

MAY 2021

The dance CALENDAR

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www.TheDanceCalendar.com

Always call our advertisers ahead to confirm! Sometimes wrong information may appear, and events get canceled or rescheduled.

Your Guide to Social Dancing, Dance Classes, and Special Events!



Hello Spring!

With Lulu & Paul!



Inquire about renting out our professional dance studios!

Rudanceny

BALLROOM DANCE STUDIO

Please call ahead to make a reservation at our Socials. Masks required.

Flushing Location

132-01 Roosevelt Ave. 2nd Fl., Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 358-3903
www.rudanceny.com

Social Dance

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2-5pm
Saturday 7-10pm (7-8pm Salsa Lesson)
Sundays 3-6pm

Music mix! Ticket \$15 (\$20 includes lesson, coffee & tea)



Tuesdays

5pm-6:30pm Beginner Rumba Cha Cha
6pm-7:30pm Int/Adv. Rumba, Cha Cha

Thursdays

6pm-7:30pm Int/Adv. Jive, Paso Doble

Saturdays

3pm-4:30pm Beg. Rumba, Cha Cha
4pm-5:30pm Int/Adv. Cha Cha, Jive

Long Island Location

284 Main St., Port Washington, NY 11050
917.868.5130 or 917.968.0435
www.Rudancelongisland.com

Social Dance

Fridays 7-10pm
(7-8pm Tango/Swing Lesson)

Music mix! Ticket \$15 (\$20 includes lesson, coffee & tea)



Mondays

5-6:30pm Beg/Int Kids Ages 5-10 Latin Dance

Wednesdays

6pm-7pm Adult Waltz / Rumba

Sundays

3pm-5pm Kids Latin class
4pm-5:30pm Adult Latin Samba

Wednesday Afternoon Social

Formerly The Dance Corner ... 33 years and still going!

Check Dance Synergy, Inc on Facebook for updates

186 Jericho Turnpike Mineola, NY
Info: Dee Kanevsky at 917-754-8957

Must call to reserve!

Call Dee Kanevsky at
917-754-8957

Hosts Gail & Louise

Join us Every Wednesday in May!

Mother's Day Party: Wednesday, May 5 - with DJ Dave

Anniversary Party: Wednesday, May 26 - with DJ Dave

12:30-2:30pm Social gathering. \$15pp admission includes: line dance instruction, coffee, cakes and snacks.

Reservations a MUST!!!

PRIOR: Must Call Fri-Sun, 10am-1pm, to Reserve.

No walk-ins. Call: 917-754-8957. Couples Only. Limit: 48 people (24 couples)

All measures taken are for your safety and to allow staff to work free of incidents. The Knights of Columbus has doubled our rent. In order to stay in business, our Admission Fee is now \$15pp.

According to the CDC guidelines, in order to reopen during C-19 Dance Synergy will be instituting the following procedures for the Wednesday Afternoon Social:

UPON ARRIVAL: Wear masks, at all times, even when seated, unless eating or drinking.* Take temperatures, sanitize hands, leave contact info. Social distance (ONLY 2 couples per table, seated on opposite ends)

*Anyone not covering their noses or wearing a mask will be asked to leave, without refund & will not be allowed to return in the future.

Refreshments (No buffet/ prepackaged only) - Patrons will receive a bag of snacks that may include: Bottled water, fruit cup, pudding, pound cake, mini muffins, cookies. On the table will be: To go hot cups with coffee and lid, prepackaged creamer and sugar. Table clothes: paper and will not be reused.





Dance with Wingo Hom
"The Dance Doctor"

12 Time Top Teacher Award Winner!
 Certified in West Coast Swing, Hustle, Full
 Bronze/Silver Level in 12 American
 Ballroom and Rhythm Styles

**I am available for
 Private Lessons
 by appointment only.**

**Please call 917-817-2020
 for more information!**

*Group classes at Hollis Hills Bayside
 Jewish Center, Fitness Loft, and Tropical
 Fitness are on hold until further notice.*

917-817-2020 • Email: DanceWithWingo@gmail.com
Website: www.DanceWithWingo.com

Loren Finkelstein



Spring is in full swing and more of your favorite socials are returning to the dance floor! The May issue is also packed with a variety of current group classes and instructors offering private classes. It's important to emphasize that all studios and venues are following strict safety protocols.

