

# Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club News



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January-March 2009

## A Special Christmas Gift

by Vence Jelovchan

This past Christmas I was able to give Pauline an extra special gift & let me elaborate. We have two granddaughters, Emily (7) and Molly (5), both of whom are infatuated with our ballroom dancing. I think they correlate this to the Cinderella ball and the prince in shining armor! Several weeks prior to Christmas, I pulled them both aside and asked if they wanted to be part of a special gift for their "Nanny" (Pauline) this Christmas.

Of course they responded with a resounding "Yes!" The special gift was for me to teach them the basic waltz steps and to have a

special showing for Nanny at Christmas. Over the next several weeks, and every time we were in Columbia, we would go off to a clandestine location, to hold our lesson.



This typically was a secluded bedroom, garage, bathroom, or wherever we could go unnoticed for a few minutes. Nobody knew about this special gift except for the three of us, not even their Mom and Dad. We focused on proper dance position, the basic Waltz box step, \_ turns, underarm turn, cross-body lead, etc. It amazed me how quickly they absorbed this information and while our

lessons were only a few minutes at a time and sometimes weeks apart, they very quickly were able to remember and pick up where we

left off.

"D-Day" had arrived & Christmas Eve. Upon returning from the Christmas Eve service at church, I announced that **Cont. pg 7**

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### Officers 2008 - 2009

**President:** Meggie Reece  
**Vice-President:** Vanessa Hughns  
**Treasurer:** Janice Flowers  
**Secretary:** Cara Murphy  
Kevin Casper  
David Evans  
Patty Vilag

### Standing Committes

**Dance Instructors:**  
Vence & Pauline Jelovchan  
**Dance Theme and Decorations:**  
Patty Vilag  
**Parlimentarian:** Pauline Jelovchan  
**Membership:** Janice Flowers  
**Music and Band:**  
Vence & Pauline Jelovchan  
**Web Master:** David Evans  
**Door Prizes:** Kiven Casper  
**Newsletter:** David Evans  
**Video Librarian:** Janice Flowers

## From the President.. .

by Maggie Reece

Jay and I were sitting on our deck this noon, enjoying the signs of spring. Spring is the time for growth and our club is certainly growing. I want to thank everybody for their part in making our club a success.

Our April dance will be held on April 3rd, due to the fact that the next Friday is Good Friday. The dance will be Cha Cha. The May meeting will be on May 8th and the dance will be Fox Trout. June, July and August will be dressy casual with no decorations and no dance lessons, therefore allowing Pauline and Vence a respite from their duties.

The September dance is going to be on the 11th and the dance will be rumba.

"Dancing with the Stars"



have begun their spring show. They are a group of talented individuals and it is a treat to watch such talent.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Webmaster David Evans on the great job he does compiling and publishing our Newsletter and he is our Webmaster. Thanks a lot David.

Maggie Reece  
President

on the bodice and arms can be a hazard to your partner. When you do a turn, these loose parts could hit your partner in the face causing serious injury to the eye or a painful reminder of the last turn. Also, a dress with a train is to be avoided. Long hair presents a similar hazard. The hair can either be affixed to the top of the head or pinned to the back of your dress or collar so that it won't swipe your partner in the face. Gentlemen can either remove their coat or button it before taking to the floor. I'll be the one on the dance floor with the unbuttoned coat!

**What do I wear?** All of our dances from September through May are semi-formal events. The December and February dances are black-tie optional and the three summer dances are casual. I've found that the meanings for the three dress codes can vary and often are blurred. With that in mind, here is what they mean to the PBDC: Semi-formal for the ladies can cover a range of outfits from a pants suit to a cocktail dress. A coat and tie, dark suit or slacks, and sports coat for are appropriate the gentlemen. Black-tie optional means a gown or very nice cocktail outfit for the ladies. Gentlemen's options run from a tuxedo or dinner jacket, a dark suit, or dark sports coat and slacks. The summer dances are casual dress events. Ladies can wear a sundress or casual pants suit. The gentlemen can wear khaki-type pants **Cont. pg 6**

