

Volume 5, Issue 3

July 2009



PHOENIX CHAPTER # 4033

# Dance Chatter

## It's Summertime, Summertime, Sum-Sum-Summertime!!!

After a beautiful spring (*can you believe how long our lower temperatures lasted!?!?!?*), we have hit the hundreds—those triple digits we all know and love in Arizona's summer.

While the heat of summer often slows things down as people attempt to stay cool, it has little impact on the dance floors of metro Phoenix. Despite the rising temperatures, dancers will still crowd onto the salsa, milonga, swing and ballroom floors around the valley and add to the heat of our summer nights.

Just remember my annual mantra:  
Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and we'll see you on the hardwood.



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**President's Point of View**

*no article this issue*

**Competition Corner**

*no article this issue*

*Editorial note:*

*July 1, 2009*

*As an active chapter member who has been made aware of an impactful situation affecting our chapter, and also due to the rumors that are filling the air, I feel that it is only right and respectful to inform the chapter membership of the facts as I know them at this time.*

- Beth Kahn has resigned as the chapter president..*
- Sherry Parmon is currently the acting president.*
- Cheryl Leggett has resigned as vice president.*
- Felix Ray is currently the acting vice president.*
- Priscilla Dean has returned by invitation to the board as a director at large.*

*These resignations took place at different times over the months of May and June.*

*The board will make an official announcement to the membership in the near future. For those concerned, our chapter can continue to function with an incomplete board, (recommended number of seven (7) board members) as long as the primary positions of president, VP, treasurer and secretary are filled—an issue the current board has already addressed.*

*I'm sure both Beth and Cheryl wish nothing but the best for the chapter as it moves forward. And I know Sherry and Felix, and the other board members, will have the chapter's best interests at heart as they step into their new roles.*

**Next Phoenix USA Dance  
Saturday — July 11th**

# Dance University

## Part One—Etiquette



### Road Rage— it's not just for highways anymore.

Yes, we've all heard of it, and some of us have actually witnessed it. Road rage on our streets and highways. When a driver seeks to exact "retribution" from another driver due to an unintentional, unwarranted, or sometimes blatantly deliberate offense. Road rage can take the form of "chasing" down the offending vehicle; cutting them off; playing "chicken"; and in the worst case scenarios—actual violence or collision. No one wins.

While dance floors are far less dangerous places than our roadways, and incidents of violence are rare, there are still moments of "road rage" among our social dance venues.

What some people view as "offenses" on and/or near the dance floor:

- Endangering other dancers with poor floor craft or out of control movement (too much speed, over-exuberant styling, not following line of dance)
- Standing on the edge of the dance floor or impeding the dance flow
- No acceptance of responsibility for own actions (dropping water or food on the dance floor and not cleaning it up, not excusing self and partner when colliding with others)

Reactions to such offenses are usually mild, and often overlooked. The primary goal of all social dancers is to have a fun night out and enjoy each dance as it takes place. When an incident does occur, most dancers will either sluff it off, or may make a polite comment to "please be more careful next time" or "slow it down a little" or even provide a helpful hint to avoid future issues.

However, some people take exception to the actions of others, especially if they see the same behavior occur week after week in a variety of dance venues. And, some people choose to take a less polite, and more direct approach in their response.

Incidents of road rage on the dance floor that I have heard of or have been witness to include:

- Chasing down the offending dance couple and crowding them
- Returning the same behavior (stepping on, colliding, cutting off, etc.) as was done by the offending couple
- Driving their own partner into the offending party (whether on the sidelines or on the dance floor)
- Verbal abuse

While these actions are rare, they do occur. Unfortunately, they are just as harmful to a positive dance environment as those who create the situation with their poor floor etiquette or lack of concern for others in the first place.

It is important to remember that we are all part of a larger community of dancers, and our goal should be not only our own enjoyment when we are on the dance floor, but a safe, fun, positive experience for everyone.



# You're Never Too OLD or Too YOUNG To Start



Ballroom dancing is an activity shared by millions of people across this country and around the world. Unfortunately, in this country, we often wait until we're "settled in our lives" and have the "free time" to devote to hobbies and leisure activities before we begin the learning process. As with learning languages or virtually any skill, we absorb new information at a faster rate when we are younger, and if a foundation is laid in childhood, the ability to retain, and to return to such learning at a later time is vastly improved.

