



# MICHIGAN SWING DANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## DANCE STRATEGY IS AN ART

As a follower, I am always grateful to the leader who apologizes when I goof on the dance floor. Many of my fellow dancers are dependably charming, chivalrous and always help me avoid embarrassment by assuming responsibility for anything that either of us does wrong. They smile and make a light joke or just apologize and keep dancing. I LOVE dancing with them. On the other hand, I can remember being a new dancer at a convention in New York and having a dance teacher tell me, while dancing with me, that this was 'no place for beginners'. I was crushed and spent too much time in my room that night trying to get up my nerve to go back downstairs and dance. Looking back, I now realize that he was a heavy-handed lead, throwing me around, and he was compensating for his own lack of ability to lead a new dancer, which we all know is the ultimate test. The other repeat offender is the partner who tries to teach, without being asked to, while we dance. I've been led off the floor and told, "That'll be \$5 for the lesson." So, whenever someone calls my attention to an article about these issues, I feel that it may not be new but it's relevant because there are still leaders out there (and followers) who may have forgotten the guidelines.

Dancing USA called these guidelines "The Manly Art of Dance Strategy". The **Rules of Engagement** include the following:

**Avoid Self Denegation.** It makes both of us feel bad.

**Look Confident.** and smile. Really smile. And LOOK ME IN THE EYE occasionally. Even if we've never met before, we're connected and a unit for this dance.

**Compliment Your Partner** regardless of the other person's skill. Even if you didn't like the dancing, "What a wonderful smile you have," goes a long way.

**Practice Your Technique.** It makes us considerate partners.

**Take Responsibility for Problems.** Enough said.

**Do Not Correct Your Partner.** No matter what happens, NEVER, NEVER give your partner suggestions or criticism. YOU might be the problem and you don't even know it.

**When You Are the Better Dancer.** Adjust your style and technique to accommodate her level. It's your job to make her look good.

**When Dancing With a Partner of Equal Skill.** Enjoy it to the max.

**When She is a Better Dancer.** Be thrilled and welcome the experience. S.N.

### NEXT PARTY NOVEMBER 19 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*

We are happy to announce our list of teachers for future MSDA dances.  
November 19...Bob Campbell & Louise Zaleski  
December 10... Louise Tamres

## 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, Tim Johnson will be spinning the toons.



Bill Scheff's mom passed away last month and we want to send Bill our sympathy and lots of positive energy. Many friends and club members gave Bill a hand during that very difficult time and he wanted me to tell everyone how much he appreciated everything.

## DANCE LESSON

Last month, we had Detroit's own Hustle King, Barry Douglas, as guest teacher. Barry broke his own record by attracting 70 students for his class. As usual, the lesson was clear, useful, fun and flashy. Barry generously gave away a set of his WCS videos for a door prize. Thanks Barry!



This month, Bob Campbell is going to offer a class for beginners in West Coast Swing. Many old and new club members have wanted to get started in this FUN dance and we think its time we did something about it. 'Veterans' of WCS should take advantage of this opportunity to clean up the basics. Many teachers will tell you they take the basic classes over for this purpose. Bob's bio is on page 4.

### NEW MEMBERS

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

- ANNE SHERBIN
- GERALD JACKSON
- EILEEN PRUITT
- ROSS BERMAN
- GLORIA GAVLE
- KIM HALL
- MARI ISAAC
- BARBARA LAPHAM
- PAT KIRKPATRICK
- PAUL GERSCH
- MARY ANN MILEWSKI
- GERALD KOVACS
- JOHN FAITEL
- BOB CZAPLICKI
- DIANE CZAPLICKI



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.

JOHN FAITEL	11/2
JEFFERY VITALE	11/06
JOYCE SMITH	11/04
GERALD JACKSON	11/8
BEN PHILLIPS	11/9
JOANNE SNIDER	11/10
SHELDON NEWHOUSE	11/12
JANICE BROWN	11/13
MIKE DERADOURIAN	11/14
TERRA JANICE	11/16
BILL HOSTETLER	11/17
BECKY McGEE	11/17
PETER DISALVO	11/18
SUZANNE SUDZ	11/18
CYNTHIA BARCLAE	11/21
REBECCA ENGLISH	11/22
PAUL GERSCH	11/22
ALICE STEIN	11/23
LOLLY TORRES	11/24
REBECCA DAVID	11/26
KAREN LIM	11/29
LINDA GOLETZ	11/30



### FUTURE PARTIES



- December 10
- January 14
- February 18

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



### CINCINNATI BOP CONVENTION

Nov 8-12, Ft. Mitchell, KY  
 Non-stop bop weekend. Starts Thursday night with a Surprise at the dance. Friday night is club t-shirt night, Sat night is dressy with demos. Some tickets are still floating around. If you have some you want to sell or need some to buy, please email me at [sfnelson@att.net](mailto:sfnelson@att.net) or call at 248-624-3792.

