

Ramblings:

Sheba Faust took a vacation to South America while partner *Max Martel* was recuperating from his sprained ankle, and she got to try a little authentic tango, Argentine style.



John Michaelson, for the first time in decades, took time off to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with his family in Texas. *Oberdan* and *Vanessa Otto* filled in for him at his classes and for the third Sunday dance in December.



DeeDee Sadler & Gary Ewell took a trip to London and tried "sequence dancing," the British version of round dancing. They also square danced while they were there. *DeeDee* then missed dancing back at home for three or four weeks while she recovered from foot surgery to remove a neuroma. *Alice Nackard* was headed for surgery January 10 to have her second knee replaced. *Jean Magro* missed dancing from November through mid-February for what was a hairline fracture in one foot that left inflamed joints when it healed. *Stella LaRose* thought she had recovered enough from straining her knee at URDC in July to go to the Willows weekend in October, and wound up hurting her other knee.



Margaret Shirley was thankful to be able to move back into her apartment on Thanksgiving Eve. She had been flooded out in mid-November when a water pipe burst and she had to temporarily relocate.



Colette Weiss became a grandmother (for the first time) in November when baby *Ella* was born to her son, *Mark* and his wife. Ask *Colette* to see a picture; *Ella* is beautiful. *Colette & Ken Fratto* have teamed up to join the *Migliorinis'* formation team.



Year-end meant some new beginnings for three of you: *Malcolm Wong*, *Camie Bolduc* and *David Moorhouse* all decided to retire from their jobs in December. *David* said his vacation to Italy in the fall convinced him the time was right for retirement. He and *Elaine Viescas* did a round dance exhibition for his retirement dinner.



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The 5th Wednesday Letter

From Sandi & Dan Finch

Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2004

Your Poll Results

The results are in: Your top 10 (actually 11, with tie votes) favorite dances are, ranked in order:

- Fiesta Tango*
- Leroy Swing*
- Sam's Pants*
- Papillon*
- St. Michel's Quickstep*
- Temptation Tango*
- Autumn Nocturne*
- Sam's Song*
- Tango Capriccioso*
- Wyoming Lullaby*
- Four & One Cha*

Each of those dances received between 21 and 26 votes. Receiving 20 votes and thereby just missing the Top 10 were:

- A Lovely Evening*
- Lili*
- And I Love You So*
- Beyond*
- Close Every Door*
- Beale St. Blues*

The results were very different from the voting two years ago. At that time, rumbas were the top three favorites and now there are no rumbas in the top 10!

We had asked you to rate each dance on an extended list as either a "keep" (meaning you really like it and want it programmed more often) or as a "drop" (meaning you don't want to dance it anymore). A dance that got neither of those votes stays in our inventory to be played at random.

The results are based on receiving 29 completed polls, some of them are combined partner responses and some individual responses. Each poll was considered one vote, either way.

We also gave you a list of new dances introduced in 2004 and some oldies for you to vote which you want to learn. *Sugarfoot Stomp* rated highly, along with *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes*, *Libertango*, *Chilly Chilly Cha* and *Apassionata*. We have already taught two of those.

As to those dances you want to see reviewed, the most popular were *Hurricane Swing* and *Roadhouse Blues*, getting at least nine (9) votes each.

(See "More Poll Results," Page 3)



Days of Our Lives Birthdays:

Brian Scanlon	Jan. 9
Harold Peyton	Jan. 11
Malcolm Pecor	Jan. 18
Lorraine Mahrt	Jan. 21
Aiko Nabata	Jan. 21
Colette Weiss	Jan. 27
Margie Moeller	Jan. 30
Linda Lin	Feb. 3
Marion Scholtz	Feb. 9
Shirley Blair	Feb. 10
Larry Rhyne	Feb. 12
Sheba Faust	Feb. 21
Cheryl Sullivan	Feb. 21
Gloria Lesh	Feb. 22
DeeAnn Beamon	Feb. 23
Bill Lantz	Feb. 25
Sandi Finch	Feb. 25
Ginny Kiseda	March
Sally Davis	Mar. 1
Ken Fratto	Mar. 4
Fred Lesh	Mar. 5
Madeline Ruge	Mar. 14
Pat Wong	Mar. 17
Fran Rowitz	Mar. 20
Ken Scholtz	Mar. 24
Dee Langevin	Mar. 26
Al Smith	Mar. 26
David Moorhouse	Mar. 28
Chuck Rowitz	Mar. 29
Mas Nabata	Mar. 29
Barbara Shimomusa	Mar. 30

