



Spring 2011

CCBD NEWSLETTER

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CCBD, the local chapter of USA Dance, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of ballroom dancing.

Our Final Issue

After nearly 15 years of publication, CCBD is discontinuing its quarterly newsletter. This is our last issue!



Why are we discontinuing the newsletter? Quite simply, it has outlived its usefulness.

For many years, the newsletter was CCBD's *primary* means of communication with our members. Through it, we informed people of our upcoming events, places to go dancing on- and off-Cape, ballroom instructors, sponsorship, how to join CCBD, places to purchase ballroom dance shoes and other supplies, and important news about CCBD and the Cape dance community. Over the years, as more of our members gained access to the Internet, our website became a more important source of information.

In 2009 we added a Dance Calendar to our website. This feature lists not only CCBD's dance events but events sponsored by other dance organizations. We also instituted ccbdnotices, an e-mail address through which we distribute notices and flyers of our and other groups' events. The Dance Calendar and ccbdnotices cover all the information that used to be included in the old newsletter's *Upcoming Dance Events* listing and *Places to Dance* page. The newsletter's photo essays have been replaced by our website's Photo Gallery, which allows us to post many more photos than would fit in the newsletter. Other newsletter features have similarly been taken over by our website and ccbdnotices.

With the Winter 2009–10 issue, we streamlined the newsletter by taking out all the information that was duplicated on our website or available through ccbdnotices. As a result, we're left with a bare-bones newsletter that contains very little information that serves as an essential resource to Cape dancers. In fact, there have been some issues in the past year and a half when the editor was hard-pressed to fill just three pages!

We expect to continue publishing the Letter from the President at regular intervals—but through ccbdnotices, not the newsletter. We'll also use ccbdnotices to notify our members of important news as it occurs. For those members who don't have access to e-mail, we'll continue to snail-mail our event flyers and will also snail-mail the Letter from the President and copies of e-mails with important news.

Note from Fran Needham, newsletter editor: Thanks for your nice comments over the seven years I've been producing the newsletter. This is a bittersweet ending!



Letter from the President

**Susan
Coppelman**

Change, change, and more change. It's a bizarre paradox: change is constant. Sometimes we welcome it, as we did last year's unusually warm and sunny spring on Cape Cod. That was a luscious change, even more delightful in memory as we now slog through the typical Cape Cod spring: cold, rainy, gray. I recently heard someone describe the usual Cape Cod spring as "one day in June." I sure wouldn't mind if that changed!

Sometimes change challenges us; we wish it weren't so. Ballroom dancing on Cape Cod appears to be in a state of change. This was a challenging winter at Betsy's Ballroom, home to weekly ballroom dances sponsored by Doug and Kimberlee McHugh of *Ballroom Bliss*, Beverly and Angelo Bittarelli of *Capricorn Dance*, Steve and DeeDee Burke of *Shall We Dance?*, Lestyn Gilmore of *Lestyn's Studio of Dance*, Debbie Israel of *Danceprints by the Sea*, and CCBBD. Overall, attendance has been down, low even for winter. We dance sponsors met recently with Cathy Flanagan and Karen Marciante, our contacts at Betsy's, to discuss what's been happening, and we came up with a variety of possible explanations: the economy, cost of attending, too many dances, DJs instead of bands, bands instead of DJs, too much "sameness," etc, etc. The answer is probably a complex combination of many of these things.

Those who sponsor dances at Betsy's remain committed to maintaining the 2011 schedule through the rest of this year and will try to do whatever we can to make the dances a solid success. The dance sponsors will meet again in September to create the 2012 schedule of dances at Betsy's.

Between now and then is an important time. We all need your support and your input. Whenever possible, please attend the dances. Besides that, we'd all like to hear from you. We all want to know what draws you to a dance and what makes you happy while you're there. In order to gather some of this information in an organized manner, Doug and Kimberlee McHugh have circulated a questionnaire, and the Bittarellis are doing the same. CCBBD too will be asking for your input in late summer. Please respond. Let us all know what you think.

Even if you don't want to respond to a questionnaire, talk to us. The CCBBD Board welcomes your input. We would be especially grateful if you tell us what you like now or would like going forward. This gives us more helpful direction than hearing what you don't like. Please remember that CCBBD is all of us. This is our community organization and we want it to be strong and vibrant! Help us and all the dance sponsors make Cape Cod a happening place for ballroom dance!

Looking forward, CCBBD's monthly first-Friday Social Dance on June 3 will feature a zesty Samba lesson with Ellen Brodsky. This will be CCBBD's last Social Dance of the season until October. On Saturday, July 16, we'll host our annual Beach Party, a colorful, fun-filled evening with music by Daniel Banks and His All-Star Band. Finally, make sure you're free for our September National Ballroom Dance Week events. Our Celebration of Dance on Friday, September 16 will feature showcases by exciting young and senior competitors as well as by some of our dedicated social dancers. With all this and music by Trilogy, it should be a fabulous evening! NBDW events will conclude with workshops led by dance instructors Kathy St. Jean and Randy Deats on Sunday, September 25.

On behalf of the CCBBD Board, I wish you all a happy and healthy season. May your energy be high and your feet be fleet!

See you on the dance floor!

Susan

We Need Dance Hosts!

(Tux, top hat, and cane *not* required)

Our dances attract more single women than single men. In the past we had a number of single men who served as dance hosts for us, but virtually all of them have joined up with a steady partner, moved away from the Cape, or stopped dancing for one reason or another.

Are you a single man who likes to dance?

Would you be willing to serve as a dance host at our events? We'll give you **free admission**.

In exchange, all we ask you to do is dance with the single women. (We always set aside a separate table for singles and dance hosts.)

You don't have to be an expert dancer, just know some basic steps and familiar ballroom dances such as waltz, foxtrot, rumba, and swing.

If you'd like to be a dance host—or even just try it once to see what it's like—please contact Fran Needham at fneedham@comcast.net or (508) 428-7643. Thanks from all the single women!



CCBD's Reservation and Refund Policy

Up through 2008, many of our special dances sold out in advance, and having a confirmed reservation guaranteed that you would get in. Since the economic downturn began, none of our dances have been sell-outs, although a few have come close. However, we still request reservations because they help us plan for the dance—how many tables to set up and decorate, how much food to buy, and the like.

To avoid frustration or confusion, we'd like to clarify our reservation and refund policy.

- When we receive your registration form and check, we put your name on the reservation list and note that you've paid. We also send you an e-mail or snail-mail confirming your reservation. We accept phone or e-mail reservations *only* when the dance is not yet sold out and it's too close to the dance for your reservation and check to reach us in time.
- If we receive your reservation after the dance has sold out, we'll notify you and return your check. We'll also put you on the waiting list in case we have a cancellation.
- CCBD members are placed first on the waiting list in the order in which their reservations were received, followed by nonmembers in the order in which their reservations were received.
- If you have a confirmed reservation but then find that you cannot attend, please call or e-mail us to cancel so we can give your space to someone on the waiting list. The person to notify is listed on the dance flyer.
- We issue refunds for cancelled reservations *only* if we're notified no later than 72 hours before the dance. We do not issue refunds for "no-shows."