



Feb/March 2004

Volume 13 No. 2

Swing Time!

Official Newsletter,
South Florida Swing Dance Society

BOARD MEETING: First Monday of each month, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Hollywood Multi-Purpose Center, 2030 Polk St., Hollywood. **EVERYONE WELCOME**

!!! SPECIAL NOTICE !!!

What is so special about February 21, 2004?! SFSDS is going to celebrate 12 years' existence. In honor of this occasion, we are asking all charter members who are now still members to please join us. We are also asking for anyone that has ideas on how we can make this dance special, to please contact Suellen Clementino. (Ph. Number in Board Listing.)

Also, In the past few years the club has grown and many of our clubs members do not have shirts with the club logo. Starting with the February, 21st dance, club shirts will be available for purchase, so make sure you bring your checkbook along or some extra cash. Thanks, Deborah

Hi Dancers, *by Suellen Clementino*

We now have another year under our belts and speaking of belts, mine is a little tighter since the holidays. I hope everyone had happy holidays and I want to thank those of you who contributed to our pot-luck dinner for the December dance. It was a great help to me and your efforts were appreciated by all those in attendance.

As much as I regret it, I must inform you that the menu, beginning in February, will be reduced to finger foods and desserts. It is becoming more and more difficult to plan a different meal each month due to the limitations of the budget. In order to serve as many people as we do and stay on within our budget, we usually have to serve something with ground beef or chicken. Also, as our membership grows, the required amount of food rises. Another factor is that now that our dances are at a greater distance from my house, it is difficult to keep the hot food hot until it arrives. I am not a caterer, I only have the same cooking facilities as any other average kitchen. I love cooking and I appreciate all your compliments I have received over the past three years. I will continue with the homemade desserts, (especially since they seem to be the favorite item on the menu) and the other food will be some kind of cold finger food.

If any of you have any suggestions as to what kind of "finger foods" to have, please call me @954-647-9276 and I'll do my best to accommodate your request. So far, I've heard cheese & fruit, cheese & crackers, chips, dips, spreads, finger sandwiches, etc. On special occasions such as holidays etc., I might call on you again for your help in having a pot-luck meal. We have had some very delicious dishes prepared by you in the past.

Again, I thank you so much for your co-operation and generosity.

I hope you continue to enjoy the food at the future dances even though it won't be hot.

See you at the next dance. *Suellen*



Upcoming Club Dances

February 21 German-American Club

Lesson: Gabriel Gómez Salsa (7:30PM)

DJ: Marc Fisher (8:30PM)

March 20 German-American Club

Lesson: TBD (7:30PM)

DJ: Tina Davis (8:30PM)

G/A Club 6401 Washington, Hollywood

South Florida Swing Dance Society

PO Box 81-4147

Hollywood, FL 33081-4147

Subscribe to the weekly E-mail list, send your first & last name and E-mail address to Swingdance@bellsouth.net

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Membership	Susan McMahon	954-474-1010

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Rodney Tison.....	954-815-0505
Jan Lovett.....	305-595-1250
Jim Bergeron.....	954-575-5600
Donna Sacco.....	954-764-7244
Suellen Clementino.....	954-647-9276

COMMITTEES and Volunteer Functions

Photos	Rodney Tison, Pete Willets
Finance	Bruce Perrotta
Phone	Marilyn Roy
Social/Dance	Jan Lovett
Food	Suellen Clementino
Pub. & Advertising	Donna Sacco
Newsletter	Jim Bergeron
Nomination	Assigned late '04
By-Laws	As Required
Ethics	As Required
Web Site	Jim Bergeron
E-Mail	Jim Bergeron



Note from the President:

For a change of pace this issue I'm replacing my column with a fun little dance quiz I found posted on the web. It is by Loui Tucker with a few modifications by yours truly. See you on the dance Floor
Deborah



Are you a Dance-Aholic?

Is dancing taking over our life? Have you heard whispers that you're becoming addicted to dance? Take this simple test. However painful it might be, it's time you faced the truth. Count 1 point for every YES answer.

