

The Tucson Swing Dance Club's April 2010

Newsletter

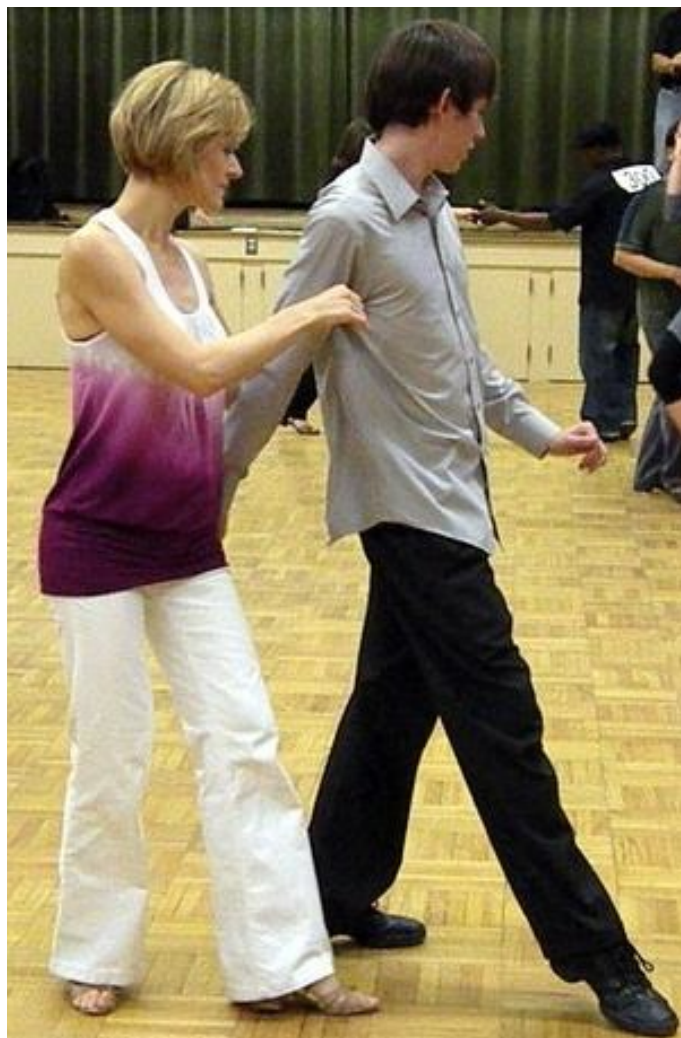
This Month

Jim Davis and **Heather McLean** are the volunteer dance instructors for April.

- Thursday, April 1st: Jack & Jill Contest. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **L. Perez** is the DJ.
- Thursday, April 8th: TSDC Board Elections. **Jim Davis** is the DJ.
- Tuesday, April 13th: Board meeting 7 pm at Village Inn, 4245 E Speedway Blvd. All members are welcome.
- Thursday, April 15th: **Sherry Lotz** is the DJ.
- Thursday, April 22nd: **Scott Miller** is the DJ.
- Thursday, April 29th: Evaluations for Jack & Jill Contest. Sign-up deadline is 8:45pm. **Scott Miller** is the DJ.



Robin Chlad and **Nick Moor** are all smiles as they dance in the finals at the All-American Jack & Jill held in March.



New member, **C.J. Wheelock**, draws National Champion, **Wendy Miller**, in our recent All-American Jack & Jill.

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, April 17th:** National WCS Champion, **Luis Crespo**, comes to Tucson for TSDC workshop and dance. See details inside newsletter.

President's Message

I want to first say hello to our new members and welcome you to the Tucson Swing Dance Club.

We are all happy that you've chosen to join us and hope that you'll

become lifelong members of our close knit club. To all of you who've supported this club over the years I send out a big THANK YOU. You are the engine that keeps this club going year after year after year.



In addition to being a long running, successful and fun club, the TSDC is blessed with a number of high level dancers, nationally recognized competitors and knowledgeable instructors. As a club we want to provide as many opportunities as possible for our members to improve their dancing and to stay current with the latest trends in WCS.

One way that we do this is by hosting workshops with internationally recognized dancers/instructors. TSDC is very excited about its upcoming workshop on Saturday, April 17th. We are proud to welcome to Tucson the incredible dancer/competitor/instructor-Luis Crespo from Los Angeles, California. More info about Luis's workshop is available in this newsletter.