## Ballroom Dance Etiquette

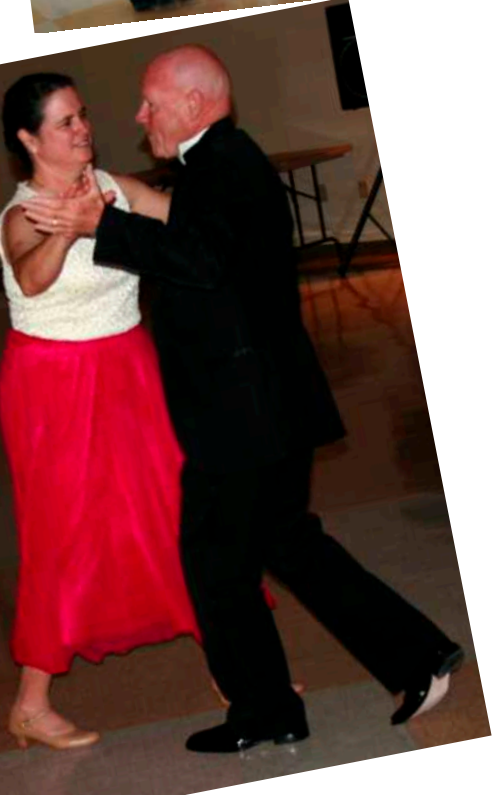
by David Evans

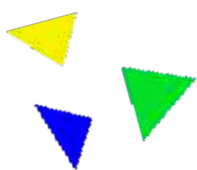
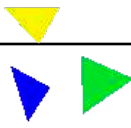
I'll start by saying that the ballroom dance or "prudish" police aren't about to descend on the club's dances. A lady who has just become familiar with ballroom dancing recently said to me that ballroom dancing is so "elegant" to watch. This elegance and grace have always been a part of ballroom dancing and is reflected in the gracious manner dancers engage with one another. Today, even with the relaxed standards in our society, ballroom dances call

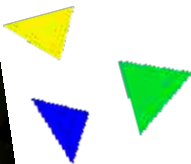


for a certain decorum. With this in mind and the fact that we have new members who may not be familiar with ballroom etiquette, I've put together a few points that we should keep in mind.

**Proper attire:** Your clothing and shoes should be both comfortable and safe. Ladies need to have "dance friendly" clothes, which allow for comfort and a full range of movement for the arms and legs. Also keep in mind that clothes with fringe







and knit shirts with or without a coat or go Hawaiian. At no time are jeans acceptable for ballroom dances.

**Asking for a dance:** In the 21st century, it is acceptable for a lady to ask a gentleman to dance. Begin by introducing yourself and saying, "May I have this dance?" or "Would you like to Cha-Cha/Waltz?" If a lady is with her husband or date, it is considered acceptable to ask the lady if she wants to dance. When going to the dance floor, it is decorous to escort the lady by offering her your left arm. She can either hold the gentleman's arm just above the elbow with her right hand or she can put her right arm under the gentleman's left arm and place her forearm across his forearm.

**Declining a dance:** Sometimes we all need a break from the dance floor. If you are asked to dance and decline, it is proper to give a reason, such as "I'd like to sit this one out, perhaps the next dance," or "I'm waiting on my partner," or "I don't know how to waltz." After declining a dance, you are obligated to sit that dance out. It is a faux pas to decline to dance with someone and then accept that dance with someone else.

**On the Dance Floor:** In ballroom dancing, there is a specific way to move around the dance floor called Line of Dance (LOD). The progressive dances, Waltz, Foxtrot, and Tango, need a zone on the outer edge of the dance floor to promote ease of travel. The

movement is always counter-clockwise. (See figure 1). On a large floor there can be two LODs. The outer one is the fast zone, while the one to the inside is the slow zone. All spot dances and non-traveling moves to the progressive dances, i.e., Tango Fans, Box steps, or any other pattern that would restrict or stop the flow of other dances in the LOD, are done in the center of the floor. Spot dances include the Swing, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Bolero. They are danced

in the center of the floor if others are performing traveling dances. As you dance, keep in mind that there may be less experienced dancers on the floor. Please be patient with them; we were all beginners at one time. The more experienced dancers need to be aware of the less experienced dancer, and should try to give them room.

**Leaving the Dance Floor:** A Gentleman should escort the lady back to her seat in the same manner in which he brought the lady to the dance floor. Exit the floor as quickly as possible, as lingering on the floor after the dance creates an obstacle for the

dancers coming onto the floor for the next dance.

**After the Dance:** As you seat your partner, thank them for the dance. A compliment on how well they did a particular step is a nice touch.

**Icebreaker:** The Foxtrot Mixer is danced for the Icebreaker. Two or three songs are played to give everyone an opportunity to dance. The purpose is to meet new people. The gentlemen line up on one side of the dance floor and the ladies line up on the

opposite side. The first Gentleman steps across to greet the first lady, they introduce themselves, and then dance the length of the dance floor doing the basic Foxtrot step. Remember not to dance with your regular partner. The lines move forward and

the next gentleman greets the next lady, etc. The gentleman escorts the lady back to her line at the end of the dance and then takes a place back in the gentlemen's line. With luck, you can meet three or four new people during the icebreaker.

The unique elegance and grace of ballroom dancing extends to the respect ballroom dancers show one another.

