

Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club
Membership Application

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 Phone/Home: _____ Work: _____
 E-mail: _____

Annual membership dues are \$20/per person.
 Mail to: Palmetto Dance Club, 410 Eastburn Ct., Darlington, SC 29532

**Dance Schedule
2011-2012**

Dances are the second Friday of each month.

- New Season Starts
September 9, 2011
- October 14, 2011
- November 4, 2011**
- December 2, 2011**
- January 13, 2012
- February 10, 2012
- March 9, 2012
- April 13, 2012
- May 11, 2012

Admission - \$5 for members of the PBDC & \$10 for non-members.

Summer Dances

- June 8, 2012- Casual Dress
- July 13, 2012 - Casual Dress
- August 10, 2012 - Casual Dress
Dance Lesson from 7:30 to 8:30 pm
Open Dancing from 8:30 till 10:45 pm.
- Dance Location: The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club meets the second Friday of each month at The Leatherman Center, Freedom Blvd., Florence, SC.

Club Membership

from Janice Flowers

The PBDC tries to make it as easy as possible to experience ballroom dance in the Pee Dee. The PBDC is the only ballroom dance club within 60 miles. Pass the word and let's boost attendance this season.

Please promptly renew your membership when due. Our club depends on your dues to help pay for the hall, DJ and special treats throughout the season.

If you have not renewed your membership, we urge you to fill-out and send the form above with your check to the address shown.

Volunteers Needed

Don't forget the success of the PBDC depends on your participation in club activities. Our future is dependent on your energy, creativity, personal interactions and experience. Please step forward and help in the following area:

- ◆ Decorations
- ◆ Newsletter stories
- ◆ Publicity opportunities
- ◆ Door prizes

◆ Newsletter and Web site

Editor's Note

Your comments, suggestions and articles of interest are welcome and encouraged. Write to PBDC, 725 Muirfield Place, Florence, SC 29501, Tel. 843 667-9322 or email us at dorrdepew@yahoo.com. Please be sure to check out our website: www.Palmettodanceclub.org. The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club Newsletter is published four times a year. It is encouraged that ALL club members participate in contributing to this publication at least once during each year. Next publication date is September 30, 2011. Your information must be received by September 16th, 2011.

Editorial Staff:
 David Evans
 Chrissy Depew
 Bill Bramlett

Things to Do
Poynee-Ballroom dancing class start in September.
Nov. & Dec. dances-first Friday of the month



Vol. 12 Number 2

Florence, SC

April-June 2011

The First Professional Ballroom Dancers – Irene & Vernon Castle
 By Maya

December 29, 2008

Irene and Vernon Castle were the **first ballroom superstars**. Early in the 20th century ragtime music became popular in the United States and with it new and liberating styles of dance emerged. Contrasting the stiff and formal schottisches and quadrilles of the past, variations on the Foxtrot became popular known collectively as American Ragtime dances. Although the Castles' rise to fame was quick, it wasn't immediate. Early in their marriage the Castles auditioned for Broadway mogul Lew Fields and were flatly dismissed. Fields told them, "Who's going to pay to watch a man dance with his wife?"



Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.

They then travelled to Paris and gained quick notoriety for introducing the new dance forms to the French. Upon their return to New York in 1912, their success reached new heights. Soon after their debut performance, they were in high demand. By 1914 they had opened a ballroom dance school called "Castle House" where they taught high society by day, and a nightclub called "Castles by the Sea" where they performed to sell out crowds by night. Private dance lessons were in

such demand that Vernon reportedly charged \$1,000 an hour to his most demanding clients!

Later that year the Castles starred on Broadway in Irving Berlin's Watch Your Step, in which they refined the basic Foxtrot, which then soared in popularity. The show went on a lengthy tour and brought the Foxtrot to the consciousness of the entire country. They held dance competitions along the way and culminated the tour at Madison Square Garden where they performed along with the winning ballroom dancers from each competition.

Ballroom dancing wouldn't become stylized for another twenty or thirty years. This gave the Castles tremendous freedom and influence as they created styles and standards themselves. They disliked the "animal dances" that were the current trend. They considered dances such as the Turkey Trot, Grizzly Bear, and Chicken Scratch to be simplistic, coarse and "out of fashion." Instead they developed dances that were more refined and often technically more difficult. Among other dances, they developed a "hands-free" Tango they called "The Tango of Today."