Along with the return of Argentine Tango Lovers, Wednesday Afternoon Dance Social, RuDanceNY Dance Socials and Stardust Dance Weekend, check out some exciting news from Donna DeSimone on page 5! Brumidi Lodge's Wednesday Social Dance Mix in Deer Park is also back! See details on this page, below.

In addition, Dance Obsession in Farmingdale is holding their "In House" Spring Showcase in May. Be sure to register first prior to attending - details on page 6. Lastly, Star Ballroom in Huntington is holding their 3rd Anniversary Showcase in May - details on page 8.

Safety protocols may vary so it's important to call advertisers ahead for more information before attending an event. Stay safe and get out there and dance again!

Long Island's Dancing Hotspot is in Full Swing!

*The Largest Dance Floor on Long
 Island with State of the Art
 Sound System and Lighting!*

2075 Deer Park Ave. Deer Park, NY 11729

**Brumidi Lodge Social Dance Mix (Sons and Daughters of Italy)
 is excited to be back to the dance floor!**

**We are open, following ALL NYS COVID Regulations keeping ALL our
 customers, guests and staff safe! NO Swapping Partners. Masks required.**

- Complimentary Dinner Buffet
- Coffee & Tea
- Fresh Bakery Desserts
- Cash Bar



Come get out and dance, enjoy great music, and be social again. We're also ready to host your next special event providing you with lifelong memories. Inquire about Off-Premise Catering too. For details see our full off-premise menu at www.brumidicatering.com

Every Wednesday in May
NEW TIME: 6:00pm-10:00pm

**Adm: \$17pp - Social Dance Mix - Tango,
 West Coast Swing, Hustle & More!**

Exceptional Music by DJ Gene & Joanne

516-991-3208

Fridays
May 7 & 21

7:00pm-10:00pm

Enjoy Bill Wilkinson's Orchestra! **A Night of Live
 Music & Dancing!**

Adm: \$17pp Playing everything from Big Band, Ballroom & Latin to Rock!
Includes light buffet, dessert, coffee, tea & cash bar.



Contra Body Movement Position

By Richard Fiore

(Licentiate, (LAB, LAR, T) US Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing)



In last month's column we discussed Contra Body Movement (CBM). In this issue we will look at Contra Body Movement Position or (CBMP). This is another essential technique in ballroom dancing. While CBM and CBMP sound closely related and may even be used in conjunction with each other, they are two very separate techniques.

CBMP is a foot tracking position that occurs when the moving foot is placed on or across the center line of the standing foot to initiate an outside partner dance position. An analogy can be made to standing on a tightrope. Both feet are placed in line with each other on the rope. Similarly, CBMP is achieved by placing the forward moving foot in line with the standing foot or conversely by placing the backward moving foot in line with the standing foot. The side of the body associated with the moving foot must lead in the same direction, as a way of setting up an outside partner dance position. For example, the leader's action may be left foot forward, left side leading, preparing to step outside partner. In this instance, the leader steps outside partner on the right side, leaving both partner's right hips next to each other.



In the normal closed dance position, each foot is on a separate track. This is the most common dance position predominantly used throughout any dance. However, the leader has the option to navigate into various other dance positions depending on the figures being led.

In an outside partner dance position, both partner's feet are placed in-line respectively as mentioned above. Their torsos do not rotate much and are maintained parallel to each other. This is technically noted as 'body turns less'. Their lower bodies track with their feet as they step in CBMP while the upper body line or frame is maintained. This action is used to transition into an outside partner dance position. It is necessary for both partners to apply this technique correctly to achieve any outside partner dance position.