1. You listen to dance music at times when you cannot possibly dance—i.e. on your car stereo, with headphones while taking public transportation, on airplanes. Give yourself an additional point if you have actually taken your hands off the steering wheel while driving in order to clap your hands at the spot in the music where you would hit a break.
2. More than 50% of the t-shirts in your wardrobe are dance-related. Give yourself an extra point if any of them are no longer the right size or are too worn to wear, but you keep them anyway for sentimental reasons because they remind you of a special dance event.
3. When you are debating whether or not to buy a new article of clothing, a chief factor in the decision is whether or not you can wear it dancing.
4. You go to non-dance social functions with other dancers but you cannot carry on a conversation for longer than 15 minutes without talking about dance.
5. You have to explain at least once a week that you missed some over-hyped television program, a business function or social event because it conflicted with dance class/event.
6. What you eat for dinner depends on whether you're going dancing afterwards (nothing too heavy, no garlic or onions).
7. You make sure you have a pair of dance shoes in your car when going out, just in case.
8. At least once a month you phone or e-mail another dancer to find out whether he/she is going to a dance class/event. Give yourself another point if, when you find out he/she is not going dancing, you go anyway.
9. You subscribe to more than one dance-related magazine or newsletter—The Grapevine, Rokdim, Nirkoda, Let's Dance, New Zealand Folk Dancer, etc.
10. At least two gifts per year (received or given) are dance-related—clothing, music, video, money for dance camp, etc.
11. You have two or more dance photos on display at home. Extra point if you have one on display at work.
12. You plan business trips and vacations so as to avoid missing your favorite local dance classes, i.e. leaving

the morning after the class and/or arriving the afternoon before the class.

13. You get information about dancing in the area of your vacation or business trip, and pack dance clothing so you can dance while you're there. Two extra points if you pack extra dance gear on business trips just in case your returning afternoon flight is delayed and you have to drive from the airport directly to class instead of going home to change clothes.
14. Your car is adorned with (1 point for each)
Dance-related personalized license plate
Dance-related bumper sticker
Dance-related license plate holder
15. You have, at least once in the past year, spent more time driving to a dance event than you knew you would actually spend dancing, i.e. one hour each way commuting to dance less than two hours.
16. You use your computer for dance-related activities. (1 point for each)
You netsurf for dance-related websites.
You have e-mail relationships with other dancers in which you write about dance-related activities.
You check "alt.rec.folkdance" for news of dance events.
You subscribe to a mailing list organized around dance-related topics.
You maintain a dance-related website.
Your e-mail address, password, or screen-saver is dance-related!
17. If you have pets, at least one of them has a dance-related name—a cat named Debki, a dog named Zwiefacher, a bird named Polka.
18. You don't know the last name of at least five dancers, but refer to them descriptively instead as something like "David Who Usually Dances with Shoshana" or "Rachel The Tall Blond Who Wears Leggings and Long T-shirts."

SCORING:

15 or more. Mayday, mayday. Houston, we have a serious dance problem. Don't be surprised if your friends organize an intervention to confront you with your addiction. You can deal with problem directly by checking your phone book for the local 12-step-hop program in your area.

11-14. You're a borderline dance-aholic. With some effort on your part you can take back control of your life without outside help. It may be enough to cut out dancing between dance classes.

6-10. Not to worry. You're one of those social dancers. You can take it or leave it. You can walk off the dance floor anytime. Dance-aholics view you with suspicion.

1-5. Are you kidding? Are you taking this test as a joke? You probably don't know a step-hop from a pivot. Get outta here—you wouldn't even watch dance-related television programs!

Out and About
An Editorial:
Jim Bergeron



The SFSDS Board meeting is held the first Monday of every month in Hollywood. The meetings are advertised in this publication, are listed in the weekly email, are posted on www.sfsds.com and are open to all members in good standing. Do you want to voice an opinion? Do you want to make a point? Would you like to complain or make a suggestion on how something could improve? The board meeting is the place to do it.

Why do I mention this? There are times too numerous to mention recently when an officer of SFSDS is out simply trying to have a social time dancing at a venue and there inevitably is someone who has to bring up an item that is ideal for a board meeting. Why doesn't the club do this, why don't you give something back, you know what you should do, why did you hire that DJ, the music was bad last dance... etc. To which I typically ask, why don't you volunteer to help, why don't you show up at the meeting, what DJ would you like at a future dance?

I realize there may be circumstances where you cannot make a meeting. In the past request have been made to send along ideas or items for the agenda with nothing coming in return to those requests. Cornering officers or board members while they are out attempting to have a good time is not the place for these discussions.

There is no reason I can think of where multiple board members should have to be engaged in a conversation on how things should be done for SFSDS while they are simply out trying to enjoy themselves.

Please show up at the meetings to voice an opinion. Please send along suggestions. But please do not corner committee heads, board members or officers while they out and about trying to enjoy themselves. Social activities just aren't the right time or place for these discussions, that is the sole intent of the monthly meetings.

