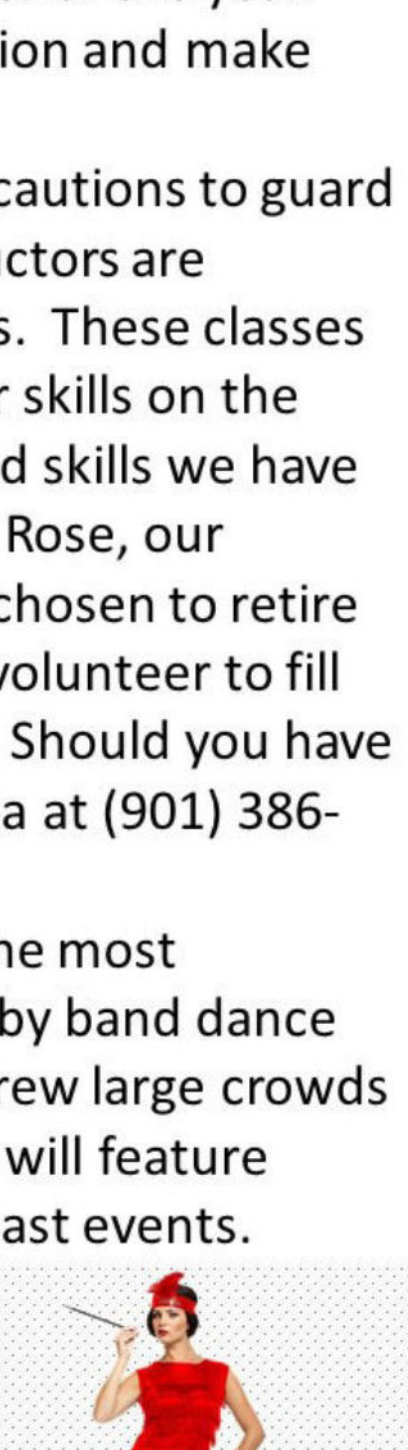


October 2020 Newsletter

Comments from our President – Robert White

Since the pandemic hit Memphis in the first quarter of the year causing the cancellation of our "Free Band Dance" in April, we have repeatedly planned to resume our dances on a month-to-month basis. Our expectation was that the situation would recover quickly and that we could resume our regular events. We were way too optimistic and unfortunately pandemic restrictions have continued to make sizeable gatherings too risky.

As a result of these conditions, our Chapter has made the decision to cancel monthly dances for the remainder of the year. We plan to meet in December to re-evaluate the situation and make plans for 2021 at that time.



Our Group Classes resumed earlier (under strict precautions to guard against the spread of the virus). Our professional instructors are providing the outstanding lessons in our ballroom dances. These classes are a great way to learn new dances or to improve your skills on the dance floor. It is energizing to renew many patterns and skills we have lost due to months of dance floor inactivity. Ms. Sylvia Rose, our fantastic Group Class Director for the last 15 years has chosen to retire from this position at year end. We are searching for a volunteer to fill this very important role to carry on our Group Classes. Should you have an interest in learning more about this, please call Sylvia at (901) 386-2003.

Our Chapter develops a theme for all our dances. The most successful of these started in 2015 with our Great Gatsby band dance and until this year, had become an annual event that drew large crowds of dancers from far and wide. This month's newsletter will feature photos for your viewing pleasure from many of these past events.



THE GREATEST GATSBY DANCE ON EARTH

USA Dance Greater Memphis Chapter - APRIL 11, 2015



A major concern is that our members will not maintain their membership as renewal dates roll around. The strength of our organization is our membership. Please take action to renew your membership with USA Dance during these trying times. Your continued support is needed! If you experience any problems with the online system, please contact the Membership Chairman, Howard Glatstein, (howardglat@comcast.net) or call 901-484-3315 promptly so that we can assist before your membership expires.

Garrett J. Williamson



We were all saddened by the recent death of our Dance Community's oldest member, "Jep" Williamson. Until the pandemic hit, he and his dearest friend and dance partner, Pat Simmons, were constant attendees at USA Dance events and the weekly dances at Memphis senior centers around town. Jep's family hosted a dance party for him to celebrate his 100th birthday late last year, which was attended by a huge crowd of his longtime friends.