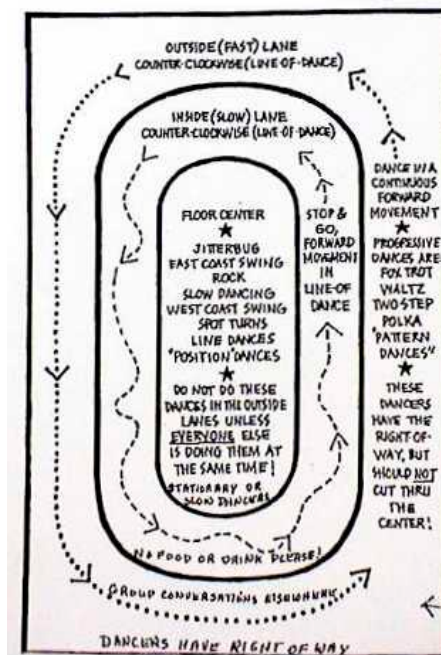


Figure 1

## Dance Instruction

by **Vence & Pauline Jelovchan**

We have been trying to do a lot of steps in our one hour lessons. Part of the reason for this is that some of you know



the basic steps very well. We want to be sure to cover the basics for the newcomers

but also show those that are ready some more advance steps.

The best thing that we can suggest for newcomers is to come to the review time from 7:15 - 7:30 P.M. when we review the lesson from the preceding month. As always, PRACTICE is the key to remembering the steps!!!! Pauline and Vence

we had a special gift for Nanny. I proceeded to put spectator chairs in a semi-circle with Emily and Molly seated off to the side on their own children's chairs from their play set. I proceeded to place the CD in the player and as the music began, walked over to Emily, held out my elbow, she joined my arm, we proceeded to the center of the "dance floor" (the kitchen area!) and proceeded to perform our routine. I could not have been more proud of her. Her technique was excellent for her age as she tilted her head back over her left shoulder, and executed the rise and fall rhythm like a

pro! After I completed the routine with Emily, I returned her back to her chair and did the same with Molly who also performed very well. While all of this was kept at the "Top Secret" level, the only slip Molly made was when getting out of the car from the Christmas Eve service. Tammi (her Mother and our daughter) heard Molly whispering under her breath to herself, "I'm scared I might mess up." Be assured, nobody who witnessed these special angels that Christmas Eve was looking for minor miss-steps or improper technique. All they saw was a very special moment of them dancing with their Col Pop Pop (the term they call me instead of Grand Pa) for their very special Nanny. It was a night I will cherish and a gift Nanny will remember forever and keep in a very special place in her heart.

### Quotes

I don't want people who want to dance, I want people who have to dance.

—George Balanchine

You can dance anywhere, even if only in your heart.

—Author Unknown

Dancing with the feet is one thing, but dancing with the heart is another.

—Author Unknown



**Thank you to the following people for donating door prizes for the past quarter:**

Frank and Judy Jordan  
Nancy Windham  
Larry Reichent  
Kevin and Barbara Casper  
Josie and Galo Marqueses

## Media Library

by **Janice Flowers**

**Attention new and veteran members:**

Don't forget that one of your club membership benefits, use of our video lending library of dance instructions, is still available.

We currently have eight tapes in our collection. These tapes are loaned for one month and may be borrowed and returned at our dances. Please contact me or any board member for information. If you need instruction for practice at home between dances these are for your use.



# 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 2009 - 10

Dances are the second Friday of each month.

April 3, 2009

May 8, 2009

#### Summer Dances

June - August, Dress: Casual

New Season Starts

September 11, 2009

October 9, 2009

November 13, 2009

December 4, 2009

January 8, 2010

February 12, 2010

March 12, 2010

Dance Lessons from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Open Dancing from 8:30 til 10:45 pm.

Admission - \$5 for members & \$10 for guests.

### Dance Location

The Palmetto Ballroom Dance Club meets the second Friday of each month at **The Leatherman Senior Center**, Freedom Blvd., Florence, SC.

### Coming Events

**Anne & Rays Gathering Place,  
Darlington, SC  
April 24th, Spring Ball  
For info: Anne Foster @ 395-1693  
(6pm-8pm)**

### 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, band 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
- Special projects

### Editor's Note

Your comments, suggestions and articles of interest are welcome and encouraged. Write to PBDC, 410 Eastburn Ct., Darlington, SC 29532, Tel. 667-9322 or email us at [d\\_eevans@yahoo.com](mailto:d_eevans@yahoo.com). Please be sure to check out our website: [www.Palmettodanceclub.org](http://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 July 1, 2009. Your information must be received by June 15th, 2009.

### Editorial Staff:

David Evans  
Cara Murphy  
Maggie Reece