



# MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**More responses to a reprint of a letter written by a reader named Jane to the author of swingandhustle@topica.com.**

The "Jane" Saga Continues.....in reference to the reprint in the April newsletter:

<http://msda.org/april2003newsletter.pdf>  
Here's an excerpt from that article and rebuttals from some of our members...

"The people that continue to go to the West Coast Swing Conventions and Hustle Conventions are the same people that went 15 years ago. There used to be cool, attractive, mainstream type men and women (heterosexual) who balanced out the oddities of the gays and lesbians. Now all that is left are the gays and lesbians. Young people get turned off. This is why it is dying and pathetic at best. The fag hag keeps hoping 'Mr. Sparkle-Spandex' will give them a kiss, on the lips. But, he never will. After dancing every dance with you he says good night with a sparkle in his eye and meets Mr. 'Cuban Heels' upstairs in the hotel room. No one is honest. The lesbians pretend their straight, the gays pretend their straight, the old dancers pretend they're above all that and concerned only about the future of dance." Written by 'Jane'

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Dear Jane, In response to the article in the newsletter written by "JANE". I cannot agree with her more! Surely you cannot generalize, but what is at the heart of the dance? It's the only dance that makes the man shine in the partnership. This is almost the only dance that men dance together in. HELLO! I have learned to dance 10 different dances in my 10 years dance experience, but I never was interested in West Coast and I ask myself why? West coast just seems to be feminine for a man, though I know it is very popular. In Ballroom, Latin, and Disco

the man is "MANLY".

I went to Chicago a few years back to the REBEL'S event, for a swing weekend with a couple of friends. We checked in at the Hotel on Thursday nite hoping to stay the weekend. We went downstairs to the dance after unpacking, and what a shock! No kidding. There were at least 30% of the men dancing together, and they didn't look straight to me! Well, we decided to go home the next morning, and that's just what we did! I think that's why I have always stayed with East Coast. Its more "MANLY". You hardly ever see two men dancing. Lets just stop and think, if you came to such a dance event for the first time, and you walked into a room were men are dancing together, what would you think? What would go though your head!

Now you ladies can dance together. "NOW THAT'S COOL" but, if you ask me to dance West Coast, my reponse will be, "SORRY I'M STRAIGHT" therefore I am! Peter David DeSalvo Jr.

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Another reader's opinion.....

Is this b\*%#h (Jane) trying to BS me? Gays and Lesbians in the dance community? Ya right! What's her F/N problem? Can't get a date so she blames someone else. What a bunch of crap. Her next article will try to make us believe that 'some' male dance teachers are trying to have sex with young white girls. Everyone knows they are just trying to spread diversity in the community. Come on people....this just ain't going to happen.....not in my country....not the good ole US of A.

OK, back to reality. I wonder how old the article is.I enjoyed reading the article by Jane. My guess is that Jane lives in Florida (Topica) and didn't realize

....continued on page 2

**NEXT MSDA PARTY  
JUNE 22  
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. 586-754-3434**

## DANCE LESSON

Last month, Pamela Preczewski, of Dancesport Academy in Dearborn, assisted by her daughter Kelley, taught a East Coast Combination Class. It was a very cute and usable combination of steps. Thanks so much for the lesson, Pam....and for bringing Buddy Schwimmer to town. He was a total hoot during the lessons!



This month Fred Beaudet will be teaching Beginning to Intermediate Night Club Two Step. He will include a few special techniques for making the turns easier and will help us make the dance lighter and more graceful.

...bio on page 4.

**Just a reminder:** this club was founded with the concept that the main benefits to the members are the discounts that they receive from the studios and event promoters in the area. It is possible to save a lot of money by being an MSDA member.

**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
TO TAKE YOUR MSDA MEMBERSHIP CARD WITH YOU WHEN ASKING FOR DISCOUNTS AT STUDIOS AND EVENTS. THEY ARE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU THE DISCOUNT BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER.


## NEW MEMBERS

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

FERNANDO CADUCIO  
JAMES DeVOE  
MAUREEN ROGAN  
BONNIE SHERWOOD

### HELP OUR CLUB GROW AT THE NEXT DANCE:

- ☺ SAY HELLO TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW
- ☺ LEARN THREE NEW NAMES
- ☺ ASK TWO NEW PEOPLE TO DANCE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR  
JUNE BIRTHDAY  
PEOPLE 

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 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.