In the outside partner dance position, each partner is to the outside of the other partner's leg. Both partners' bodies are shifted to one side and not directly in front of each other. Their hips are in a side-by-side contact either to the right or left. For example, when the leader steps forward in CBMP to the lady's right side he will end in the 'outside partner on right side' dance position. In this dance position there is direct contact between both partners' right hips. Conversely, when he steps forward in CBMP to her left side, he will end in the 'outside partner on left side' dance position. Similarly, there is direct contact between both partners' left hips. 'Outside partner on right side' is more natural and therefore easier to achieve. This is because there is a normal body offset to the left that aligns the right side of the follower's body to right side of leader's body in the closed dance position. Since the closed dance position is offset in this manner, it allows the man to more easily step in CBMP to end in an 'outside partner on right side' dance position.

A good way to sharpen your CBMP technique is to practice outside partner steps in basic figures. In Foxtrot Basic with the rhythm slow-slow-quick-quick for example, you can step in CBMP on the 2ND step to 'outside partner on right side' and then return to the closed dance position on the 3RD step. This outside partner basic can be danced successively to enhance one's ability to use CBMP more proficiently. Forward walks in tango that occur on a slow-slow rhythm as in the basic can be taken with the man's left foot forward in CBMP followed by his right foot forward with the right side of his body leading to create a slight curve to the left. The lady's follow is in the natural opposite

Complete Ballroom Dance Experience!

Professional Studio with wood floor & mirrors!



Refine your skills in the most popular ballroom dances! Best practice syllabus based techniques.

Join us at Adelphi University Garden City, NY Campus for an Amazing 11 week Dance Class

New class schedule to be announced

Class Description:

Gain experience in social / ballroom dancing. An excellent choice for those looking to develop fundamental dance skills as well as building on previous experience. The instructor will break down all dance figures and combine them to form amalgamated routines. Best practice syllabus-based techniques in timing, feet positions, alignment, footwork, and lead and follow will be demonstrated. This class is suitable for first time dancers and those with previous experience. It's designed to build confidence and enhance social enjoyment on the dance floor. Social dancing gives you a more positive outlook on life!

All students are required to wear masks. Partner rotation will not be allowed. Enrollment with a partner is recommended.

Please wear comfortable clothes and leather bottom shoes or dance shoes. Sneakers or rubber bottom shoes are not recommended.

Instructor:

Richard Fiore - Dual Licentiate, US Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. For more information call Richard at (516) 398-6145 or email RF1111@yahoo.com

Location:

Adelphi University
One South Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530
Woodruff Hall Dance Studio

To Register:

\$125/person for general admission.
Call Noreen DeNicola at (516) 877-4260 or email ndenicola@adelphi.edu

in which she moves her right foot back in CBMP followed by her left foot back with the left side of her body leading to complement the smooth curving action to the left. This is practiced at higher levels to facilitate tango's more compact hold and characteristic left curving action. In tango Basic you always have the option to lead the first step straight or in CBMP on the forward walk. Similarly, you have the option to take the 2ND step straight or in CBMP in Foxtrot Basic.

Using CBMP properly adds an attractive element of styling that gives dancers a more aesthetically pleasing appearance. Enjoy refining your CBMP technique for a more enhanced dance experience.

DANCE WITH *Donna DeSimone!*



Grand Re-Opening of the DancXchange Club Night!

Greenlawn Moose Lodge
631 Pulaski Rd Greenlawn, NY 11740

Friday, May 21st - 7pm-11pm

Hustle, West Coast Swing with a splash of Latin & Smooth!

- Must have proof of Covid vaccination or have taken rapid Covid test within 72 hours of the dance.
- Must wear a mask and use hand sanitizer.
- Masks off when seated, eating or drinking.

Reserved seating available for groups of 6-10 people or option of open seating. Can not bring drinks into hall cash bar will be open. You can bring food & snacks. \$20pp

Contact Donna DeSimone by email at dancxchange@yahoo.com or call 516 375-8498

Special Announcement!!