NOTE: This article published as an expression of the views of the editor and does not reflect the opinions of the SFSDS officers or board as a whole. Equal Space given for conflicting views.

(Right) Maurice and Diane discuss proper lead follow technique after a recent dance.



(Below) Grazia and Ellen sharing a laugh together with neither Ray nor David in sight. *Coincidence?*



SFSDS is a Member Of:



(Right) Come on Ken, just one more dance! Nancy and Ken enjoying a post dance moment.



(Below) Cindy, Susan and Sean . Is Susan really thinking... Hmmm, what the heck are these two smiling about?



Price schedule for ads at right.

Deadline for next issue is March 15.

# of Issues	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bus Card	10	20	25	35	40	50
1/4 page	15	30	40	50	65	75
1/2 page	30	60	80	100	130	150
Full Page	60	120	160	200	260	300

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February

- 3 Donna Cody
- 6 Robert Kenny
- 8 Elaine Mackechnie
- 12 Reba Cole
- 17 Calvin Crum
- 18 Joey Cecio
- 21 Suzanne Joy
- 21 Diane Kivo
- 27 Mary Lou Consolo
- 28 Melanie Law
- 28 Ray Powell

March

- 1 Vito Fuoco
- 1 Jose Gonzalez
- 3 Jerilynn Lioi
- 4 Diane Contreras
- 6 Randy Atlas
- 7 Phyllis Parfitl
- 12 Grazia Fitz
- 12 Susan Langton
- 17 Beth Csira
- 18 Kevin Foster
- 20 James Bergeron
- 20 B.J. Krause
- 21 Robert Kaplan
- 24 Renee Lucas
- 25 Barry Katz
- 30 Frank Szabo



Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music. --

George Carlin



(Above Left) Is Saul admiring a new pair of shoes.

(Right) OK Rikki, the dance is over, let Yvonne go back to her seat.



(Above Right) Elizabeth and Jeff gliding around the dance floor during a recent dance together.

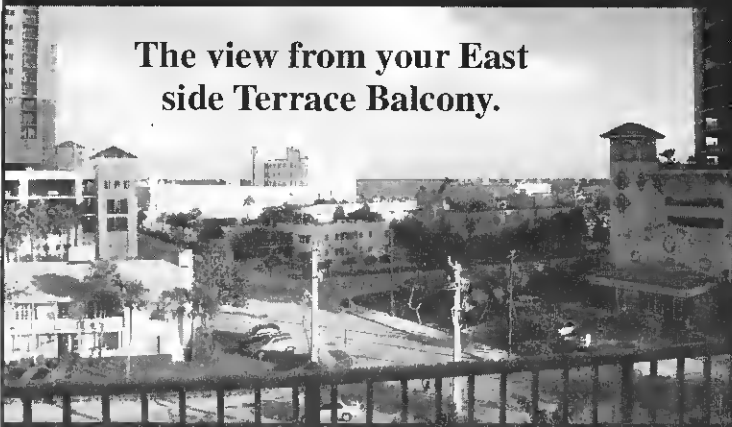
Directions to Hollywood German American Club

From the FL Turnpike:

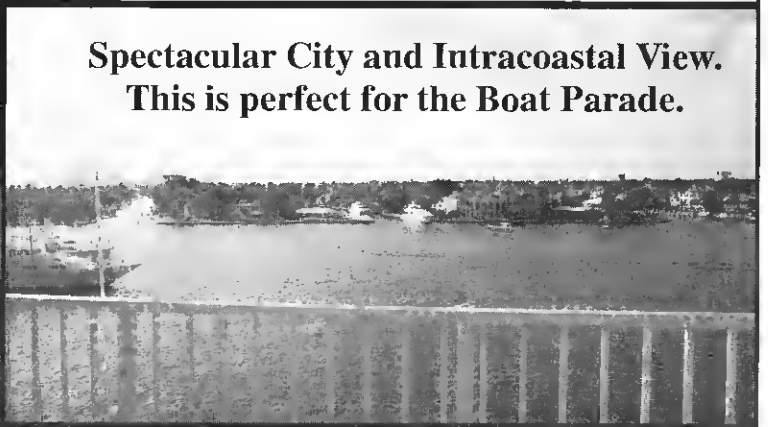
Follow the Turnpike to the Hollywood Blvd exit. Take Hollywood Blvd. heading east. Proceed to S 62nd Ave, turn right. Continue down S 62nd Avenue to Washington Street. Turn right onto Washington and continue to the end, the German American Club is at the end of the street. *Distance from the Turnpike is a approximately three quarters of a mile.*