Anniversaries:

Larry & Ellie	Jan. 15
Malcolm & Pat	Jan. 16
Ken & Eva	Feb. 2
Joe & Dee	Feb. 6
Ed & Di	Feb. 25
Larry & Carol	Mar. 12

Boxing Day Thank You Party

As a "thank you" to all of you who dance with us through the year, we hosted an open house on Boxing Day (Dec. 26) at our home in North Tustin.

Everyone was invited to bring as a white elephant exchange gift something received—but not especially wanted—for Christmas. One man's junk, remember, is another man's treasure.

We had a wonderful time and we hope those who couldn't make it will be able to join us next year.



Carol Rhyne, picking up her White Elephant gift on Boxing Day

Mark Your Calendar
Dan & Sandi's
3rd Saturday Night Dance
Starting
March 19, 2005
At
The Regency Ballroom, Lomita

It's A Clown, It's A Bug, It's a Devil It Must Be Halloween!

There is no end to the imagination of Wednesday Nighters. The room was full of wondrous sights for the 3rd annual Halloween Costume Contest in October.

Jim Throgmorton and Margie Moeller won as Best Couple for their twin clowns costumes. *Tim Todd and Patricia Michaud* came in second as pretty



stylish devils. *Larry Rhyme* the Pirate was Best Man and *Gloria "Scheherazade" Lesh* was Best Lady.

Alice Scanlon's added attraction: "CSI Fingers and Toes" appetizers at breaktime!

Volunteering to be judges—and having a tough time picking the winners—were *Sara D'Quila, Russ LaRose* and *Richard Wu*. They watched quietly in a corner while the

through paraded through the Long Beach Senior Center ballroom to the "Monster Mash," led by Sheriff Dan Finch.

As always, the winners of the costume categories receive certificates for free admission to a future "Wednesday Night With Dan & Sandi."



It's Sunset on the Fiesta

Carlos and Nancy Esqueda surprised those who attended their 2004 Fiesta in Arizona with the announcement that they are retiring and there will be no more Fiesta after 2005.

It has been great fun to head for the Fiesta in October each year to see so many of our Mesa friends and the national caliber teachers brought in for the weekend. Those who haven't stayed for the Sunday brunch featuring

Chicken Carlos have missed a good thing.

The last Fiesta—October 21 to 23, 2005—will feature the Worlocks as teachers.

The event has been supported strongly by the Southern California dancers, both as dancers and as demonstrators. Last year, *John Michaelson and Aimee Deiter, Fred & Gloria Lesh*

and *Dan & Sandi* were among the exhibitors.

Those who have been dancing for a lot of years will remember that Carlos & Nancy's weekend is a California native, originating in Hayward after Coit and Helen Tullus retired and gave up their Star Ball. See Dan & Sandi for registration forms so you can be among the Southern Californians there to say good bye.

Wednesday night when he was in Los Angeles on business last fall.

Other recent visitors on Wednesday night: *Bill Bingham & Lisa Schreiber, Brian Hamilton* and *Aimee Deiter*.

Harold Peyton has returned after a year off. He's dancing Tuesdays and Wednesdays with *Cheryl Sullivan*.

Svea Larson, who stopped advanced dancing because of back problems, is back dancing now on Thursday night. *Andy & Linda Lin* have rejoined the Thursday group, and *Jim & Marty Morgan* have also become Thursday regulars.