Donna will be taking over Excalibur Dance Studio in Melville starting June 1, 2021. All of Donna's classes at Attitudes in Motion in Old Bethpage will be moving to Melville in the Bank of America building under the new name of "The DancXchange" dance studio. Class prices are \$20pp with multiple class discount. Please contact Donna with any questions.

Excalibur Dance Studio, Bank of America Building
Lower Level, 290 Broad Hollow Rd., Melville NY 11747

*** Two New Beginner Hustle classes started in April***

Mondays: May 3, 10, 17, 24
(No class on 5/31 Memorial Day)

6pm-7pm: Slow Intermediate Hustle
7pm-8pm: Slow Intermediate West Coast Swing
8:15pm-9:15pm Beginner Hustle

Thursdays: May 6, 13, 20, 27
8:15pm-9:15pm: Beginner Hustle

Attitudes in Motion

756 Old Bethpage Rd. Old Bethpage 11804

Tuesdays: May 4, 11, 18, 25
7:30pm-8:30pm: Intermediate Hustle

Wednesdays: May 5, 12, 19, 26
7:30pm-8:30pm: Advanced Hustle
8:40pm-9:40pm: Inter/Advanced: West Coast Swing

\$20pp pay as you go.... Couples & singles welcome. Must bring a partner or available partner will be assigned.

Contact Donna DeSimone and reserve a spot now. Class size limited, mask mandatory.

Privates lessons are available in both locations by appointment.

IN-CLASS GUIDELINES

- Everyone must wear a mask, use hand sanitizer. Temperature check on hand and no changing of partners.
- Must have full disclosure if any student have traveled outside of NY or attended a large gathering. Attendance for contact tracing.
- Studio provides proper ventilation filters, air purifier and air disinfectant.
- Our intention is to keep distance between couples which should accommodate the size of dance floor.
- Each class must wait outside of dance room until the class in progress has exited.

**Donna's cell: 516.375.8498 • Email: dancxchange@yahoo.com
Web: www.donnadesimone.us**

ASK THE DANCE DOCTOR

By Wingo Hom

Certified in West Coast Swing, Hustle, Full Bronze Silver Level in 12 American Ballroom and Rhythm Styles. 12 Time Top Teacher Award Winner!



Q: My daughter recently got engaged to a wonderful man and is planning to get married sometime in 2023. I suggested for their first dance it would be nice to choose a meaningful song to do a routine as opposed to rocking back and forth. What are your thoughts on this?

A. For their special day, it would be fitting to have a nice choreographed routine performed as their first dance as man and wife. It will add slightly to the wedding budget, but the lifelong memory is well worth it. I'm sure you've attended a wedding where the MC or DJ introduces the newlyweds and everyone watches the couple simply rock back and forth to a 4 minute plus song. For a few minutes the attention is on the couple, but the guests quickly grow wary and start having conversations amongst themselves. The couple loses the audience. On the other hand, a routine performance is something completely unexpected and fun! It truly adds a lot of class and style, and grabs their guests full attention the entire dance. The choreographed routine should be at least 2 minutes and 30 seconds, and no more than 2 minutes and 45 seconds. Congratulations in advance!

BARNEY & DEBBIE'S DANCE OBSESSION

May Group Schedule

\$60 in advanced - 4 week session. \$20 for a single or drop in class. No class Monday, 5/31
****All classes are without a partner except Monday's Couple class**

Mondays

6pm Intermediate Social Bronze (Steps 1-4) w/technique & styling
 6:45pm Advanced to Bronze Medal (Steps 5-8) w/adv. technique & styling
 *7:30 - 8:15pm Couples group working on Intern. ChaCha, Bachata and Swing

Tuesdays

7pm Beginners Class for all students & ones just starting out!

"In House" Spring Showcase

Date to be Announced. Limited Performances

We're ready for y'all!

