



MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



SANTA CAME TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

And brought Mrs. Claus.
Red flannel really gets to
some people!



NEW FEATURE

In an ongoing effort to keep introducing fresh, new elements to the club, we've decided to begin a **GUEST DJ** spot, similar to the Guest Teacher situation. There are many talented DJ's in the area who have offered to entertain us for awhile during each dance. This month, Jim Rowe will be spinning the toons. See page 4 for Jim's bio.



DANCE LESSON

Many thanks to Louise Tamres for her challenging and delightful lesson last month. It was a pleasure to watch EVERYBODY getting in touch with their inner sexy dancer. I have the pictures to prove it. (You go, Sally!!)



This month, Paulette Brockington is going to teach us how to dance to the Blues and how to bring elements from other dances into it. Advanced Beginners and above, please. See her bio on page four for more details.

NEXT PARTY

JANUARY 14

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*

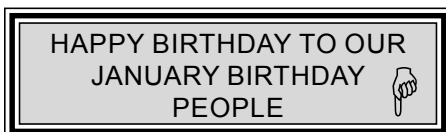


Wanna touch my nose, little girl?

NEW MEMBERS

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

- PATTI CAMERON
- BRUCE CAMERON
- DARREL KENNEDY
- JANET MARCACCINI
- SUZANNE POUNCEY
- LARRY STAHL



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.

MARI ISAAC	1/1
JOHN YOUNG	1/3
NANCY DAVIDSON	1/4
LISA FERRARI	1/7
KATHRYN RASSETTE	1/8
AMANDA WARREN	1/11
MICHAEL SUDZ	1/13
JEANNIE HOSBACK	1/13
ALICE HOSBACK	1/13
BOB MYERS	1/14
KEN MESKIN	1/19
VICKI CONNER	1/19
THERESE SPENCER	1/19
BOB KRALL	1/19
JULIE GUBB	1/20
BARBARA WILLIAMS	1/21
OKSANNA GUDZ	1/22
CHRISTINE HALL	1/23
MARYLOU GILLIS	1/24
SHARMAN SAFFOLD	1/31



FUTURE PARTIES



- February 18
- March 18
- April 22
- May 20

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



FOURTH ANNUAL CHARACTERS REUNION

Saturday, January 27th
 9 PM to 2 AM
 Come and see all your friends from the Characters or Butterfly Era.
 \$10 cover charge. \$1 off for MSDA members. 1-810-754-3434
 See attached flyer.

AMBER HOUSE MONTHLY POT LUCK DANCE

Sunday, February 4th
 4 PM to 8 PM.
 \$6 admission. \$1 off to MSDA members. \$1 off if you bring a dish to pass. Call Bill to tell him what you are going to bring so he can coordinate the dinner. See attached flyer. 1-810-754-3434.

BIG III No. 2

February 17th 8 PM to 2 AM
 The Lafayette Grande.
 \$15 cover. \$12 for MSDA members. Lesson: \$5. Paul King & the Rhythm Society Orchestra. The band breaks will be filled with a VARIETY of music (not just 30s and 40s swing). About 1/3 of the tunes will be between 80-125 BPM, for East Coast, Fox Trot, West Coast, Waltz, Salsa and Cha-Cha. Plus, we will be playing actual WCS, Fox Trot, Salsa, etc. tunes! There will be a much wider range of dances and styles than at the last BIG III.
 FMI: 810-978-3703 or
<http://swingdetroit.iscool.net>. See attached flyer.

