



# Carolina HeartBeat

Publication of Carolina Heartland USA Dance Chapter 6092

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[www.carolinaheartland.org](http://www.carolinaheartland.org)

## From the President..

"Dance first, think later" is a quote from a Samuel Beckett play. Imagine a country road, a tree, and two beloved bumps stranded at a crossroads, awaiting a mysterious person named Godot. These are the elements of the classic play *Waiting for Godot* by the Irish playwright that I recently saw on TV. (It also happens to be the first play that I took my girl friend, now my wife, to some 40 years ago).



Joe Zannini

The struggle of the two "bumps" with the simplest tasks is a funny and touching glimpse into man's ability to survive in an absurd world and to make meaning out of life. The play is best described as a blend of slapstick, high wit, and poetic feats all that go to convey the view of its author, Samuel Beckett, that life is meaningless. Beckett is an existentialist which often is associated with anxiety, dread, and awareness of death.

In discussing the play, the TV pundits indicated that some 50 years after its writing, it is now clear that *Waiting for Godot* holds a sort of mirror up to individuals to reflect on the tedium and meaningless of modern life. Yet in the quotation "Dance first, think later" Samuel Beckett was saying that those who dance are blessed by this activity and that we are fools if we do not dance. Another existentialist, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, said, "We should consider every day lost in which we have not danced at least once."

Members of our Chapter are very special people who take time to practice, to take lessons, and to showcase their skills. Look at the members of our Chapter. Are they not less anxious, more confident, and more alive than most people you know? Why? Because we dance first and think of the barriers that a self-absorbed society puts on us much later. Remember, "We are fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance."

I would like to make a few special acknowledgements. Joe Leggio has been doing a wonderful job in updating and organizing our website with a new look and a wealth of useful information in an eye-catching format. Also due to an error in our Directory, Kim Snider was not acknowledged as a Director at Large. We apologize to Kim, a wonderful member of our board and chapter, for this omission.

## USA DANCE Calendar

**Sunday, August 13 - Monthly Dance - 4:30 p.m., Samba Lesson by Tim Saunders, Greensboro Ballroom, dancing from 5:15 - 7 p.m. to music by the Johnsons, The Grange, Greensboro. Directions: Take Exit 213 (Guilford College Road) from 1-40; drive north one mile; cross over Market Street; take immediate left onto Lindley Road; take second right onto Guilford Middle School Road. The Grange is on the right.**

**Sunday, September 17 - Showcase of Dancers, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., Greensboro Ballroom, Mary Street, off Edwardia Drive, Greensboro.**

## Spotlight on Lib Johnson



The lovely painting by Britt Hammond, our chapter artist, of Bob and Lib Johnson in full dancing regalia offers an opportunity to recognize Lib Johnson and her multiple contributions, both in and outside the World of Dance.

High on her list of ongoing activities are the articles she writes for the Baptist Children's Homes monthly publication. Since 1982, she has been active in raising money for and converting a building into a museum on the Mills Home campus and serving as curator much of that time.

For two years she worked as a volunteer for Kermit Bailey's Triad Disability Advocates, paying bills for about 80 mentally ill people served by the Advocates.

She is a very competitive tennis player and enjoys writing poetry which she composes for retirements, birthdays, etc. She entertains frequently at nursing homes and adult day care centers with her own poetry readings, piano playing, and sometimes dancing. Most of all, she enjoys arranging music for local dances and composing music for the piano as well. "Some of these have been used in my church," she says, "but mostly I compose piano recital type pieces and waltzes." Lib is surely a Woman for All Seasons!

## New and Expert Dancers Sign up for Showcase

Carolina Heartland's first Showcase of Dancers on Sunday, September 17, in the Greensboro Ballroom is designed to present both the novice and the experienced dancer in performance.

That's the message Chattie Byrd is sending to members and guests alike; however, if you do not wish to perform, it is still an event not to be missed.

First, there is the spacious Greensboro Ballroom dance floor and the music by Lib and Bob Johnson. There also is the friendliness of chapter members, noted for the warm welcome accorded visitors and guests alike.

Chattie Byrd, with assistance from Lib Johnson and other chapter members, has announced a roster of volunteers who will help make our first Showcase outstanding.

Kim Snider will share the Master of Ceremony duties with Chattie Byrd. Britt Hammond is assisting Chattie with registration. Others on call are: Joe Dolata, Truby McBane, Homer and Dot Mason, Betty and Conrad McClintock, Lynda Williams, Al Kamperman and Trudy Atkins.

Joe and Yvette Zannini and Rockie and Mary Lou Troxler will serve as greeters. Call Chattie for more information (228-8037).

## Tim Saunders to Conclude Boys & Girls Club Lessons

Tim Saunders, a veteran instructor at Greensboro Ballroom, will conclude six lessons Tuesday, August 1, for members of the Boys and Girls Club in Greensboro. Four of the lessons were paid for by a grant from the Greensboro Jaycees. Two lessons were financed by the Kiwanis Club of Greensboro as the culmination of the club's yearlong project.