### WINE TASTING DANCE PARTY

Saturday, Nov. 25, Amber House  
 Wine tasting between 6 and 8. Dancing will begin at 8:30. Both: \$15 or dance only is \$5 from 8:30 to 12:00. 810-754-3434. Cash bar. See attached flyer. \$1 off to MSDA members.

### SUNSHINE STATE DANCE FESTIVAL

Nov 23-26  
 Fort Lauderdale, FLA  
 513-754-1070  
 Swing & Hustle Competitions, Jack & Jills, workshops  
 3 separate dance floors  
 Country, Swing & Hustle, LineDance  
<http://www.danceconnection.org>

### US OPEN SWING DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nov 24-26  
 Century City, CA  
 800-537-8937

### TAKE YOUR VITAMINS, EAT YOUR WHEATIES DANCE WEEKEND

Dec 2 & 3  
 Lafayette Grand, Pontiac, MI  
 Lindy with a new attitude!  
 Workshops with Mo Jones, Janice Wilson, Paolo Ianna and others.  
 Sat night dance with Paul King & the Rhythm Society. Weekend pass: \$100 before 11/22. \$120 after 11/22. \$5 off for MSDA members. Contact Paulette Brockington (313-869-9385) or register on her website: <http://artspectrum.org>.

### 7th ANNUAL HOLIDAY BALL

Dec 9, 5 PM to midnight  
 Dance Avenue, Dearborn, MI  
 Student exhibition and dinner, 5 - 9  
 Open dancing, 9 to midnight  
 Entire evening..\$35 per person.  
 Dance only..\$10. Open bar all evening. RSVP by Dec 6. 313-565-3329. \$1 off to MSDA members.

### 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, 412-825-0301or  
<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. **COUNTRY DANCE PARTY** every Thursday inc. country DJ plus lessons. See attached flyers. 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

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**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](mailto:sfnelson@att.net)



**BE SURE TO FILL OUT A DANCE CARD OR TEN AT EACH PARTY. WE USE THOSE TO CHOOSE WINNERS FOR THE DOOR PRIZES.**

**CLUB POLICY ON ADVERTISING**

I'd like to discuss an issue that may not be clear. This newsletter promotes certain studios, events and businesses. We do so in return for discounts offered to our members. We do **not** take money for the ads or flyers. The newsletters are paid for out of membership fees and party entrance fees. We try to limit the local flyers placed on the Information Station to those events that offer discounts, and the same goes for anything that is passed around during a dance, either with or without our knowledge. Occasionally someone sneaks one in that we don't catch. My point is this: if you want to reach our extensive list of members, the only way to do so is to give them a discount. What's the problem with offering a small discount to an event? It seems to me that 90% of something is better than 100% of nothing. This club is structured to benefit the members and it will stay that way. BTW, anyone who wants to come in and pass out flyers must pay to get in and must clear it with me first. The flyers **must** have an MSDA discount to be passed out or to be allowed on the Information Station or anywhere else at the dance. This includes "By Invitation Only" events or any other name you choose to come up with to circumvent this rule. You're still using club resources. Thanks for understanding.

Sharon Nelson



**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 \$105.00!!

**JUST A NOTE REGARDING LESS REQUESTED DANCES:** Even though this is a swing club, we play the occasional Argentine and other more exotic dances. These will be played toward the end of the evening. Please be aware that it's difficult to accomodate everyone's tastes.

**GUEST INSTRUCTOR**

**Bob Campbell**

Bob taught Ballroom dancing at Arthur Murray Dance Studios for twelve years. He started in 1980 at the Warren Arthur Murray, later moved on to the Northville Studio, and finally ended his teaching career at Royal Oak Arthur Murray's. Bob has continued to take dance lessons after ending his professional career. He has been trained by some of the best local instructors including Candace McKenzine, Cindy Gerald's, and Beverly Ramsey.