Many dance programs around the country, and here in the valley as well, are putting that philosophy into practice by providing special programs geared specifically for children. These programs benefit children in a wide variety of ways:

- Teach social skills, etiquette and respect for others
- Teach cooperation skills and how to work together in partnership
- Improve self-esteem and self-confidence through the learning of a new skill set and through performance
- Increased physical fitness—in a society where childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions, getting kids up and moving in any capacity is a good thing
- Improved balance and coordination

If you are interested in having your child participate, or know someone who has a child who might benefit or be interested in learning about dance, please check out the resources below or research other avenues for dance instruction in the valley. The benefits of dance, ANY FORM OF DANCE—ballroom, ballet, jazz, hiphop, country, tap, etc— are worth the investment.

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*The following list is by no mean all-inclusive—it is just a sampling of what is available in the valley, in no particular order or preference.*

**Ballroom instruction for children (ages may vary per program) are available through:**

#### **Mad Hot Ballroom**

see City of Tempe recreation website or contact [info@dancewithchad.com](mailto:info@dancewithchad.com)

#### **Art of Dance, School of Ballroom and Latin**

[www.artofdanceaz.com](http://www.artofdanceaz.com)

#### **Paragon Dance Center**

[www.paragondancecenter.net](http://www.paragondancecenter.net)

#### **Gainey Dance—Ballroom and Social Performance**

[www.gaineydance.com](http://www.gaineydance.com)

#### **EuroRhythms**

[www.eurorhythm.net](http://www.eurorhythm.net)

Chandra Tenley  
[bootjack72000@yahoo.com](mailto:bootjack72000@yahoo.com)

# So You Think You Can Dance?



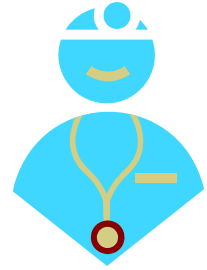
The latest season of So You Think You Can Dance? has begun. In June, the audition episodes began, auditioning and eliminating hundreds of dancers down to this season's top twenty newest, freshest and most talented faces.

Tune into FOX on Wednesdays and Thursdays to watch and see if your favorite makes the cut each week.

*SIDE NOTE: one of the top 20 is an original Chandler resident and a graduate of Coronado del Sol HS*

# Dance University

## Part Two—TRIAGE



You have learned your first dance steps.

You're feeling fairly confident on the dance floor.

You want to be a 'real' dancer, so you make the decision to invest in a pair of dance shoes—they are, after all, the "equipment" of dancesport, just like hightops for basketball, golf cleats for golf, goggles for swimming, etc. So you go shopping—through a vendor or online - and find those special, shiny, strappy, soft, supple, self-advertising-so-you-know-I-am-serious-about-dancing dance shoes.

Now what?

As with any new purchase, you want your dance shoes to last as long as possible. They are an investment, and not always an inexpensive one.

There are many schools of thought for how to break in your new shoes to avoid blisters and irritations; varying opinions on how to care for your shoes (leather, satin or patent); and just as many views on when to "give up the ghost" and retire your dance shoes. We will delineate many of them here, but the ultimate choice of action is yours.

### Breaking in Options

- Wear your new shoes around the house on carpet to allow them to shape to your foot. Some people encourage the wearing of socks over them so as not to wear down the suede before they hit the hardwood of a dance floor.
- Use a light coating (do not soak) of water or alcohol on the "inside" of a leather shoe (the straps around the toes, or the box area of a closed shoe), then walk in them, preferably on carpet, to allow them to breathe and stretch.
- Wear your new shoes to bed at night—I find this an odd and possibly uncomfortable solution, but supposedly it works.

### Care Options

- Satin—it can be worthwhile to put several coats of waterproofing and stain guard on your shoes to make them easier to clean and keep them looking better longer
- Leather—same suggestion, only use product specifically designed for leather vs. fabric

### When to "let go"

- When your dance shoes have completely lost any and all texture to the suede sole, it may be time to either get them resoled (shoe repair and cobbler shops still do this), or throw them away
- Unsafe straps (ready to break) or shoes that are so loose your foot slides around are just accidents waiting to happen. Better safe than sorry. You would hate to break or sprain an ankle and be off dancing for weeks just because you didn't want to part with your favorite pair of heels
- Holes in the soles are a sure sign that it's time to let go. You definitely got your money's worth out of that pair, but it's time, and much better for your feet, if you move on.