Jep, a Memphis native, served in the USAAF during WWII as a Flight Engineer and Top Turret Gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. Off the dance floor, he was a distinguished aircraft mechanic and was a recipient of the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award by the Federal Aviation Administration. He told his extensive family that "he had a wonderful life, and did things that most people never dreamed of". Jep Williamson will be missed!

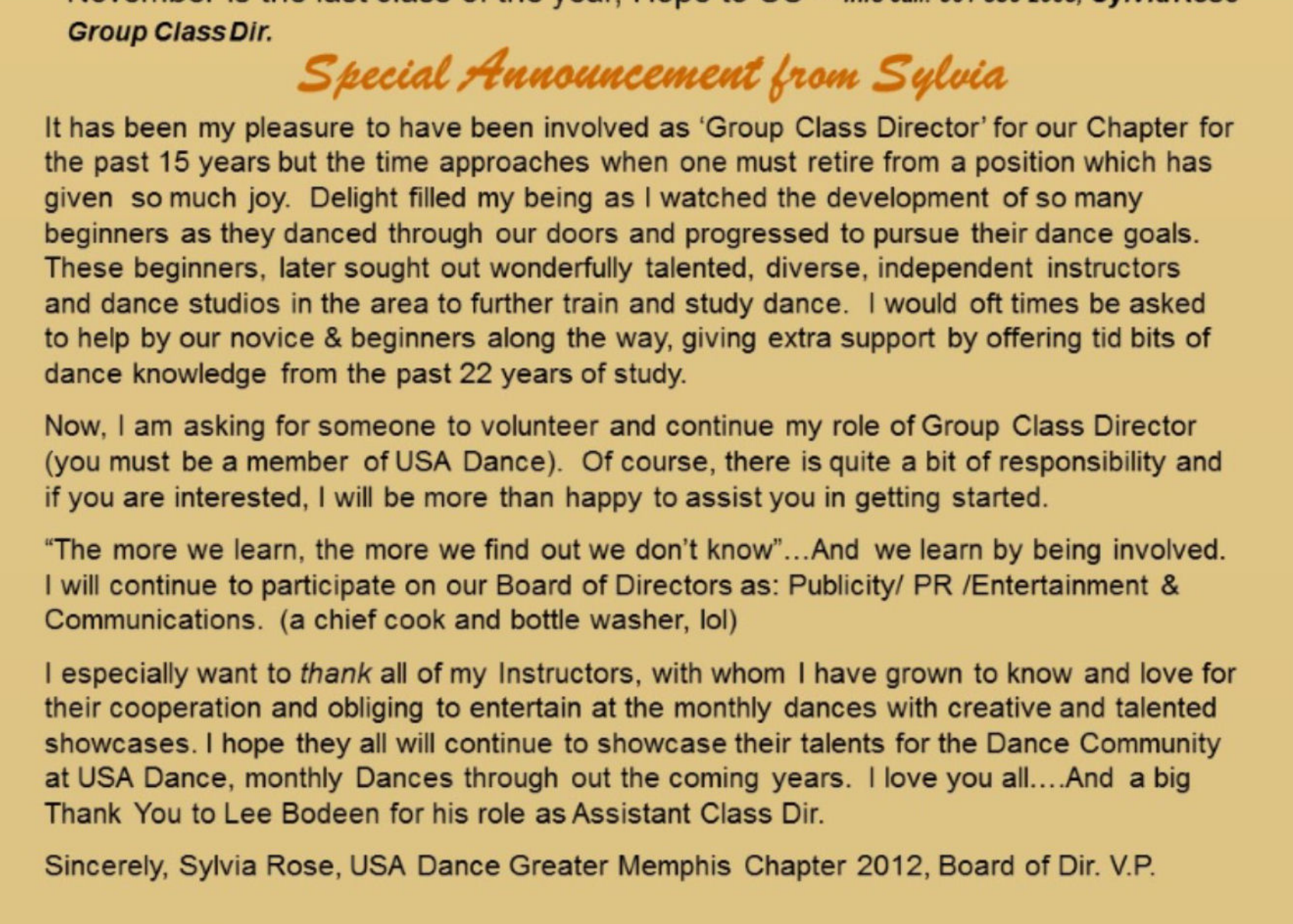
Don't Forget to Vote

Only Chapter members may vote for the 2021 Board of Directors. The last date to cast a ballot is November 14. A link to vote has been sent to all qualified members along with directions for a paper ballot if one is desired. If you are having problems with this or have a question, please contact Nastasya Hnat (502) 641-9536 or nastasya.hnat@gmail.com