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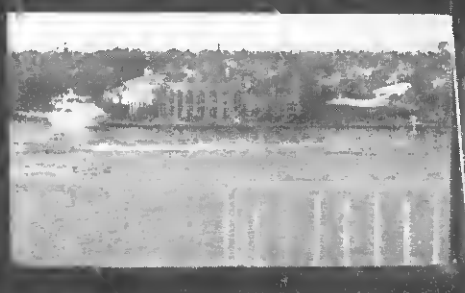
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Making The Rounds *by Bruce Perrotta*

One of the toughest and touchiest subjects in dancing is the concept of multiple partners. For those of you that just dove for the gutter, have fun and see us on the other side. For the dancing community, this subject and music are a couple of the issues with the widest chasms of opinion. We will stay focused on wandering for this issue...

In the normal course of a dance evening of some 4 hours, there will be approximately 60 different songs played. Now, many of us have life partners or dance partners that will want to dance with us at least half of those dances. That leaves about 30 songs and 2 hours worth of dance time to amuse yourself and find some kind of trouble to get into.

Everyone has their favorite alternate or inner circle partners and these may take up half again as many of your remaining dances. Your regular partner and these familiar teammates are going to get used to your lead (or follow). Over time, there is a natural tendency to get a bit lazy and start making assumptions regarding leads and styling within the dances you perform. Your dance growth and progress will flatten out and become a bit sluggish due to these tendencies. How do you avoid this? Well. Happyfoot... I am truly glad you asked that question!

The best way to avoid this pitfall is to put your other hour or 15 dances to good use! Just as I had discussed previously about using your social time as practice, a good way to keep you on your toes is to find some unfamiliar faces in the crowd and get in some dance time with them. Obviously, such potential partners will range from relative newcomers to upper level dancers, so you will need to stay alert during these efforts. One of my dance instructors urges her students to find at least 5 new people per day at every event. Your social dance time can be approached the same way. This is a great way to approach new moves, different leads or responses. For the leader, the opportunity to hone your leads to become crystal clear is unsurpassed in this exercise. For the follower, the opportunity to feel different leads, adjust to them and "creatively interpret" benefits your dancing. When you get back to your regular partners, you may have something new to show them!

For those of you who can't manage to get on the floor every dance, simply try to set aside a half hour to hour of "wander time." Even if you are resting every other song or so, you will meet some new people (fancy that!) and get some of the benefits discussed above.

These benefits will also help those that are combating those dread shyness issues. Believe me, those of you worried about not being good enough to "bother" the good dancers need to really focus on the fact that we all started where you are. Most of us remember how it felt (and trust me when I say that we all felt awkward...) and will be happy and honored to help you get past those concerns. The extra dancing time will build your confidence and abilities. It is not that far down the road to becoming one of those fearsome "good dancers" as well. Then you can turn the favor...

Finally, one of the ways for our dance community to be a healthy and growing village is to mingle, encourage and participate in that arena. The more of us who are enjoying the new found friends, the more of them we will be likely to find. Just save some room in the dance hut for me!



Getting To Know Each Other *by Marilyn Roy*

Natalie Kaplan, or Nan to many, is a whirlwind of energy. If she's not helping her hubby, our own Bob Kaplan, in their landscape business, doing telemarketing, feeding and entertaining company, feeding her dog, Bandit; bird, Sonny Boy; or swans, Natasha and Mr. Bob; or dancing, dancing, dancing, then she's shopping, shopping, shopping. As one of my dearest friends, I still have trouble deciding which Nan does more of - dancing or shopping! And even when she's shopping, she can dance in out of stores faster than anyone I've ever tried to keep up with and I thought I was pretty fast on my feet.

Nan was brought up in Alaska, married her first husband when she was very young and had two sons, Robbie and Allen. She met Bob when they both lived in N.Y. and, as many of you know, they recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. After they moved to Miami, I was fortunate to meet them when "the ole gang" danced numerous nights a week at a fifties themed club named Studebaker's in Miami. When that club closed, a number of regular dancers, including Natalie, began talking about starting a dance club so we'd all have a means to continue getting together and, of course, dancing.