- Temperature check before lesson
- Sanitizing in between each & every lesson!
- Staff are always wearing masks
- Your safety is our TOP priority!!!

Limit of 10 students in each class. Pre-registration required. First come, first served. Masks are Mandatory & Social Distancing. Sorry, no walk ins :(

Visit www.danceobsession.com
 and our FB & Instagram pages:

"Dance Obsession Ballroom Studio"

for the most up to date information on upcoming groups & socials as the state regulations allow. Stay safe & healthy!



516-753-2121 • 18 Hempstead Tpke. Farmingdale, NY 11735
www.danceobsession.com

Argentine Tango Lovers

Committed to making YOU a Tango Dancer!

We're excited to announce the return of Argentine Tango Lovers dance!

Every Friday in May

We follow all protocols, and proof of vaccination and masks are required.

Reservations on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, please email Sherry at s2step@aol.com.

Our success depends on you!

Attitudes in Motion
 756 Old Bethpage Rd.,
 Old Bethpage, NY 11804

Info: 631.242.0686 or 631.495.1435 (Sherry)
www.ArgentineTangoLovers.org

KL Dance

presents

Latin Jazz & Hustle Classes

with

Kelvin & Lori Ann

May 2021

Every Thursday @ 8pm
 starting May 13th
 Star in Huntington

Every Tuesday @ 7pm
 Simplay in Hauppauge



kldance1



KL Dance



KL Dance TipsandDrills

For more info call
 631-332-8883

Inquire about our **NEW**
45-minute Belly Dance
Workout Class!

No partner? No problem!

Come Join my Belly Dance Classes

Saturdays - 12pm Beginner/Intermediate
Sundays - 4pm Mixed Levels

375 Dance Studio
375 Westbury Avenue, Carle Place, NY

Students are required to wear masks. Hand sanitizers & cleansing wipes will be provided.

- ** Gain strength - Belly dancing significantly aids core strength and muscle toning!
- ** Increase your confidence!
- ** Improve balance and posture!
- ** Apply arm styling and other techniques to ballroom and Latin dancing!
- ** Belly dancing is healthy and FUN!

I've been teaching at Stardust for 15 years! I also teach private & semi private lessons at your home, the studio or virtually!
For info please call at 516-735-1798 or Messenger or email me at: Marionpanos@gmail.com



As the world reopens these 2 SUPER STARS will become unavailable quickly! Lynne Gambone is curating some of the most EXCITING WEST COAST SWING that has ever visited Long Island. This is your opportunity - be a part of this INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE!



Lynne's
West Coast Swing

WCS Champs Take LI ...

4-Weeks in May
for **5-Hours** of WCS!

Robert Royston & PJ Turner
with **LYNNE**

ZOOM Lessons

4 Monday's in MAY

@8:30-9:45pm (NY time)

1-Hour Lessons followed by Optional 20-Minute Q&A

\$80 4-Week Series

-or- \$25 per Lesson

Teacher Schedule:

May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24
LYNNE	ROBERT	PJ	PJ

Q&A by LYNNE & PJ as Guest Twice

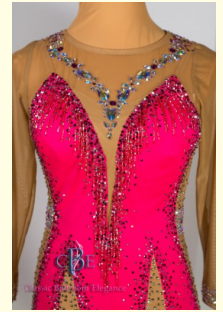
Meet PJ Turner; WCS Champion, a RoRo Pro & Funny Guy --- Perfect Complement to our Learning!