Although Bob worked only on a part time basis at the studios, he always took his students into Showcase Exhibitions and Pro-Am Competitions. He once won a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Top Teacher Award in an Arthur Murray Pro-Am Competition.

For the past two years Bob has been Co-Owner of the Michigan Swing Dance Association. This month Bob and his partner Louise Zaleski will teach Beginner West Coast Swing. This class will be for those people that know East Coast Swing and would like an introduction to Basic West Coast Swing.

**GUEST DJ**

**Dance Fanatics' Tim Johnson**

Prepare yourself for a good time! Tim Johnson, AKA DJ TJ, will be playing competition quality dance music for you at our November MSDA dance. With a collection of over 500 CD's chosen specifically for dance music and Tim's own professional sound system, you can understand why his entertainment service is called Dance Fanatics. DJ TJ feels strongly about sticking to the theme of each dance and will be primarily playing swing, with a lesser emphasis on hustle music, including a variety of tempos and styles. You will probably hear some songs in which you will want to choose between dancing Cha-Cha or West Coast. For some songs you may want to choose between Hustle or West Coast. And others yet, where you will want to choose what form of swing to dance, such as Carolina Shag, West Coast, East Coast, Lindy, Jive, and so on.

In the last 3 years, Tim has traveled to more than 16 Swing dance conventions to collect dance music and learn more about dancing. Tim also started Dance

Fanatics which currently has a weekly West Coast Wednesday! theme dance. Please visit his web site <http://www.DanceFanatics.com>, or call (810) 446-8888 for details.

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Lots of MSDA members travel to events around the country and bring back wonderful information about dance events. We really enjoy the reviews so please keep this info coming. Also, while you're there, please pick up flyers to other events. If you give me a copy of each one, I'll make copies and put them on the Information Station for everyone to pick up. Thanks so much. S N

**AT SEA WITH THE UNSINKABLE SUZY BRECHT**

**By Johnny Mac**

What is the experience of assisting Suzy Brecht teaching Ballroom Dancing aboard a cruise ship in the Gulf of Mexico for two weeks? Passengers aboard the Norwegian Sea were treated to Suzy's unique high-energy style and wild sense of humor. When Meagan Woodbury broke her hip the week before the cruise, Suzy (MSDA's guest instructor for April 2000) spontaneously filled in for her. While the captain dodged a hurricane, Suzy artfully taught Swing, Hustle, Waltz, Cha-Cha, Rhumba, Mambo and Meringue on a sometimes pitching dance floor. Our largest class (about seventy) was Meringue and, unless we were in port, we averaged about 40 students per class.

This was the first cruise for both Suzy and me and a memorable one it was. The Cruise Director and her staff loved Suzy's high energy, the passengers loved Suzy's gregariousness and I loved sharing this unique opportunity to help teach Ballroom Dance aboard a cruise ship with the one-of-a-kind Suzy Brecht.

**Bob Campbell steps down as MSDA co-owner**

This is just a note to let the club members know that Bob Campbell has decided to turn the club over to me and I will now be sole owner. Bob will stay in his position as V.P. Nothing is going to change except that Bob gets to dance more now and I get to dance even less! S.N. 😊

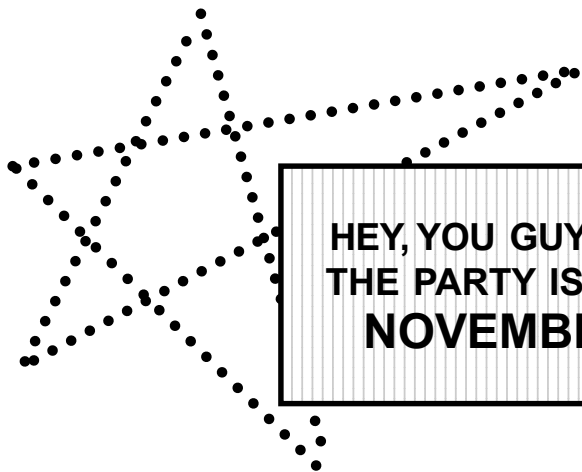
**Dance Web Site of the Month**

<http://swingdancecouncil.com/links.htm>

This is the links page of the World Swing Dance Council site. Some of the links don't work, but the ones that do are informative. Check out the three links at the very bottom that lead to Search Engine results on swing dance.

Relax. you'll be surfing awhile. :-))

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



**HEY, YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
THE PARTY IS SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 19!**