*"The feet may learn the steps, but only the spirit can truly dance."*

# Pearls From the Pros

Guest Professional — Robert Blair



### 1. What first inspired you to start dancing?

Well - it was less inspiration and more of a skillful negotiation. There was this cute little girl who would not go out with me unless I took a couple of dance lessons, so I said yes. The next thing I know, I'm out dancing 6 days a week. I discovered that dance touched a part of my soul that nothing else had. It appealed to the musician, athlete, and hopeful romantic in me. All wrapped up in a 3 minute song.

### 2. What keeps you on the dance floor through the years?

That same cute girl is now my wife. Seriously though, I have over 20 dance professionals working out of my studio, depending on a healthy and ethical environment for their students. That keeps me on the dance floor. Four college dance classes and my own students keep me on the dance floor, too. The coolest thing is there really is no other place I would rather be! The joy of dance still remains the same. Music, motion, and friends all wrapped up in 3 minutes of bliss.

### 3. What piece of advice would you like to pass along to all dancers?

I'm not the "go to guy" for advice so I'll just mention the thing that is most important to me: Be an honest dancer. Dancing is based on mutual passions. Every time two people get together in the name of dance, a relationship of trust is created. Dance partners trust each other to be respectful and considerate with regard to space and ability. Students trust the teachers to safeguard and guide their dance future. With all that trust floating around the dance floor, the least you can do is be an honest dancer.

#### Biography:

Born in East Los Angeles, Robert is a former Amateur and Professional competitor. He teaches dance classes at Maricopa Community College. Currently he is the co-owner and operator of Ambient Dance in Scottsdale with his loving (and lovely—I might add) wife, Temia, where he teaches both Smooth and Rhythm in private and group lessons.

#### Ambiant Dance

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Scottsdale AZ, 85260

[robert@ambientdance.com](mailto:robert@ambientdance.com)

[www.ambientdance.com](http://www.ambientdance.com)

# Upcoming Community Events

*These events are not sponsored or in any way affiliated with USA Dance—this is just a forum for suggesting unique and varied dance entertainment opportunities available.*

If you are someone who enjoys watching dance videos on YOUTUBE—here is the link for you to view some of the country's top amateur dancers at the 2009 USA DANCE Nationals!!!

<http://www.youtube.com/usadanceinc>

Annual July Fourth  
Greater Phoenix WC Swing  
Convention

go to [www.gpsds.com](http://www.gpsds.com) for details



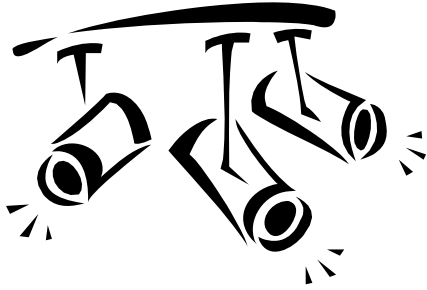
Latin Rhythms  
at the Kokopelli Winery

July 18th—July 20th

Kokopelli Winery and Bistro  
Chandler

Admission: \$7 tasting

Live Latin music,  
unique food and drinks.  
Salsa dance competition  
starting Saturday at 7:30 pm



## Member Spotlight

*Kyler and Katie*

### 1. What first got you interested in dancing?

Both of us were interested in watching dance shows for a long time. However, we did not get a chance to actually dance until a couple of years ago. I (Kyler) passed by a gym at Arizona State University (ASU) and noticed that there were a group of students learning dancing. It turned out it was a Salsa class offer by ASU. I enrolled in a Salsa class the next semester and though it was fun. Then I asked Katie to be my partner and we took a couple of ballroom and Salsa classes together. Both of us felt that ballroom dancing was more enjoyable. We won our first Championship in adult Bronze Smooth in the Phoenix Amateur Dance Competition in 2007. That was a quite of a boost. Later on, we figured out that International Standard is more challenging and more fun and it is our focus at this moment.

### 2. What is your favorite dance and why?

We are big fans of all five dances in the International Standard division. They are all graceful but with different flavors: Waltz is elegant, Quickstep is brisk, Tango is sharp, Foxtrot is leisurely, and Viennese Waltz is joyful.