As stated in *Swing Time* in 1992, "Most Society members have no idea the impact that this lady had on the club." Before the club had any money and \$25.00 was being discussed as the amount at which to set dues, she was literally the first to submit a check for \$50.00 (to cover her and Bob). Others followed her lead, and the club had funds to begin. In addition, she sold \$800 in ads by herself to raise the money to get the first *Swing Time* published and distributed. So, this many years later, with your still having a dance club, with dues still only \$25.00 and *Swing Time* still arriving at your home, you can thank our own Miss Nan for being the first to get the \$\$\$ coming in to make possible what so many were wanting then and what we are still glad to have today.

And, as also stated in that article, she is "ingenious, with a huge, warm heart!" I know she has as big a heart as anyone I've ever met. You are fortunate if you are among her many, many friends and she feels very fortunate to have so many great friends.

I don't even have to ask her to tell you what she would say is the thing that she would like to see changed about our club today. I hear her speak about it often and that is that men would ask the ladies to dance instead of waiting for the ladies to ask them. She especially would like not having to ask men to dance in order to get to dance as much as she wants...and she wants to dance every dance. So, you need not offer to buy her a drink to thank her for her effort

and involvement in the formation of SFSDS, for she doesn't drink.

Just go ask her to dance!
(At Left: Natalie enjoying a moment of relaxation. Photo, supplied Bob Kaplan.)



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Holy Cow, is that COLOR on the cover?

Yes indeed, it sure is. The overall format of this publication has remained the same but, as I am sure you noticed, there is a splash of color added to both external pages.

This additional bit of brightness is brought to you by *Typography Plus, Inc, 147 NW 3rd Avenue, Dania Beach.* In the past, with other printers, I've inquired about having a little color added just to brighten things up a little. The cost for the extra step in the process was just a little out of reach for SFSDS, which has limited budget.

Rodney Tison, fellow dancer, SFSDS board member and owner of the above mentioned printing business has *donated* the additional 'touch of class' to this publication for SFSDS members enjoyment.

When you see Rodney, after thanking him for the last dance, be sure you recognize the nice gesture and thank him for supporting *SwingTime, SFSDS* and his dance buddies!

And, don't forget, if you have something to print give him a call.. **954-927-5050**



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- **Dances nightly** **Gold Coast Ballroom.** 1415 Lyons Road. Coconut Creek. 954-979-0770 (Lyons Plaza) www.danceatgoldcoast.com (Friday mainly Hustle/WCS)
- **Dances nightly** **Paladium.** 5688 West Sample Road (Peppertree Plaza), Margate, 954-977-7752 Tuesday, Hustle, Swing & Salsa. Wednesday - Live band, mixed dancing (see ad)
- **Wed-Sun** **Round Up** 9020 West State Road 84, Davie, FL 33324. 954-423-1990
- **2nd Saturday** **Ritz Ballroom.** 651 Indiantown Road. Jupiter. 2nd Saturday is Swing night in Jupiter.
- **2nd & 4th Sat** **SwingAffair. American Legion Hall** 171 American Legion Boulevard. Pompano Beach, FL.
- **2nd & 4th Sat** **Star Ballroom. Swing/Hustle every other Saturday** 2309 Atlantic Ave. Pompano Beach, FL
- **February 21** **SFSDS Monthly Dance.** German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood. 7:30 PM
- **March 19** **Swing n' Race** club outing and membership promotion at the Pompano Park Harness Track. Contact Suellen for details. 954-647-9276
- **March 20** **SFSDS Monthly Dance.** German-American Club. 6400 Washington St. Hollywood. 7:30PM
- **March 23 Tues.** **TENTATIVE,** Watch for details. SFSDS dance outing at the FL Panthers game. More detail to follow with the weekly email and www.sfsds.com
- **April 1-4** **International Hustle and Salsa Competition.** Radisson Deauville Hotel, Miami Beach Registration info www.hustleandsalsa.com, call Randy 305 756 5037 or ratlas@ix.netcom.com
- **April 8-11** **FloorPlay Orlando Swing Vacation** Rosen Plaza Hotel. 9700 international Dr. Floorplay Swing Vacation Hotline 407-370-0097 or e-mail - floorplaydance@aol.com
- **May 27-30** **NFA Spring Convention Hosted by Club Savoy. Jacksonville** For info. contact, Bill Maddox 904-744-2424 or toll-free at 877-NFA-CLUB

Please visit the So. Florida Swing Dance Society Web Site: <http://www.sfsds.com>

Swing Time!



South Florida Swing Dance Society, Inc.

PO Box 81-4147, Hollywood, FL 33081-4147

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