MARCH MADNESS

Mar 2, 3 & 4th
 The Lafayette Grande, Pontiac, MI Workshops, dance contests and a Sat night dance with Paul King and the and Rhythm Society. Teachers Ryan Francois and Jenny Thomas are touring again after recently starring in the Broadway musical "Swing," the Tony Awards show, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Rosie O'Donnell Show and appearing with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.
 Purchase a weekend pass for only \$125 (if purchased prior to 2/15, \$150 after 2/15). Day rate \$75. Individual classes \$20 each. \$5 off for MSDA members. FMI: Paulette Brockington: 313-869-9385. Or email PauletteBrockington@yahoo.com or <http://artspectrum.org/marchmad.htm>

BOOGIE IN THE BURGH

Mar 29- April 1, Pittsburgh, PA
 3rd Annual Weekend Dance Party
 Weekend ticket: \$60. Includes workshops, 27 hours of dancing, exhibitions, hospitality suite.
 FMI: 412-561-7777 or Jerry Kovac, 412-825-0301 or
<http://americanbopassociation.com/burgh.jpg>



DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS



AMBER HOUSE offers **TUESDAY ECS & LINDY LESSONS WITH TIM CONSTANT**. ECS: 6:30 to 7:30. Lindy: 7:30 to 8:30. \$5 per lesson. FMI: Call (810).734.3434. **THE DANCE CLUB** classes begin each month at the Amber House in Warren. Private lessons available. Mambo, Hustle, ChaCha - Tango - Waltz - FoxTrot - Swing - West Coast. Huge Dance Floor! Amber House, 7012 E. Nine Mile Road (Just W. of VanDyke) Warren, MI

STARDUST DANCE STUDIO offers our members a discount of \$1.00 off the admission fee for their 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. NO DISCOUNT IS OFFERED AT THEIR ANN ARBOR LOCATION.

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 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.

WEST COAST WEDNESDAY

By Dance Fanatics
Times Square, Pontiac, MI
7:30, 8:15... lessons by Tera Gehrking
Dancing 9-11 PM
Kitchen open until 10 PM
\$1.00 off to MSDA members every
Wednesday. For more info: 810-446-8888
or surf <http://www.DanceFanatics.com>

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? To subscribe to all the latest dance news, visit her website at:

<http://dancemichigan.com>.

NEW PAGES have been added: **Instructors, DJ's, bands and Event Coordinators may advertise for free**. Also, check out our Information Station for her list of *Dance Floors* in the area.

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

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. or, check out our links page at <http://msda.org/links.htm>. We'll try to hook you up.

(248) 926-5484 or sfnelson@att.net



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.

Dancing!

By: Helmut Licht

"Dancing! Dancing!" My spirit starts to fly
My arms get light as feathers, my heart
exudes a sigh!

I hear the music playing, my soul swings
to its beat
As the melody and rhythm descend into
my feet.

I'm engulfed in this vibration, and like a
brush in Van Gogh's hand
I paint the parquet canvas to songs from
foreign land.

My partner echoes all my moves in perfect
harmony, -
A silent conversation for everyone to see.

The joy's beyond explaining - no other
sport comes close.
If every art's a flower, then dancing is the
rose.

The tedious hours of practice, frustration
and despair,
Are all belied by graceful moves of two
that float on air.

A sense of utmost confidence, a feeling
so sublime -
As music sings a wondrous phrase and
dancing paints the rhyme.

A hidden hand, baton unseen, music and
dance unites,
And makes a joyful symphony to rival
starry nights.

Of all the things I've ever done in life's
exciting quest,
Except for loving whom I love, dancing!
has been the best.



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 Steve
Lenahan for tickets. Last month's pot
was \$115.00!!



**GUEST INSTRUCTOR
Paulette Brockington**

It's All the Same

Swing dancing. It's taken almost a century for naysayers to stop concentrating on the evil created in Harlem during the late 1920s. From Henry Ford, who deemed it improper; to our own former governor Dickerson, who found it so charged with sex only married couples should indulge; through the Nazi regime who felt it threatened the purity of the Aryan race; the Rock Era; the Hustle; and, on to the new millenium where everything old is new again.

Swing turned flappers into jitterbugs. Today's new generation is agelessly jittin' to a wide variety of songs. Every region across America has its favorite dance. In truth, except for a few stylish changes here and there, the dances are basically all the same. A good follower, with a good leader of course, should be able to do any of the dances.