Luis Crespo will teach two workshops designed to take your dancing to a whole different level of enjoyment and expertise. Whether you're an advanced dancer or just started dancing today, you will take away something from this workshop that will help you on the dance floor. You will find out what taking your dance to the "next level" is all about after experiencing what is sure to be a much talked about workshop with Luis.

There is one truth in WCS-you will probably never become an advanced dancer without attending workshops and taking private

lessons. Our upcoming workshop will give you a great opportunity to take steps towards making your dancing more advanced. Don't miss out! Luis will also be available for privates. Having the opportunity to take a private from a champion dancer is huge. See Ellen Colonna to schedule your lesson with Luis.

Great dancing and eating will follow the workshops. Remember to bring food and/or a beverage to share at the potluck from 7-7:30. Stay and practice all you've learned from 7:30-10:00 at our dance with DJ Scott Miller. Here's another special treat-Luis will hang out and dance with you lucky followers. Please, please, please take advantage of this!

If you've never seen Luis dance at a convention or have not yet attended one of his workshops, go to www.youtube.com and put his name in the search box. Watch a few of his videos and I think you'll see why everyone is so excited about him coming to Tucson.

Mark your calendars and come out and take advantage of this event. You'll be supporting Luis, our club and WCS in Tucson. I'm really jazzed about this workshop/dance and am looking forward to seeing all of you on April 17th. See you on the dance floor...

Zo Carroll

Your Ad Could Be Here!

*Let other TSDC Members
know about your business!*

*Advertising in the Newsletter
Is very affordable and
Helps to support our club!*

*The Newsletter is not only mailed out
to members and available at the club,
but is also on our Facebook page
and our TSDC website.*

*The Tucson Swing Dance Club Presents
National West Coast Swing Champion*

LUIS CRESPO



Saturday, April 17th

Workshops 5-7 p.m.

Potluck 7-7:30 Dance 7:30-10

*****DJ Scott Miller*****

Two Exciting Workshops!

***Dancing on Glass...Making your moves & movement smoother on the floor.**

***Social, Cool Moves that Work!**

In 2001, Luís became actively involved in the west coast swing community. People have come to recognize Luís' smooth, crisp, sharp style, which comes from his very diverse background of movement. Whether you can see the smooth fluidity from his elegant Waltz and Argentine Tango or the sharp hits and breaks that come from his break dancing days, Luís' style is very unique.



2 Workshops & Dance in Advance.....	\$30 Members	\$35 Non-members
2 Workshops & Dance at the Door.....	\$35 Members	\$40 Non-members
Dance Only (no workshops).....	\$3 Members	\$5 Non-Members
Separate Class.....	\$20 each	

Luis Crespo is available for private lessons. Inquire at the front desk, email Ellen Colonna at swngdans@aol.com or call Ellen at (520) 548-6777 to schedule your lesson.

Arizona Ballroom Company 5536 E. Grant Rd. Tucson, Az

Jump Into the Fun

By Sylvia Berman



One place I always make sure to visit when I fly into Tucson is the Tucson Swing Dance Club. On my most recent visit, I was delighted to discover that an All-American Jack & Jill contest was being held on one of the nights I would be at club.

I was very fortunate to be paired with Matt Rounseville for the contest. Matt and I ended placing 3rd in the All American Jack n' Jill Contest on March 4, 2010! We will never forget the thrill of hearing our names called – first for the finals – then to the Winners' Circle. I don't even live in Tucson full time and it was a total accident that I was even here. Lucky me!

I think we did well because Matt and I were comfortable with each other. Matt's leading was crystal clear and he framed the music well. I could really settle in and work my technique and musicality. It was an excellent partnership. We were just dancing and having **sooooo** much fun!

During last year's All-American Jack & Jill, I was blessed to have Zo Carroll for my partner and though we didn't make finals, it was a great time. We have this wonderful memory and are forever bonded by the experience. It was very important to me that this year Zo made finals too. ***We've come a long way, baby!***

I love the Tucson Swing Dance Club. Since I am currently working in New York City, I belong to the Gotham Club, too. And, I've had the chance to dance up and down the eastern seaboard as well as some other cities in the USA. TSDC is the best club of all.

As you can well imagine, Gotham is a little snooty. People segregate into corners. The club almost died of terminal "cliqueyness". A second club was started (Strictly Westie) and it resurrected the scene because of an emphasis on friendliness. It's a lot more fun in NYC now – but it just isn't TSDC.