# News & Notes

**Seven Firsts** - Jerry and JoAnn Snyder placed FIRST in seven heats at the Northwest Dancesport Championships at the Sea-Tac Hilton Hotel Convention Center in Seattle, WA, in July. They also placed second in three heats and fifth in one heat. Jonathan Medlin with partner Maline Alert also competed and was reported to have scored well. **Fabulous Fifties** will be the theme of Second Friday (August 11) at the High Point Elks Club. Reservations are required by the Wednesday preceding the dance by calling Carolyn and Rodney Williams (945-3635). **Carolina Pines** chapter dance on Saturday, August 12, will be in the historic Thomas Bethune Tyson mansion at 105 McReynolds Street in Carthage. The dance lesson (rumba) begins at 7:30 p.m. with dancing to follow. The August theme is (Hawaiian theme).

**Mountain Empire** Chapter, Wytheville Community Center. Quickstep lesson with Wayne and Marie Crowder, 7:30 p.m.; dancing 'til 11 p.m. **First Friday** will be the theme of the First Friday dance at 8 p.m. August 4 at the Grange. **Horizon Dance Club** will meet Saturday, August 26, at The Grange with a lesson at 7:30 followed by dancing at 8 p.m. **Friendly Center** - Burt Massengale's Big Band will conclude the Friendly Center concerts Friday, August 25, when Rodney and Carolyn Williams will give a dance demonstration beginning at 6 p.m. **Greensboro Ballroom** has resumed its Sunday tea dances which are now offered the first and third Sunday of every month from 4:30 - 7 p.m. (August 6 and 20 this month.)

## **Dance Floor Etiquette** by Steve Raeford

*(First in a series on dance etiquette by Steve Raeford, our resident photographer and co-editor. Steve welcomes suggestions for future columns.)*

There are certain dancers who are more experienced than I from whom I love to get tips and advice because I am interested in improving my skill as a dancer. On the other hand, there are dancers, mostly men, overly eager to take on the role of instructor who have a reputation for a steady stream of unwelcome dance commentary that is offered to both beginners and seasoned dancers.

Beginning dancers are often nervous and wish to pick up what they can and enjoy their dance without the critique which makes them even more nervous. Experienced dancers just flat out resent such "pointers."

All men in our chapter need to take an honest look at their actions to see if I am describing them because I am basing this on numerous comments I have heard from the ladies. Of course, I do not wish to stifle all efforts to help one another, but I think the best guideline would be if there is doubt as to whether

advice is welcome, say nothing; if you appreciate advice from certain individuals, let them know, and when you have a question, don't hesitate to ask. Here are some additional ideas on the subject.

1. If someone leads you into a step that is painful or dangerous, you should always speak out right away.
2. Taking a few minutes to work thru a step or show someone a new move is more appropriate at a dance at the Grange where the atmosphere is more relaxed than at club dances.
3. If you do want to work through a step, get out of the line of dance.
4. If your partner makes a mis-step, rather than an accusative, "You were on the wrong foot," say "That didn't feel quite right. I wonder where we went wrong"
5. Don't stop helping someone, but always ask if he/she would like some tips or assistance; if you get the green light, proceed with confidence knowing you are not offending.
6. Smile and enjoy yourself, having fun is what it is all about!

## **Wanted: Dance Dresses**

The Greensboro Youth Council is collecting gently used dance dresses for its Prom Dress Closet for youth and needs our help. Ladies, please review your assortment of seldom-used dance frocks, especially those that have mysteriously shrunk while hanging in the closet. These will be collected at our monthly Second Sunday dances or you may drop them by GYC offices at 501 Yanceyville Street.

## **Dance Camp at Sea**

Jim Brady's Classically Ballroom is again sponsoring Dance Camp at Sea on Holland America's ms *Oosterdam* from San Diego to the Mexican Riviera from November 25 to December 2. Four daily classes of dance instruction will be offered by Jean-Marc Genereux, France Mousseur, Alain Doucet, and Anik Jolicoeur along with Jim Brady. For information, please call Jim at 884-8185; inquiries about booking should be directed to Susan Shore at 800-248-7447.

**Visit Our Website!** - New member, Joe Leggio, has updated our website. Please take a moment to visit [carolinaheartland.org](http://carolinaheartland.org) and view dozens of photos and other information.

### **Mambo Workshop with Wayne & Marie Crowder**

Saturday, August 26, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
At the Grange, in Greensboro, NC

**3 Hours of Dual Instruction for \$30.00**  
Handouts will be provided.

This workshop will cover the complete Bronze Mambo Syllabus of the United States Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, (the ISTD). The ISTD is the only dance organization recognized throughout the whole world.

Wayne and Marie are 4 Time Latin Champions and have represented the USA in 3 World Championship Events. They are proud members of the ISTD with Dual Licentiate Degrees in Latin and Rhythm styles of dance.

If you ever wanted to learn Mambo, or just become a better dancer, this is an excellent opportunity to learn partnership skills from these highly qualified dance instructors. From beginner to advance students, Wayne and Marie's workshops are informative and fun.

**To Register or for more details call: 336-623-4961.** Early Registration helps in preparation, but walk-ins are always welcomed!



Many members and guests turned out for our July dance at the Grange, vacations notwithstanding. Here Steve Raeford captured Conrad and Betty McClintock (left) and Cathy and Mark Katz (right).