REGISTER via: **Venmo** @WestieLynne | LynneTheDancer@gmail.com 516-993-1369



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 DANCE STUDIO**



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**CHA CHA ~ RUMBA ~ SWING~ BOLERO ~ MAMBO ~ SALSA ~ HUSTLE ~ FOXTROT
 ~ WALTZ ~ TANGO ~ ARGENTINE TANGO~ SWING ~ WEST COAST SWING ~ LINDY
 HOP ~ BACHATA ~ AFRO CUBAN ~ KIZUMBA ~ FLAMENCO...and more!**



DRESS CONSIGNMENTS
**LOOKING TO SELL OR
 PURCHASE A COSTUME or
 PRACTICE WEAR?**

CONTACT THE STUDIO FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
 We now have a selection of ballroom and latin/
 rhythm costumes, practice wear for both men and
 women, boys and girls

New Group Classes Starting in May 6 Week series \$170 per person- pre paid

**BEGINNER SALSA ON 2
 AND BACHATA MIX WITH MICHAEL**

WEEK 1 Monday, May 10th
 WEEK 2 Monday, May 17th
 WEEK 3 Monday, May 24th
Monday, May 31st
Memorial Day—No Class
 WEEK 4 Monday, June 7th
 WEEK 5 Monday, June 14th

**INTERMEDIATE AMERICAN RHYTHM
 WITH BIWILL**

WEEK 1 Wednesday, May 12th
 WEEK 2 Wednesday, May 19th
 WEEK 3 Wednesday, May 26th
 WEEK 4 Wednesday, June 2ND
 WEEK 5 Wednesday, June 9th
 WEEK 6 Wednesday, June 16th

**INTERMEDIATE HUSTLE
 WITH LORI ANN**

WEEK 1 Thursday, May 13th
 WEEK 2 Thursday, May 20th
 WEEK 3 Thursday, May 27th
 WEEK 4 Thursday, June 3rd
 WEEK 5 Thursday, June 10th
 WEEK 6 Thursday, June 17th

**NEWBIES
 ONLY
 WITH BIWILL**

WEEK 1 Tuesday, May 11th
 WEEK 2 Thursday, May 18th
 WEEK 3 Tuesday, May 25th
 WEEK 4 Tuesday, June 1st
 WEEK 5 Tuesday, June 8th
 WEEK 6 Tuesday, June 15th

WEEK 1 Friday, May 14th
 WEEK 2 Friday, May 21st
 WEEK 3 Friday, May 28th
 WEEK 4 Friday, June 4th
 WEEK 5 Friday, June 11th
 WEEK 6 Friday, June 18th

**ADVANCED AFRO
 CUBAN
 SWINES
 WITH MICHAEL**

**CONTACT THE
 STUDIO IF YOU
 WOULD LIKE A
 LISTING OF OUR
 KIDS GROUP
 CLASSES**

CLASS TIMES VARY, CALL THE STUDIO FOR ADDITIOANL INFORMATION
 ***Due to COVID guidelines, Class size is limited, *reservations required, NO WALK INS*
 Text or call Debbie at (631) 312-3456 to be added to our wait list.
 We accept all major credit cards, Venmo, cash and checks.

3RD ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD ~ 1PM TO 4PM

SOLD OUT!

**CONTACT THE STUDIO
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
 BE PLACED ON OUR
 WAITING LIST**



1730 E. Jericho Tpke., Huntington, NY 11743
 StarBallroomDanceStudio@gmail.com
 www.StarBallroomDanceStudio.com
 Call us at: (631) 486-8499 or Text (631) 312-3456
 Se abla Español ~ Ramon (631) 375-9775

******STUDIO SPACE
 AVAILABLE FOR
 PRACTICE**



Dear Dancers,

The good news is ... **JUNE IS A GO!** Stardust 121st Weekend Getaway, June 18-20th at the Villa Roma Hotel in the New York Catskill Mountains. Dance hosts will be available.

There's a lot of planning to be able to put this together with the appropriate guidelines, but we can do it! Our office is taking reservations by phone or you can book on our website. We are staying on top of all the changes, so printed brochures are out this year. Instead, we will be sending out postcards and emails to keep you informed.

Click here if you would like to be put on our mailing list:
www.stardustdance.com/subscribe

Our hearts couldn't be more full due to the outpouring of support from our incredible Stardust guests and friends waiting for the reopening of our events.



SAVE THE DATES!