The Castles were famous vaudeville stars and it wasn't long before Holly-

(Continued on page 5)

Inside This Issue

- The First Professional Ballroom Dancers Pg 1
- From the President Pg 2
- Photos Pg 3 & 4
- Media Library 5
- Decorating 6
- Membership Pg 6
- Upcoming Dances Pg 6
- Editors Notes Pg 6

Officers 2010 - 2011

- President: Bill Bramlett
- Vice-President: Vanessa Huggins
- Treasurer: Janice Flowers
- Secretary: Chrissy Depew
- April Wolfe
- David Evans
- Jane Snipes
- Standing Committees**
- Dance Instructors:
Vence & Pauline Jelovchan
- Dance Theme and Decorations:
Jane Snipes
- Parliamentarian: Pauline Jelovchan
- Membership: Janice Flowers
- Music and Band:
Vence & Pauline Jelovchan & DJ Eddie Collins
- Web Master: David Evans
- Door Prizes: April Wolfe
- Newsletter: David Evans
- Video Librarian: Janice Flowers

From The President

Friends, fellow dancers..... with the advent of the TV program (Dancing With The Stars) I've noticed how this program has exposed America to the joy & fun to be found in Dancing! I seldom watch DWTS, but that show has surely helped dancing throughout our country. I personally know of several persons who have gotten interested in dancing just because DWTS triggered something inside them. This is a good thing!! My only concern with DWTS, they use so much choreography, that I seldom even recognize a given dance a couple is executing. I have noticed too, that in the past 5-6 years there have been a number of movies all of which had Dancing throughout the story. This too has exposed us to the joys of dancing. I know that in 2004 I went



to the cinemas to see "SHALL WE DANCE?". I was very taken with this movie in that it took 3 different guys from various backgrounds, and during the course of that movie, it showed how much Dancing brought them closer to one another & those they love! Folks, if you do not have the soundtrack to Shall We Dance, it should be on your list of CDs to get. My thing is this.....whenever you're around persons (who do not dance or have not danced in decades) it's up to us to tell them how much joy & fun Dancing continues to bring to our lives every week that we live!! GOOD NEWS, IS TO BE SHARED NOT KEPT A BIG SECRET.....and Dancing is good news that all of us should tell about to those we meet!!!

"I'd Rather Be Dancing"

Bill Bramlett

Attention: The November Dance will be the First Friday in November. So mark you calendar now! November 4, 2011, Palmetto Ballroom Dance.

The Christmas Dance will be on December 2, 2011.

PBDC Stars Shine at Atlanta Open DanceSport Competition

Donna and Rich Gerner, PBDC members from Sumter, whom we have had the pleasure of watching perform, are now officially recognized great dancers, which is something we have known for some time. They won numerous first-place awards in the waltz, tango, and foxtrot finals at the Atlanta Open DanceSport Competition this past May, competing at the bronze level.

This accomplishment is all the more impressive when you consider that they have only been dancing for about three years. They began with classes at USC-Sumter, and have recently graduated to become teachers of that very same class.

They began practicing for the competition in November of last year, making the weekly 4-hour round-trip to the Piper Glen Ballroom in Charlotte. Working with professional instructors who have themselves competed at the highest levels of dance, Donna and Rich concentrated on learning new patterns and perfecting posture, movement, and technique.

The Atlanta Open draws thousands of dancers, both professional and amateur, from all over the world. "We

were so glad to be there and happy to be with everyone else," said Rich. "It was an exhilarating and humbling experience."



(Continued from page 1)

wood came calling. The pair starred in a newsreel entitled Social and Theatrical Dancing and in the 1915 film Whirl of Life. They also published an instruction book called Modern Dancing, which quickly became a best seller.

At the same time Irene became a fashion icon, debuting a bobbed hair cut and shorter skirts a full decade before the "flapper" style became in vogue. Their stardom was encouraged by those rallying against conservative members of society who, alarmed by what they viewed as the lascivious nature of the new dance craze, tried repeatedly to legislate it. In particular, theatrical agent Bessie Marbury (whose clients included Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw) was impressed with the Castles and began to spotlight them as a wholesome, married couple who embraced the new dances with sophistication and a healthful attitude that emphasized "courtesy and ease of manner."

With the breakout of World War I, Vernon enlisted with the British Royal Flying Corps. In 1918, while training student flyers, he died in an accidental plane crash. He was 30 years old. Irene memorialized him in her 1919 memoir My Husband.

In 1939 Irene published a memoir about her life with Vernon entitled Castles in the Air. Shortly thereafter Hollywood made it into a film called The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle, which starred Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Irene was a technical consultant on the film, but was frustrated with Rogers who refused to cut or color her hair, or wear replicas of dresses Irene had designed herself. Irene was known to hit the dance floor well into her seventies. She passed away in 1969 at the age of 75.

<http://www.itsaboutdance.com/articles/ballroom-dancers/first-professional-ballroom-danc>



Media Library

by Vence and Pauline Jelovchan



For some time now, we have been working on upgrading the instructional videos in our ballroom dance library. So far we have completed DVD's in: Waltz, Cha Cha, Tango, Rumba, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing and Bolero. Coming soon will be the Samba. These DVD's are available for loan to members of the PBDC. If interested, please see Janice Flowers who is responsible for maintaining the library. We ask that DVD's only be signed out for one month at a time to allow other members access.

Thank You!

To all of you who contributed door prizes in the second quarter.