JUDY	SUSSKIND	6/2
THOMAS	WOPINSKY	6/8
THOMAS	BASHAW	6/9
AL	KABACINSKI	6/9
JULIANNA	DUDEK	6/12
AMY	HAIGLER	6/14
STANLEY	KUBICKI	6/15
FRANK	GONZALES	6/18
ROBERTO	DEROCHIS	6/20
DONALD	CARRIERE	6/22
JAMES	DANIELS	6/22
SHELLEY	HANDREN	6/24
VIRGINIA	HAMEL	6/27
MICHAEL	PIPER	6/27



## FUTURE PARTIES

**June 22**

**July 20**

**August 17**

**September 21**

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Please note: Some of the dates are not on the 3rd Sunday due to holidays or convention dates.  
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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**  
29457 5 Mile Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734-427-9202  
Hours:  
Tues - Fri, 10 to 6  
Saturday, 10-2:30  
Sunday, Closed

### LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

#### SALSA & SWING

Every Thurs night. Pier 500 in Wyandotte. 8PM lessons with Bill Fields. Jimmy Barrios DJ starting at 9PM. NO COVER. 507 Biddle, right on the river. 734-281-0530. See attached flyer.

#### FIRST ANNUAL INDY SWING CLASSIC

June 27-29, Indianapolis, IN. 765-522-3251, Tim Tillotson, TimsMail@tds.net  
<http://www.indyswing.org/>  
[indyswingclassic/](http://indyswingclassic/)

#### SWEET HOME CHICAGO

July 3-5, Chicago, IL 773-792-8842  
Radisson Hotel O'Hare. \$50. 25 hours of open dancing, 5 free workshops, dance exhibitions, no competitions, 2800 sq ft dance floor, hospitalities, free shuttles, smoke free ballroom.  
<http://www.jitterbugchicago.com/page5.html>

...continued from page one

that Florida, especially Miami, is like gay heaven. She probably gave some greasy black hair'd, skinny, fancy dressed gay boy all of her money for dance lessons before she realized the real truth. By the real truth, I mean it's buyer beware in the dance community just like everywhere else in the world. I know several people who spent all the money they had and then went into debt to continue the dance fantasy, all the while wishing their dance teacher or another great dancer would discover true romance and build a relationship that would last forever. Ah yes, love is great.

Oops, I got off my point. You know, when I started dancing, I think there were more gay boys around then than now. Back then I went to a lot of Arthur Murray studios and there were always plenty of gay boy dance teachers. But it all seemed to be common knowledge who the gay ones were. I remember thinking how funny it seemed to watch them prance around like a bunch of senioritas. But I don't think they were breaking hearts of real women or scaring anyone off. It was all out in the open.

I know Jane wasn't looking for me but the reason I've faded from most of the dance scene is because I've been around for too many years and I've slowly lost interest in most of the stuff. Old age is setting in. The few times I do go to the big competitions I do see what Jane describes (Jack and Jill, Jack and Jack, Jill and Jill) but for the most part I enjoy watching how good they dance. Gay or straight, I like to watch good dancers. But I must say watching two men (boys) dancing together gets old real fast. I must confess, even when I do see women dancing with women, I don't think "Oh-oh...Lesbos". Usually one is a teacher or a teacher wannabe. One or both might be Lesbian, but I don't make that connection. Of course I have more in common with Lesbians than I do gay boys. There will always be a special place in my heart for Lesbians.

Anonymous

#### 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 usually around 6 PM. Anyone can enter. You must be present to win.



## DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS



**THE DANCE CLUB's progressive** classes begins every six weeks at the Amber House in Warren. Schedule: <http://amberhouse-danceclub.com/> 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. 586-754-3434

**AMBER HOUSE's** New Classes starting!! Night Club 2 Step, Basic & Beyond With Ken Ptak. 6 Week Session - \$40.00 / Per Person. Classes Meet 1 Hour Each Week. New classes in Swing, Hustle and Cha Cha starting soon.

### STARDUST DANCE STUDIO

Friday Night Dance Parties 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM. FMI: 248-356-5678. **\$1 discount to MSDA members.** See attached class schedule. <http://stardustballroom.com>

### ROYAL OAK ARTHUR MURRAY

Friday night parties every Friday. Call for dates. 9:15 -10:45 PM. \$5. **Discount of \$1.00 for MSDA members.** 811 North Main Street, Royal Oak. FMI: 248-548-4770

### TROY DANCE STUDIO

**\$1.00 discount on every event to MSDA members.** They hold scheduled Theme Parties on Tuesdays. 4963 Rochester Rd. Troy, MI 48098. Elaine Marrero, TDS. 248-689-3393.

