

Dayton Area Ballroom Dance News

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MARCH 2021



Winter will soon be over. Did you get your vaccine yet? The sooner everyone gets vaccinated the sooner we will get back to our favorite pastime. Our lives have certainly been changed due to the pandemic which has affected everyone. Some of us were either very careful, or just lucky. Some became ill. So sorry if you or someone in your family became ill or worse. In any case, we now have assurance that there can be an end to the pandemic. Be vigilant and don't let up in following the safety guidelines, and remember. . . .

...WE WILL DANCE AGAIN!!

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Dear Dance Friends,

No Dances Planned for March

We hope this newsletter finds you all warm, safe, and healthy as we continue to hunker down through this difficult winter. Hopefully, it won't be much longer.

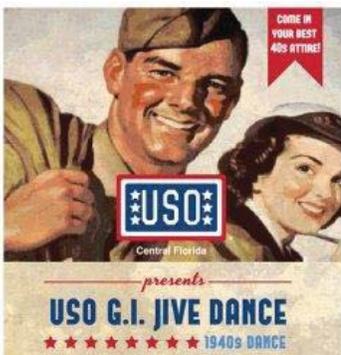
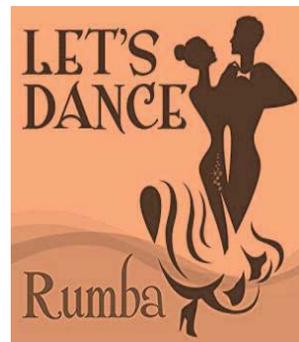
Continuing our "history of dance" theme, we move to the 1940s where music and dancing played an important role in getting us through a world war. The Swing era that began in the 30s reached the height of its popularity with the Big Band sounds of the 1940s'. Dance band leaders such as the great Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Cab Calloway, and the Dorsey Brothers dominated the music scene. During this era, standardized arrangements made the music more predictable and easier for dancers to navigate. In addition, the radio had become a household appliance, further popularizing this style of music and providing opportunities for dancers to practice at home. The music of the Big Band Era was played in hotel ballrooms and large dance halls throughout the county, especially on the West Coast.

Dance has always been an important outlet for Americans during stressful times, and it was no different when America entered World War II. Soldiers traveling abroad brought American swing and other dance styles to Europe, and dancing was a way to escape the hardships and pressures of the war. At home, dancing filled a similar void. USO and Canteen dances became staples for entertaining war weary soldiers and dancing helped to lift spirits or heal the pain of a lost love.

Wartime dancing was diverse with lots of new Latin rhythms coupled with past favorites from the Swing era. Also, in the 1940s, professional ballroom dancing began to distinguish itself from everyday social dancing. Popular dance styles of the 1940s' include:

1. **Rumba** - The Rumba debuted in the U.S. in the 1930s and became a popular ballroom dance in the 40s. The Rumba's unique Cuban motion made it a "provocative" dance that appealed to the decade's youth. Rumba, with its quick-quick-slow (or slow-quick-quick) rhythm, is incredibly percussive, making it dramatic and distinguishable on the dance floor.

- [The Old Movie Rumba Sampler](#)
- [2012 Cincinnati Ballroom Classic - Pro Rhythm \(Rumba\)](#)
- [Rumba \(classic\)](#)



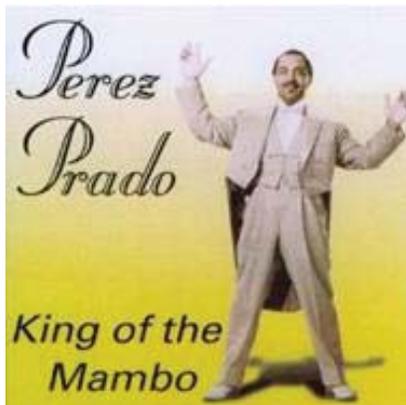
2. **Jive** - Elements of Swing, Lindy Hop, and American Jitterbug combined to create the Jive. This high-spirited energetic dance consists of small jumpy-quick movements and is considered the fastest of the Latin dances at 176 beats per minute. Despite its haphazard appearance, Jive is a very precise and well controlled dance that incorporates lots of kicks and flicks and stays in a spot.

- [Jive Dance \(1943\)](#)
- [2007 Swing Jive Dance Demonstration by Paul & Nicola Shepherd](#)
- [Jive Blackpool Semi-finals Professional Championship](#)

The 1940s' Dance Scene

3. **TAP** - Tap dancing, also popular in the 30s, reached its heyday during the Swing era of the 1940s. Derived from early African American culture and influenced by Scottish and Irish clog dancing, tap dancing gained popularity throughout the country. Tap dance numbers were featured in many movies, further boosting its popularity. Who can forget the Nicholas Brothers' dance routine in *Stormy Weather*? Although Tap was generally considered a "man's dance" several notable females made their mark with this dance style. Shirley Temple tap-danced her way into our hearts and Eleanor Powell was known as the world's greatest tap dancer. Another famous female, Ann Miller, was one of the fastest tap dancers of all time, able to dance 598 taps per minute.