The east coast is a lot like California with countless places to dance and big events. The cohesive, warm, clubby feeling of TSDC, however, is missing. Boston and DC can be very intimidating and it takes a bit of effort to make dance friends. Even so, I've found that a fun dance is a great ice-breaker.



All the time I hear people say they don't want to compete. They say they just want to dance for fun. Well, if those people would give it a try, I think they will find that it is way **more** than fun! It's living in the moment – its a game of chance – it's what might happen if they only try.

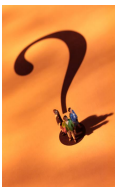
To those of you who are self-conscious, you should know that when competitors watch each other, we aren't being critical. We give each other credit for trying. Believe me, we've all had our share of disappointments (and a few *disasters*). A good attitude makes it an opportunity to learn and grow.

So what are you waiting for? Jump in! Get in the game! We are really lucky to have a wonderful club, awesome teachers and a fantastic support group. TSDC is the best! In a couple of years, I plan to move back to Tucson year round. I can't think of a better way to live – sunshine by day and west coast swing at night!

Editor's Note: Sylvia Berman lives on the East Coast and visits Tucson whenever possible to get her TSDC dance fix! Check out her website and read her dance related blog at:

<http://www.a-dance-cafe.com>





Ask the Swing Lady

Dear Swing Lady,

I've learned the basics of West Coast Swing, but am still not dancing as well as I'd like to be. Something's missing! I seem to be kinda stuck where I'm at. How do I get past this point and take my dancing to the "next level"?

Stuck

Dear "Stuck",

There are many ways that you can raise the level of your dancing.

Private lessons can be extremely helpful. There are several excellent instructors in Tucson. If you feel you can't afford a private lesson, one option is to find a partner to share the cost with. Even one private lesson can make a difference in your dancing. Some instructors are also open to half hour lessons which may help the cost, too.

Another option is to attend workshops. The Club puts on a few workshops each year. This is a golden opportunity to experience instruction from a national champion dancer at an extremely reasonable price, without having to leave your home city. Workshops are geared to all levels of dancers. Whether you started dancing last week or 20 years ago, you will get something out of workshops. These national champions are usually also available for private lessons, which is another fabulous opportunity.

Another great thing is to attend a West Coast Swing Convention. There are two conventions in Phoenix each year - Fourth of July, put on by the Greater Phoenix Swing Dance Club and Desert City Swing (second weekend in September) put on by Mike Gadberry. Both events are great fun. You'd be amazed at how much your dancing can improve just by being in the same room with so many great dancers.

If you're really motivated, there are conventions somewhere in the country just about every weekend and it's so much fun to go and dance all night long.

And right here at home, we have the Jack & Jill competitions each month. Each month, if you've never competed, or have been competing and feel you're ready to move up to the next level, you have the option to be evaluated. Evaluations consist of dancing - that's it, just dancing. You get to dance with a couple of advanced dancers while other advanced dancers watch and evaluate you. If they feel you are ready to compete, they'll let you know and place you at the appropriate level - Novice, Intermediate or Advanced. They provide you with detailed, constructive feedback about your dancing. The evaluation process in itself is a very positive experience and you learn something in the process. Then, after being evaluated, you have the option to compete in the monthly Jack & Jill competitions. During the competitions, the judges make constructive comments about your dancing, and it's another opportunity to learn and improve. Also, the competitions are videotaped and you can then watch yourself and everyone else and see what's working best for you. And all your friends cheer you on in the process.

Finally, the best thing you can do is **DANCE** - as often as possible, with as many different partners as possible. And have lots of fun in the process.

The Swing Lady

Editor's Note: The Swing Lady wishes to remain anonymous, so please email any questions to newsletter@tsdc.net and they will be forwarded to her. Also when submitting questions, you may request that your name not be used in the newsletter.



All-American Jack & Jill Results



1st Place Hondo Velasco & Eleanor Schrandt



2nd Place Don Bennett & Cassy Olson

3rd Place Matt Rounseville & Sylvia Berman

Finalists (In Alphabetical Order by Leader)

Zo Carroll & Penny Erickson

Harvey Dong & Katy Rullman

Nick Moor & Robin Chlad

Sheldon Ross & Heather McLean

C.J. Wheelock & Wendy Miller



All-American Jack & Jill

Just for fun, TSDC held an All-American Jack & Jill instead of our regular monthly Jack & Jill. The All-American has no divisions, novice dancers might be paired with advanced dancers. We had a preliminary round which consisted of about 4 dances and another 5 dances in the final round. What a special night!