### 3. What is one of your favorite dance moments or dance memories?

For Katie, the favorite dance moment was the Desert Challenge held by the University of Nevada at Las Vegas in April 2007. We competed in the Bronze Smooth, passed several rounds and reached the final. During the final, the majority of the audience cheered for us and shouted our number. That was the time we definitely felt the crowd.

For Kyler, the favorite dance moment was the USA Dance National Championships in April 2009. We competed in the Bronze international standard. That was the first time we competed in the Nationals. There were more than 30 couples from all over the US in our category and they were more serious amateur competitors. We thought it would make our 5-hour flight worthwhile if we could just get into the final. After we heard that we won first place, it was truly an excitement.



**CONGRATULATIONS to our National Finishers!!**

# Dance University

## Part Three— History

Test your knowledge of dance history.  
Can you place these dances correctly on the timeline  
of when they “originated”? Good luck.

	1600	—
		—
Foxtrot	1914	—
		—
Electric Slide	1927	—
		—
Twist		—
	1950	—
Macarena		—
	1959	—
Waltz		—
		—
Moonwalk	1976	—
		—
Lindy Hop		—
	1983	—
Chicken Dance		—
	1993	—

Chicken Dance—1950  
Macarena—1993

Lindy Hop—1927  
Moonwalk—1986

Foxtrot—1914  
Electric Slide—1976

Waltz—1600  
Twist—1959

# FOR SALE

*This section of the newsletter is available to all chapter members (non-vendors) who have dance-related items for sale or rent. Neither the newsletter editor nor the Phoenix USA Dance chapter take any responsibility for the transactions which may occur between an advertiser and interested party. All information is printed in good faith, and all contact, further information or exchange between those persons advertising items and those persons desiring to purchase items is strictly "at your own risk".*

**Place your ad here**

## FOR RENT:

Several larger size Latin/Rhythm dance dresses.  
Sizes 12-16.

- Calf-length black and white floral dress with white fringe hem, glitter fabric. Surplice front, plunging V neckline, full coverage back. No stones. No bodysuit.
- Teal halter dress with ruched bodice and three tier ruffled skirt. Glitter fabric, low-end stones. No bodysuit.
- Turquoise beaded, slimline dress, thigh-to-ankle asymmetrical hem, U-back, full bodysuit, Swarovski stones. Looks beautiful on the floor.
- Purple dress, short, full skirt with slit, U-front and back, full bodysuit, tons of Swarovski stones. Good dress for someone who desires more "support" and coverage.

Contact Sue Putzier @ 480-241-8826 or email [sue.putzier@chw.edu](mailto:sue.putzier@chw.edu) for pictures.

**Black/red, sequin / rhinestone Latin dress with pleated tail includes long, matching, detached gloves**

Size 3-7

For your next showcase, picture yourself in a stunning black/red sequined Latin dress loaded with rhinestones!  
The eye-catching pleated tail displays your every move.

This beautiful gown has a deep, low back with cross straps, and halter neckline.

Although purchased used in excellent condition, this dress was worn only once by current owner.

This dress can be yours for only \$750.00. Call today – 623-249-3327 and ask for Donna. No picture available at this time. Please contact Donna for more details or for viewing.

*Life is about giving, and the rest is taken care of.*

*- Peter Cajander*

# HELP WANTED

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Keep your eyes open in this section for future opportunities to put your membership into action within the Phoenix USA Dance chapter.

Check out the website for resources to local dance spots, instructors and other useful information.

**Keep your eyes open in this section for future “ads” where you can put your membership into action within the Phoenix USA Dance chapter.**

**Volunteers:** We are always in need of volunteers for a variety of tasks related to our regular dances. This is not a long term commitment. Even if you just volunteer once, you will have helped us out immensely. Positions open include:

- Dance hosts (primarily male, but we are considering including a few female dance hosts as well). This role interacts with all event attendees and invites single and newcomer dancers onto the floor. This role is time-limited to the first half the dance.
- Front table (accept admission and act as greeters)
- Refreshment hosts (furnish and replenish supplies periodically during the evening)
- Set-up and/or Wrap-up crew (set-up includes: prep event locale, decorate as needed, prep refreshments. Tear-down includes: quick trash clean up, reset studio furnishings, pack up pertinent items)

Please contact Ginny Zeroulis ([ginny@phoenixusadance.org](mailto:ginny@phoenixusadance.org)) or Sherry Parmon ([sherry@phoenixusadance.org](mailto:sherry@phoenixusadance.org)) for details on how to volunteer.