### DANCESPORT ACADEMY OF MICHIGAN

23666 Park, Dearborn, MI 48124 313-724-3262. The studio has Friday night open dances, \$8. Sat night dances are \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.** <http://www.dancesportacademy.com>

### ARGENTINE TANGO DETROIT

7758 Auburn Road, Utica FMI: 586-254-0560  
An instructor from Deliz DanceSport is teaching Salsa & Swing on Mondays! **\$1.00 off all events to MSDA members.**  
Lori@argentinatangodetroit.com  
<http://www.argentinatangodetroit.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 **free** to all the latest dance news, visit her website at: <http://dancemichigan.com>.

Instructors, DJ's, Studios and Bands may advertise for free. You can print out a huge list of area dance floors or check out the Information Station at the monthly dance for her list.

### RHYTHM -N- SHOES DANCE STUDIO

**\$1.00 discount to MSDA members on Thursday night dances.** 9 to 11 PM. Suzie Brecht is the manager of the studio, as well as a teacher and the DJ. 2172 Franklin Rd, Bloomfield Hills. 284-334-0299. See attached schedule. RhythmNShoes@aol.com.

### DANCE ART COLLECTIBLES

By Linda Jaworski: A large collection of wonderful dance related art and collectibles. 10% discount on unframed posters and 15% off framed posters to MSDA members.

### DELIZ DANCESPORT

231 Eureka Road, Wyandotte, MI 48192 734-281-1969. M-F, 1pm-10pm, Sat. by appt. 734-281-1969 or delizdance@aol.com

### DANCE ELITE BALLROOM STUDIO

6315 Haggerty, W. Bloom. American and International Ballroom Dancing. Group and private lessons for all ages. Jacob Reves, Professional Dance Instructor. Competitive dance coaching. Barry Douglas teaches Hustle classes Tuesday nights. Saturday night dance parties, 9 to midnight, \$10. **\$1.00 off to MSDA members.** 248-926-8522. <http://eliteballroom.com>. See attached schedule.

### NEW!!! CEO VIDEO

Still and video photography services. "Documenting precious, once-in-a-lifetime, loving memories of special occasions. **\$50 off the Diamond Wedding Videotaping Package (5% of \$1000), 5% discount on any other services.** Matt Trupiano. matt@ceovideo.net, 586-596-5240. <http://www.ceovideo.net/>

### PERSONAL TRAINER

Muscle toning, strength & balance training to increase your dance endurance & poise. At your gym. **10% discount per session to MSDA members for first 5 training hours.** Madelyn Kleitch, ACE certified. <http://personaltrainermk.com/> 313-882-5422.

### COULD I HAVE THIS DANCE?

Contact Meagan Woodbury if you are a male dancer between 40 - 70, & you are interested in becoming a gentleman host on cruise ships. **\$5 discount for MSDA members.** 586-775-1933

### DINING WITH SINGLES

Now you can join other available, like minded, single people for evenings of fine dining and dinner theater. It's fun, it's affordable and it's without the social pressure of one on one blind dates. **\$20 membership discount to MSDA members.** Type MSDA in the comments form. <http://www.diningwithsingles.com/>

### SWING TIME STUDIO/DANCE HALL

G-4510 VanSlyke Road- Flint Swing, Ballroom, Latin, Country & Social. Group Classes & Private Instruction available. 2200 sq. ft of Floating dance floor. **\$1.00 off any workshop or Dance party to MSDA members.** Instructors: Terri Sweet-Tim Johnson-Tim Constant-Dave Wolf. Contact Terri at (810) 762-0101. [swing42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swing42@sbcglobal.net)

**REMINDER:** Show your **MSDA** card at GLSDC and MSSHD dances to **get in at their member prices** Just show your card and save. The GLSDC schedule is at: <http://danceaway.com/GLSDC/calendar.html>. They have a club dance every Wednesday in Flint at Bugsy's. MSSHD is on the 2nd Sunday of the month : [bbudzyn@comcast.net](mailto:bbudzyn@comcast.net) <http://www.michiganswing.com/>

### HUBER & BREEZE

**30% discount** on all Rentals, Sales, Repairs of New & Used Disc Jockey Equipment. 33540 Groesbeck Hwy. Fraser, MI (586) 294-3950

### LYNCH'S

Three Locations:  
Warren: (586) 751-1780  
**15% discount to MSDA members.**  
They carry various trims for costumes, teachers' shoes, tights, etc.