- [Jumpin Jive - Cab Calloway and the Nicholas Brothers](#)
- [Shirley Temple Dance](#)
- [Fred Astaire & Eleanor Powell - Jukebox Dance](#)
- [Ann Miller, Wartime Tap Dance](#)



4. **Mambo** - Mambo also made its debut into popular dance culture in the 1940s. Developed from the Cuban dance "Danzón" and influenced by Cuban Haitians and American Jazz, Mambo quickly caught on and became a new dance trend. Perez Prado, a Cuban band leader, introduced the Mambo dance steps at the La Tropicana nightclub in Havana in 1943. His big band adaptations took hold in the U.S. and some of his famous Mambo pieces, such as "Mambo No. 5," remain staples in the ballroom dance community.

- [Perez Prado Mambo](#)
- [Professional American Rhythm Mambo // Brian Barakauskas](#)

5. **Samba** - Hollywood also embraced Latin influences in the 1940s and the Samba was featured in many films. Actress Carmen Miranda "Chicka-Chicka-Boomed" the Samba into the limelight and Fred Astaire and Delores del Rico danced Samba in the film *Flying Down to Rio*. The Samba originated in Brazil and the dance is known for its upbeat, fun and exciting music.

- [Carmen Miranda - Samba-Boogie](#) American Swing meets Latin Samba
- [That Night In Rio \(1941\) - "Chica Chica Boom Chic"](#)
- ["Flying Down to Rio" clip 1.mp4](#)
- [Samba I Open Professional Latin SF I Millennium Dancesport 2019](#)



Tribute to Ron Montez from Sam Sodano

The Ballroom World has lost an icon who can never be replaced. Ron Montez was a seven time U.S. Latin Champion, a coach, a mentor to generations, and a friend. He represented the U.S. with dignity, classy elegance, and a warmth that flowed naturally from him. Ron was chosen to host “Championship Ballroom Dancing” for eight consecutive years. His commentary was elegant, technical, helpful, and inviting to the television audience, some of them first time viewers of ballroom competition. Ron more than held his own with seasoned commentators such as Rita Moreno, Juliet Prowse, Sandy Duncan, Barbara Eden, and Jasmine Guy.

I had the honor coaching Ron and Liz the final year they competed at the U.S. Championships and was glad to be a part of their success in some small way. Another highlight of both Ron’s and my post competitive career was sharing the floor, performing “Mambo Mania.” Ron’s dancing possessed effortless cool ease that everyone admired and attempted to emulate, but only Ron could be Ron.

Ron traveled the globe performing and teaching— reaching thousands with his charisma and magnetism, yet remained incredibly humble. I have the greatest respect for him, as a dance champion and a human being. No one will fill his shoes. May you join your loved ones and rest in peace, Ron.

— Sam Sodano,
Organizer, Ohio Star Ball





Obituary Judith Rose

Judith Rose, wife of David Rose for 55+ years, passed away on November 29th. She was the editor of the Three Club Newsletter for approximately eight years. She also was on the board of several area dance clubs for many years. Along with David, she taught ballroom dance for many years. Judy and David also performed many exhibitions and competed in International style of dance.





Obituary for Kathy D. Vaske

Kathy Vaske passed away on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at the age of 70. A resident of Fairfield, Ohio, Kathy enjoyed all types of dancing and was active in the ballroom dance and belly-dance communities. Kathy joined the Dayton dance community in the fall of 2019, and was a regular attendee at Dayton Ballroom Dance Club and Elegance in Dance. She was enthusiastic and positive and was a wonderful friend to many. She will be missed.



March winds
and *April showers*
bring forth *May flowers.*





From the Editor

Articles of interest and information are appreciated. Anyone is welcome to submit information about their dances for possible publication. Submissions will be published only on a space available basis, at the discretion of the editor, and may be edited. Dances or other events whose dates conflict with the dates of any of the three clubs' dances will have a one line listing only. In order to be included in the newsletter for the following month, please use the guidelines listed below:
E-mail the information to the address below. Either place the information in your message or provide it as an attachment to the e-mail in Microsoft Word (Other formats may be acceptable). As an alternative, you can mail the information, legibly written, to the editor at the address below. Please include your telephone number and e-mail address, if applicable, for clarification and/or verification of information. This will help to prevent publishing errors. Information published is believed to be correct and accurate, however changes can and do occur, and errors or omissions can be made. Every attempt will be made to prevent this from occurring. Thank You.

Carolyn Buechly, Editor of Dayton Area Ballroom Dance News.

E-mail Address: cmbuechly@aol.com

SUBMIT YOUR REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION TO THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH

Competitive Dancers

Please report your competition results as soon as possible after the event to the Dayton Area Dance News editor. Thank you.

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