

Editor's Corner:

Who Am I?



I used to say that I could march the heck out of anything but that I don't dance. When I walked out of a laundromat and turned right instead of left, I took the first step in my dance journey. I also proved that everyone has a place to call home and a family waiting for them. Sometimes finding that home and family involves taking the unconventional road.

As a child, I cooked up better adventures for my super hero action figures than I did for my impossibly proportioned doll. I disdained dancers and other frivolous characters, although I secretly binge-watched the figure skating portion of the Olympics games. Openly, I caught grasshoppers in the summer and built the coops for my chickens using materials and tools scavenged from other projects. When adolescence struck, I fought the changes in my body by maintaining an aloofness that kept the boys at bay as surely as did my buck teeth. Less than a week after my 18th birthday, I raised my hand at the nearest Military Enlistment Processing Center and took the oath to become a musician in the United States Marine Corps. I always liked a challenge.

I left the Marine Corps and started a family. I went through marriage, motherhood, and divorce in only fourteen years. While performing my duties as a single parent to three sons, I discovered the joy of martial arts and thought that I had found my true calling: I would study, progress through the ranks of the belt system until I earned at least a fourth degree black belt, and open my own martial arts studio. Unfortunately, a combination of injuries and financial setbacks put that dream on hold. I took a vacation to evaluate my goals and ended up losing my ID, wallet, and money. As I struggled to replace pieces of paper that identified me, I realized I had lost more than my ID during my post-military adventures. I had lost myself.

Fate played a hand in my next adventures. That wrong turn I mentioned earlier led me into a dance studio and opened up a world I never dreamed I could be a part of. In my dance journey I have found solutions to problems I never realized I had; I've found a new family that (usually) accepts me for who I am; I have met and continue to meet inspiring people who have overcome their own set of adversities through the world of dance.

Ballroom dancing helped me to connect with myself, with other dancers, and with society in general.

That is what this magazine is about: Making connections through ballroom dancing.

I hope you enjoy your journey with Ballroom Dance Connections.

Yours in dance,

Susie Spann

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Written by Susie Spann

Sources: <http://www.wikidancesport.com/wiki/1098/victor-silvester>

Lucy Worsley with Len Goodman “Dancing Cheek to Cheek” episode 3

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Material gathered from various sources including:

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Photos of Martin Lamb, courtesy of Martin Lamb

Photos of Kage Hart courtesy of Kage Hart

Photos of Brenda Hart courtesy of Brenda Hart

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