Just like Detroit, swing dancing has it's "Big 3" - East Coast, Lindy and West Coast Swing - with others vying regionally for their own market share. Lindy, though, is the world's leader. It is the only one of the swing dances that has a true world championship. It can be found danced on every continent on the planet.

It's '90s incarnation, Hollywood Lindy, is dressed beautifully in vintage clothes and walks the walk, but it's really West Coast Swing without the Hustle, Whip and Push stylings that we have come to recognize as the real West Coast Swing.

And how about that studio invention East Coast Swing, called the New Yorker by some of the dancers during the first Swing Era. It borrowed all the six-count steps it could from the Lindy, a harder dance. Back then, its figures were unnamed. Just something, they tell me, they did to make the phrasing work out right with the music. Styling makes East Coast Swing seem like a different dance. But all of East Coast's steps are in Lindy and in West Coast Swing.

West Coast itself developed along with R&B music. So it might seem sexier than the other two because of that. But it's all perception. All the dances contain the element of sleaze. It's all in the presentation.

So, in my new capacity as 'Princess of the Blues (so dubbed by England's Simon Selmon, an internationally sought after 'King of the Blues' himself), I'll teach a Blues dance class for MSDA this month. (Gee, does that make me a peoples' princess like Diana?)

And now how do I describe it? I can look at it as the international teacher/judge that I am or as a competitive

dancer. None of that matters though, because what I call upon to dance to Blues music comes from the heart not from a resume of titles. It has elements of Tango, Foxtrot and dirty dancing all wrapped around an understanding of the music to which you dance and the attitude you want to deliver. I like dancing Blues so much that I made it part of the national event I direct, The American Lindy Hop Championships. You can sample others versions of it at my March Madness workshop/competition weekend coming March 3 and 4 at the Lafayette Grande in Pontiac. There'll be four great dance contests on Saturday night. Paul King and the Rhythm Society will play. And for those interested, MSDA members get \$5 off the weekend pass price of \$125 (in advance of 2/15, \$150 after). Who knows? You might be ready to enter yourself by then.

Paulette teaches Lindy, WCS, Blues and Hip Hop and recently was the 2000 World Fast Dance Champion. She also won the 2000 Virginia State Open Open Hustle Jack and Jill with Barry Douglas.



**GUEST DJ
American Dance Center's
Jim Rowe**

Club member Jim Rowe will be our guest deejay at the Jan. 14th dance. He is the owner of the American Dance Center in Flint and has been involved with dancing for over 20 years. Currently, Jim is the secretary of the Great Lakes Swing Dance club and deejays many of their dances and parties. Other deejay experience are ballroom dances for USABDA, Line/Swing/Country for the Great Lakes Team Roundup, Coyotes Nightclub and the Fenton Area Singles Dances. Check out his music catalog at Debtstopper.com and the studio's Danceaway.com websites.



**PLEASE MAKE SURE I HAVE YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS**

I send the newsletter out electronically as soon as it is finished and it gets there a few days before the snail mail version. Because I can include color photos and graphics, it's more fun. You can download and print the photos. I also put each month's issue on the web site, in color, so you might want to check it out. Sharon Nelson: sfnelson@att.net



Dance Web Site of the Month
<http://www.danceshoesonline.com>

I just looked at this site and was amazed by the inexpensive yet attractive dance shoes that are available. For example, perforated leather practice shoes for ladies are normally \$42.71 at DSOL, but they have an additional New Year's discount of 10% bringing the cost to \$38.44. Men's leather latin shoes are \$32.63. The return policy is decent if you don't wear the shoes, which are made in China. I have no knowledge of the quality or dependability of the customer service, nor do I know what the shipping charges are. SN

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



PLEASE NOTE
THAT THE
PARTY IS **NOT**
THE THIRD
SUNDAY.

HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,
JANUARY 14!!!!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!