Welcome to Wednesday night: *Jim & Ginny Kiseda* and *Tae & Sun Bae*.

Fred Lesh made a display of his hand-made pens of inlaid wood to showcase at dances during the holidays.

Bert Moriel & Marilyn Marsino went to El Paso in November for a reunion of his old neighborhood buddies. Most of them had not seen each other in 40-plus years.

It was nice to see St. Louis round dance teacher *Joe Hilton* out on a

What's New?: 3rd Sunday Dance, Clinics & Cypress Class

Dan & Sandi are starting a new monthly dance, to be held in Lomita (near Torrance) to be as convenient as possible to both Orange County and Los Angeles County dancers.

Starting *March 19, 2005*, the new 3rd Saturday Dance will be at The Regency Ballroom, Lomita & Western, in Lomita, the new studio run by Tom and Lori Hicks, teachers, national champion dancers and long-time friends of round dancing.

The hours will be 6:45 to 10 p.m. each month, with continuous dancing.

Dan & Sandi will also be starting a 4th Sunday clinic program in Cypress this year.

Nearly 80 dancers came out for the trial run in November, "Start Your Holidays" clinic on west coast swing, followed by an afternoon dance. The city of Cypress was impressed enough to agree to having more clinics.

Because many dance weekends fall on the fourth Sunday, monthly clinics on that weekend are not feasible, but clinics at least four times a year appear possible. At this time,

the first of the 2005 clinics will be in April. Watch for more news to come.

Paul & Betty Stottlemyer decided at the end of December to give up their Carousel 303 Club in Cypress, which they had taken over from Russ & Barbara Casey a dozen years ago. Dan & Sandi had been filling in for Paul & Betty while he was recovering from a foot infection, and have agreed to keep the class going. The format will remain the same. The phase 5-6 class meets Tuesdays 6:20 to 9:30 p.m. at the Cypress Senior Center.

Mini-Clinics on Foundation Figures Now Part of Transition Classes

Beginning with the new year, the Fullerton transition class has started including a short mini-clinic each week on what we are calling Foundation Figures.

These are the basic Phase 4 and 5 figures that form the backbone of advanced dancing.

Everytime you work on a weave or a telemark or an impetus or other basic figure, you will learn some-

thing new. Even top professional ballroom competitors go back to the basics when they work with their coaches.

So far, the clinics have covered telemarks and weaves in smooth rhythms, hockey stick and entries to fan position in Latins, and basic cha cha technique.

A new figure will be featured each week, as time permits.

"If it looks like you are working hard, you aren't working hard enough."

Karen Hilton, MBE

World Champion and Judge, on dancing

More Poll Results (continued)

Getting more than five (5) requests for review were *The Music Played, Love Story Tango, Spider Tango* and *Que Sera*.

The two most popular dances by each rhythm, as you voted, and the total votes received, are as follows:

Waltz: *Papillon* (23)
Autumn Nocturne (22)

Foxtrot: *Sam's Pants* (24)
A Lovely Evening (20)

Bolero: *You Forget* (19)
Sleeping Beauty (17)

Rumba: *And I Love You So* (20)
Beyond (20)

Tango: *Fiesta Tango* (26)
Temptation Tango (23)

Jive/Swing/West Coast:
Leroy Swing (24)
Beale St. Blues (20)

Cha Cha: *Four & One Cha* (21)
Patricia Cha (14)

Quickstep: *St. Michel's* (23)
Shall We Dance (17)

Others: *Till* (19)
Tico Samba (17)
Look.. Sandra Dee (17)
El Conquistador (16)

The poll was taken in November 2004 and would not include teaches since then.

more Ramblings:

Barbara Evanko had a snowy Christmas in Canada with her family there.

Bob DuFault has a new "job," volunteering to help prepare lunches in a homeless kitchen in Orange each Wednesday.

Shirley Blair is winding up a non-profit transcription service she has operated for the blind for many years with nine other women.