Chapter Contact Information

Do you need to contact the Chapter concerning a specific matter or subject? If so, you might be able to resolve your issue with the following:

- Music & Food: Pam Vaughn (901) 491-5074 pvaughn@uthsc.edu
- Membership: Howard Glatstein (901) 484-3315 howardglat@comcast.net
- Group Classes & Showcases: Sylvia Rose (901) 386-2003 sharrisrose@bellsouth.net
- Volunteering & Decoration: Jane Hester (901) 853-1413 janehester@bellsouth.net
- Newsletter: Robert White (901) 757-9267 Robert_b_white@bellsouth.net



Jorja Jolly's Salsa & Bolero Bandidos

Jorja is an instructor with the Ultimate Ballroom Studio

October, the month for pumpkins, spice and everything NICE ~ Turns and spins and Latin technique gives the Salsa its spice. But, Ahhhh the romantic moves of The Bolero. Jorja stressed the sweeping glide, rise to toe of the foot and graceful arm styling which gives the Bolero its grace. Determination to conquer the romance and grace of the Bolero was the goal AND they did!



THANK YOU Miss JORJA (soon to be a Mrs.) FOR INSTRUCTING our USA Dance Group Classes over the past 12 years. We love and appreciate your support. And hope we all may continue to enjoy your showcases when we once again, sponsor our Monthly Dances at Advent Presbyterian Church for the Memphis Area Dance community.

NOVEMBER 1-8-15-22 ~ GROUP CLASSES

VIKTOR LES, "Mr. Top Hat" (of the Fred Astaire Dance Studio) will instruct:
CHA CHA At 6pm and Rumba at 7pm...Our February Students requested a follow up on the Cha Cha with Viktor, so now is your chance to polish up and get the Latin MoJo goin'!

NOTES

Cost is only \$7 per class/ Kids & Students 1/2. All Classes taught at Berclair Civic Club 743 Novarese at Tutwiler, Memphis. We have space for 12 in each class so come early to get your spot. I am there by 5:30pm. Please wear a mask; temperatures taken and there is plenty of room for SAFE Dancing Space. November is the last class of the year, Hope to CU ~ Info call: 901-386-2003, Sylvia Rose Group Class Dir.

Special Announcement from Sylvia

It has been my pleasure to have been involved as 'Group Class Director' for our Chapter for the past 15 years but the time approaches when one must retire from a position which has given so much joy. Delight filled my being as I watched the development of so many beginners as they danced through our doors and progressed to pursue their dance goals. These beginners, later sought out wonderfully talented, diverse, independent instructors and dance studios in the area to further train and study dance. I would oft times be asked to help by our novice & beginners along the way, giving extra support by offering tid bits of dance knowledge from the past 22 years of study.

Now, I am asking for someone to volunteer and continue my role of Group Class Director (you must be a member of USA Dance). Of course, there is quite a bit of responsibility and if you are interested, I will be more than happy to assist you in getting started.

"The more we learn, the more we find out we don't know"...And we learn by being involved. I will continue to participate on our Board of Directors as: Publicity/ PR /Entertainment & Communications. (a chief cook and bottle washer, lol)

I especially want to thank all of my Instructors, with whom I have grown to know and love for their cooperation and obliging to entertain at the monthly dances with creative and talented showcases. I hope they all will continue to showcase their talents for the Dance Community at USA Dance, monthly Dances through out the coming years. I love you all...And a big Thank You to Lee Bodeen for his role as Assistant Class Dir.

Sincerely, Sylvia Rose, USA Dance Greater Memphis Chapter 2012, Board of Dir. V.P.

Our year moves on toward its yearly knell, as we incessantly wait for a COVID-19 ending bell. Our longing for friends and dance floor to quell, but the close of another dance parched month fell. Our long-learned dance patterns are becoming cold, and our absence from the dance floor is growing old. We cringe in anger at all this time in waste, but for now, we must continue it to face.