructors and talented amateurs demonstrating the best in dance style and creativity. This month's newsletter starts off with prime examples of these great performances at our dances over the years.

Showcases on Parade



Greater Memphis Chapter Public Outreach

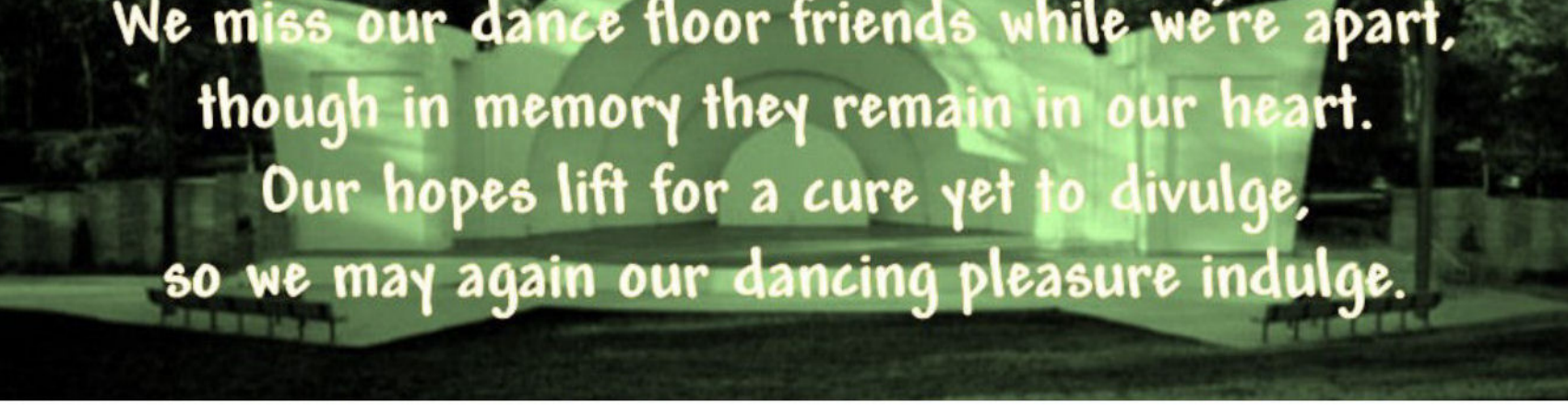
We all love to dance and that is the main activity in which we are involved; however, another purpose of our organization is to promote Ballroom Dancing in the Greater Memphis area. One of the ways that we fulfill this mission is by dancing for the public and for special groups in the area. The following photo montage is a sampling of these events over the years.



Myrna Irene Gammon
 We are all saddened by the recent death of USA Dance Chapter member, Myrna Irene Gammon. Myrna and her dear friend Sharon Crisp began their USA Dance adventure at Berclair a few years ago and were loyal students. They joined USA Dance in September 2018 and attended many dances. Myrna brought delicious treats to share with other dancers and she always stayed until the end -- enjoying every moment!

In addition to Ballroom Dancing, Myrna had been a long-time teacher. She loved hunting bargains and finding treasures and had an adventurous spirit ready to travel on a whim. She was always looking to make lasting memories. Myrna was strong in her Christian faith and her siblings, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren take great comfort in knowing that she is now dancing on the heavenly streets of gold with her loved ones who preceded her.

Around the White house



Tid Bits - A September to Remember

AN EXTRAORDINARY SEPTEMBER FOR DANCERS!
 USA Dance had a wonderful group of enthusiastic dancers participating on the first Sunday of September defying the odds of COVID and Labor Day cook-outs. Safe couples, friends and distance. Some of the dancers used the mirror for a bit of practice in Argentine Tango technique. Arman was vigilant and helpful to everyone, giving personal attention to beginners in our second week of classes and thereafter.

I will say that we worked our legs off in SAMBA technique and enjoyed the simple choreography put together by Arman using the basic steps. *Hey we Danced Sambal bounce, bounce ~*

AHHH...Argentine Tango as danced in Buenos Aires is a dance of the soul which has to do with the necessity of expression and Tango is a dance where all the range of human feelings can be expressed: happiness, homesickness, passion and more. The many basic movements, advanced and embellishments are learned, so as not to be structured, therefore giving the dancers unlimited freedom. We are fortunate to have Arman, a Professional, Independent Instructor who travels and studies to bring us the best of both worlds, Argentine Tango, Latin and Ballroom. Thank you Arman Sahakyan for teaching for USA Dance!

USA Dance GROUP CLASSES ~ OCTOBER 4 - 11 - 18 - 25

MISS JORJA JOLLY WILL INSTRUCT SALSA 6pm and BOLERO 7pm
 Invite all your friends for a safe fun. Salsa will be for all level dancers and Bolero will be orientated for the Intermediate dancer. Masks are required for entrance, there is safe dance spacing and couples and friends can dance as a pair while singles can practice solo with some dance help from the instructor.

All group classes taught at Berclair Civic Club, 743 Novarese at Tutwiler, Memphis. Cost: \$7 per class and Kids/students with ID \$3. ~ Watch for updates on our web site: usadancememphis.com and on group FB. Memphis Area Ballroom Dancers and on our FB. Page: USA Dance greater Memphis Chapter 2012.

For more info Phone: 901-386-2003; Sylvia Rose Group Class Dir. (soon to retire as G.C. Dir.)

Another month with COVID-19 holding us tight,
 And our longing to dance making us want to fight.
 our dance floor experience is growing cold,
 as our memory of lost patterns grow old.
 We miss our dance floor friends while we're apart,
 though in memory they remain in our heart.
 Our hopes lift for a cure yet to divulge,
 so we may again our dancing pleasure indulge.