2021 Weekends at Villa Roma Hotel - Callicoon, NY
 June 18-20 • September 24-26 • November 19-21

In the meantime, we'll continue to do everything we can to help our dance communities stay safe, informed, and connected. We can't wait to see you all on our Stardust Dance Floors!

Linda Gilberg

Web: Stardustdance.com • Email: info@stardustdance.com
 Phone: (845) 794-4982 or (845) 796-6511 • Linda S. Gilberg



Spring Forward
A Virtual FUNdraiser

Please Join Us
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021
 7-8pm ET
Free Livestreaming Event

Honoring
Mickela Mallozzi

Emmy® Award-Winning
 Host & Executive Producer
 Bare Feet with Mickela Mallozzi



info@dancingclassroomsli.org * www.dancingclassroomsli.org

Awardees
 Scot Allan/The Gateway
 Student Alumni



DEAR DANCERS

Our team has been working to balance the ever-changing guidelines and regulations from the CDC, NY Dept of Health, the state and county.

STARDUST NOW HAS A SAFE PLAN APPROVED.

VILLA ROMA RESORT
Your new adventure awaits

 365 Villa Roma Road
 Callicoon, New York 12723

121st Weekend Getaway

Friday - Sunday June 18th - June 20th, 2021

Rates starting at \$495 pp (includes resort fees)

Weekend Includes:

- 3 day/2 Night Accommodations at Full Service Resort • 7 Meals • Cocktail Party
- Wine & Champagne Party • Over 40 Dance Workshops
- Night & Day Dancing to 4 Great DJ's • Top Nightclub Entertainment

Stardust Hosts Are Available For YOUR Dancing pleasure!



Future Ballroom Dance Weekends
September 24th - 26th, 2021
November 19th - 21st, 2021

Reserve Your Spot & Get Your Online Brochures @ www.StardustDance.com

www.StardustDance.com

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 EMAIL US: info@StardustDance.com • VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.StardustDance.com

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THE \$1,000 Argentine Tango Lesson



By Michael Ditkoff

Michael Ditkoff has taken ten years of private ballroom, latin, swing and hustle lessons; eight years of private Argentine Tango, Waltz and Milonga lessons; three years of Embodiment Yoga to improve his frame, and six months of Alexander Technique to improve his posture. He was also a dance host on three cruise ships.

After two years of lessons, I took a big gamble and attended my first Argentine Tango festival. A festival is a weekend event, usually in a hotel. There are plenty of classes and milongas, and sometimes practicas. The milongas are usually traditional music though sometimes there are alternative music milongas. (An alternative music milonga is dancing Argentine Tango to ballroom music or modern Argentine Tango music, called nuevo.) As a concession, there are sometimes 50-50 milongas, half nuevo and half traditional. I always skip the nuevo and alternative music milongas and sometimes attend the 50-50 milongas.

I remember very well my first festival. It was a long trip with a connecting flight, but I considered it an adventure. Later that night at the hotel, I picked up my name tag and went to the evening milonga, full of strangers. I was a blank slate to everybody, which gave me confidence because nobody knew how well (or poorly) I danced.

I brought a note pad to every class and wrote down every step of every figure so I would remember what to do. Some figures I already knew but realized they could be used in a different sequence. I was taught that Argentine men walk to the cross differently than I was taught at home. Some classes had intricate patterns.

By the time I got home, I had pages and pages of notes. I typed them into a WORD file and presented them to Joe, my Argentine Tango teacher, at our next lesson. I just about forgot everything that was taught and needed him to explain the figures. Thank goodness I took notes!

He looked at the notes for about a minute and said, "HMMM. And what is the woman supposed to do?" It was that moment a deep epiphany of nausea came over me. I felt a tremendous pit in my stomach as I realized I wasted \$1,000 in plane fare, hotel lodging, meals, and festival admission because I didn't remember the figures and Joe couldn't figure them out. All the notes weren't worth the paper I wrote them on.

I should have written down the woman's footwork instead of mine because I would then know what to lead. As Joe once said, "If you don't know what you want the woman to do, how can you lead?"