## GUEST INSTRUCTOR FRED BEAUDET

We have many talented, accomplished club members so I thought I'd start asking them to strut their stuff. A well hidden secret among us is Fred Beaudet. He will be teaching a lesson on Night Club Two Step.

Fred taught at Arthur Murrays in the early '80's, took a break for awhile, and is back into dancing full time. (I always wondered why he danced so well!) His favorite instructors were Candy McKenzie, Jim Corrigan and Suzy Gordon. When asked what his favorite dance is, he replied, "The one I happen to be dancing." Fred will emphasize using body posture to clearly define the dance and the movement to the partner. He believes that the foundation has to be based on technique rather than on steps and patterns. Having danced many times with Fred, I can truly say that his lead is smooth, confident, light and very easy to follow. He definitely practices what he preaches and it is delightful. And, ladies, he likes to be asked to dance!



Fred's thoughts on technique.....

My pet peeve is people ricocheting around the floor like billiard balls. Let's talk about "circular slots". They don't exist! Every time a Hustle or West Coast Swing is played, you can look around and see circular slots all over the place. The term is a misnomer. A slot dance is just that. It is danced straight between two parallel lines instead of rotating like a pinwheel.

The reason the slot starts to bend, becomes an arc and evolves into a circle is simple. Poor timing, bad lead. Put these together and you have a guaranteed "crash course" on the dance floor. The woman will get her heels caught in the straps of another lady's shoe, and one dancer will bounce off another.

If dancers would spend a little more time on lead and follow, and resistance and timing, rather than patterns, we'd all be a lot safer out there. Plus, fewer dancers would be breathless and exhausted after only a few dances. If your timing is correct, it reduces the aerobic intensity and brings dance into the realm of a controlled, pleasurable experience. You can even talk to your partner because she isn't being dragged across the floor or running to catch up, and you aren't dodging others or apologizing for stepping on someone.

There are a lot of nuances to timing: he leads late; she's off time. She's behind the beat; he compensates and has to lead late. The list goes on and on. The bottom line is, if your body positions (read foot placement, timing and resistance) are correct, a slot is easy and comfortable to achieve and maintain. The dance

becomes effortless and beautiful. Turns are sharp and clean. There is time for styling and playfulness. Women can be light and smooth and men can become 'gentle' men instead of bears dragging you around and forcing you to go where physics don't allow. A smooth and easy dance always comes down to one thing...the basics. **You** can know a hundred steps and **I** can know 5 with proper technique and I guarantee that I will get asked to dance more often. If your foundation is weak, you will be a poor dancer. Period. It doesn't matter how many steps you know. Without technique, you will be rough, late and overbearing.

I've never met a good dancer who didn't occasionally go back to take basic lessons and pick up something they had forgotten. They truly appreciate taking refresher classes.

The basics are universal. They are absolutely essential. Learn them well!



## ANOTHER REPLY TO "JANE".

Dear Jane,

*...continued from page 1*

Your perspective of the dance scene is flawed. Therefore your analyses are invalid.

I am also single (again) and most assuredly heterosexual. I have been dancing extensively for more years than you have been alive. Some years I averaged more than five days a week—modern, social, clogging, ballroom, and swing/hustle. So I am familiar with the object of your criticism.

First, your perspective that "single heterosexual men and women learn to dance in hopes of meeting someone"....wrong. We dance because we love to dance. I don't like golf, fishing, or watching sports (other than dancesport). At the dances I learned some names only as a courtesy to facilitate communications. The last thing I sought was a relationship, which might lead to your goal of a "future together". No way! That might interfere with dancing.

Next, your observations are skewed disproportionately to the actual percentages of gays. Not every friendly appearance between like genders is indicative. And if there is any "real prejudice against the straights", I have never noticed (maybe I have been too busy having fun dancing without ulterior motives). I admire the dancing ability and instruction of some gays, even "flamers". And if I had danced well with you before you got out of the scene, I'm sure no "kiss on the lips"—I wouldn't want to dilute the purity of dancing with you again.

Therefore, seeing the dance scene as you do, your analysis of what it's all about is invalid. You went for a relationship and a "future together" (I read marriage) and got nothing but disgust and quit. I went to dance and had great times dancing. I was not pretending to be your "above it all" but I was above your perspective and observations.

Tom

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SHARON NELSON  
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WALLED LAKE, MI 48390  
<http://msda.org>  
[pres@msda.org](mailto:pres@msda.org)



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

HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!  
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,  
JUNE 22, 2003!!



Thank you for  
you support!!