April Birthdays

Members get in **FREE** the week of their birthday!

April 1st Dave Erhardt
Mark O'Boyle

April 4th Ron Cornett

April 8th Mindy Diamond

April 10th Sandra Torres

April 13th Vicki France

April 14th Dee Orozco

April 15th MaryLou Duckworth

April 17th Susan Kraus

April 18th Scott Mendenhall

April 19th Scott King

April 21st Jim Davis

April 24th Harold Beatty

April 26th Bob Fogelsong
Phil Holton
Katharine Menick

April 29th Raquel Smith

April 30th Cassy Olson

New Members

Welcome...

**Amy Grace
Catlin McCarthy
Al Sipes
Brian Young**

Ask a new member to dance!

Dance Lessons at the Club

Each month the club's dance instructors teach the beginning patterns in West Coast Swing. Students may start the sequence on any Thursday.

- First Thursday of the month: Left side pass, underarm turn, underarm turn with a hand change, and the right side pass.
- Second Thursday: 4-beat starter step, throwout, and closed basic.
- Third Thursday: Sugarpush, tuck throwout, and turning basic.
- Fourth Thursday: Basic whip, whip with an inside turn, and whip with an outside turn
- And in months with a fifth Thursday: Basket whip and variations.

We recommend taking the beginning class for three months before going on to the intermediate class. Intermediate classes teach pattern variations, combinations, and syncopations beyond the basics.

About the TSDC

Founded in 1977 by Rose Marie Burrell, the Tucson Swing Dance Club has dances every Thursday night at the Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 E Bellevue Street. There are dances every Thursday night except on Thanksgiving or other major holidays.

Club instructors teach a beginning lesson from 7-7:45pm and an intermediate lesson from 8-8:30pm, with dancing until 10:30pm.

Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 otherwise; annual memberships cost \$25 and run from January 1st through December 31st. Members are also eligible to compete in the club Jack & Jill contests and can choose to get a printed copy of the newsletter. Anyone can read the newsletter online at www.tsd.net.

2009-2010 TSDC Board

President: Zo Carroll

Vice President: Ellen Colonna

Treasurer: Heather McLean

Membership Secretary: Jim Davis

Corporate Secretary: Vera Tucker

Event Liaison: Debra Burke

Sergeant at Arms: Bill Garrity

Head Judge: Ellen Colonna

Newsletter Editor: Mary Carroll

Contest Coordinator: Jim Davis

Dance Director: Tom Grubaugh

Music Director: Scott Miller

Club Photographer: Matt Rounseville

Website Administrator: Heather McLean

Publicity Director: Ewa Sikorski

Hospitality Director: Eleanor Schrandt

Workshop Coordinator: MaryLou Duckworth

Contact Us

We now have email addresses for most of the club officers:

President: president@tsdc.net

Vice President: vp@tsdc.net

Membership Secretary: members@tsdc.net

Dance Director: dance@tsdc.net

Music Director: music@tsdc.net

Hospitality Director: hospitality@tsdc.net

Website Administrator: webadmin@tsdc.net

Newsletter Editor: newsletter@tsdc.net

Mailing Address: Tucson Swing Dance Club
PO Box 32226
Tucson, AZ 85751

Ad Rates

Email ads to newsletter@tsdc.net and send a check payable to the Tucson Swing Dance Club to TSDC, PO Box 32226, Tucson, AZ 85751. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

Issues	1	2	4	6
Business card	\$7	\$13.50	\$25	\$35
Quarter page	\$14	\$27	\$50	\$68.60
Third page	\$19.50	\$37.50	\$65	\$95
Half page	\$25	\$45	\$70	\$100
Full page	\$40			
Single-sided insert	\$50			
Double-sided insert	\$80			

Local WCS Instructors

If you're a current TSDC member and you'd like to be listed here, send your contact information to newsletter@tsdc.net.

- Lawrence Bonfoey:
dontdelaydancetoday.com
- Ellen Colonna: 520-548-6777
- Wendy Miller: 520-318-9236,
wendymillerdance.com
- Cassy Olson: 602-750-7368
- L Perez: 520-792-2067
www.myspace.com/L_Perez
- Jeannie Tucker: jeannietucker.com
- Ro Vaughn: 520-260-2200



***A Special Thanks to
Eric Wade
for taking photos
of the All-American Jack & Jill
while our club photographer,
Matt Rounseville, was competing!***



Tucson Swing Dance Club
PO Box 32226
Tucson, AZ 85751-2226