This was the most expensive Argentine Tango lesson I ever had. It was worth every penny!!

Now available for Private Ballroom & Latin Dance Lessons!

Rosalie Keane

631-987-8924

350 Higbie Lane West Islip, NY



We are looking forward to seeing you at our Ballroom Dance Socials, as soon as permitted!

Our main concern is for your health & safety. Reservations will be required as seating will be limited. Couples only. Singles must bring a partner.



"Kings Park Manor"

300 Ardito Ave.,
Kings Park, NY
Every 2nd Saturday

"Waterfalls Ballroom"

400 Cassata Rd.,
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY
Every 4th Saturday

Call or email Valerie for additional info:
631-581-8509 • tonyval@optonline.net • 631-487-3203

EXPERTISE
YOU CAN
TRUST

Anastasia Soroczynski



Marc Nunez



Kerry McManus



Registration is now open for our Virtual Dance Classes for Children & Teens! Spring Semester: March 1st - May 28th

Classes include:

Creative Movement (3-5 years) Tuesdays 4-5pm
Creative Movement (3-5 years) Wednesdays 10-11am
Ballet I (6-9 years) Mondays 4-5pm
Ballet II (10-15 years) Mondays 5:45-6:45pm
Pre-Pointe (10-15 years) Mondays 6:45-7:45pm
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The "Cost" of Dancing

By Lynne J. Gambone



This article is a reprint from a previous issue

Recently, my family splurged on a private tour guide in an art museum for 2-hours in Madrid. Our adorable guide, Marietta, was a doctor by day and a social dancer by night! What are the odds? The family all agreed that the few hundred dollars spent for the private guide was worth every penny. Otherwise, for

our family, it would have been a race to the exit and the question of why we bothered. I confess that I have no patience for art museums. Yes, it's a character flaw. Perhaps I am simply lacking in cultural depth; let's leave that for another discussion.

This got me thinking about dancing on Long Island (LI). I just spent hundreds of dollars on

- (1) something I do not much care about and I gave it to
- (2) someone who is not formally educated on the subject and
- (3) it was worth it.

Yet, I sometimes complain about spending \$20 for a 4-hour dance or \$15 for a one-hour group lesson from ...

- (1) professional teachers who
- (2) are schooled & accomplished in dance,
- (3) are Champions and
- (4) devote their careers to dance.
- (5) My attitude is BAD on a subject for which I am insatiably passionate!

SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THIS EQUATION!

It is expensive to live on LI, we all know this. That means it's near-impossible to host 4-hour dances, pay the venue and make it worthwhile for the person who does all the work. I started to realize the \$20 dance admission fee equates to a mere \$5.00 per hour of entertainment that is my passion, my sweet-spot! I respect that \$20 matters. Still, I realize that \$5 per hour is reasonable, perhaps even a bargain!

This incongruity is massive. It's time to "wake up" to this with a personal ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT. Without it, dancing on LI will decline. In fact, it's happening NOW. We are currently in a time when both studios and social dances are closing on LI. It's a tricky time for dancers. I am ready to "wake up" and support my passion to keep it alive! When you love something you have to support it positively; I love dancing!

This article was originally published prior to 2020. Partner dancing was experiencing difficulties then. Now, in this pandemic year that has brought our sport to a screeching halt, the financial impact on all aspects of social dancing is hard to fathom. Costs will rise for venues, teachers, DJ's, students as incomes fall. Safety protocols including limited attendance and sanitization rules for venues will slow the pace of getting back on the dance floor. I feel sad and still my yearning to dance remains powerfully strong.

Ready to "pay the price" of dancing? I am. The price of losing quality teachers, dances & venues is MUCH HIGHER! The AWARENESS that much happens behind the scenes to enable me to enjoy my hobby is VITAL. This year has made many of us quietly consider others and their difficulties during this unprecedented time, including our dance teachers, venues and DJ's.

I'll do my part, will you?

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