

## SSDS Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 3pm at Panera Bread Company, Cicero.

Attendance: Kris, Maria, Deb, Judy, Keith, Eric, Barbara, MaryEllen

### 1. Old Business

- Thursday dances at St. Clare Theater: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- The floor at St. Clare is sticky and difficult for people to dance on. Cold floors are usually slick and slippery and the humidity of the St. Clare building is relatively low. Sara Caliva requested that we do not use powder and no one has been using any type of powder and yet the floor looks dusty and powdered. People have been generally very good about changing from their street shoes into dance shoes so that wet dirt and snow do not come into the building. Perhaps the floor needs just to be mopped and swept more often. MaryEllen will contact David Mulherin to inquire what actions can be taken. The floor at the “Y” in Fayetteville has an excellent floor. It’s fast and has the right kind of finish on it. It’s not shiny but has a matte finish. Mary Ellen will call the Fayetteville YMCA to inquire about what procedures they use to keep their floor in good condition. For next Thursday’s dance, we will move the flyer table farther away from the door and provide some chairs for people to use while they change their shoes. We’ll look for another rug to place near the door to keep the water off the dance floor.
- Dance attendance has been sporadic. Most Thursdays we usually see about 40+ people although it is apparent that not everyone is signing in and paying dance admission. We will make a stronger effort to communicate more effectively and make an announcement about paying admission. The dance student discount applies to students from any instructor as well as the local instructors.
- Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, was a day of bad weather. We did not cancel the dance and we did not charge admission from the twelve (or so) people that came. The dance finished early that night. We will remind everyone of our policy about bad weather and dance cancellation. If it is necessary to cancel the dance, we do send email to the SSDS list but we ask and prefer that our dance patrons call the SSDS phone number, which is 434-9503, to keep informed about any cancellation or change.

- Beginner lesson has been taught recently by Derrick. He taught six new people last Thursday, using the stage area for his lesson. Sincere thanks to Derrick for your help and support.
- December 10<sup>th</sup> (Holiday dance): People enjoyed the wine-tasting table provided by Andy. There seemed to be enough food and not too much. We would like to plan another Holiday dance for 2010 December. Exact date to be determined at next meeting.
- Sound system, DeeJay rotation: Songs that last about three minutes are best. Some recent songs have been considered uncomfortably long for dancing.
- Volunteer incentives: We always try to encourage people to work for free. People work for that feeling of satisfaction and enjoy the challenge.

## 2. Publicity

- Publicity Chairperson position:
  - Eric is interested in helping us with our publicity needs. He might decide to share this position and responsibility.
  - Newspaper calendar listings should include SSDS weekly Thursday dance at St. Clare (Weekend, Stars, Neighbors, NewTimes)
  - SSDS weekly dance flyers should be displayed at other dance events.
  - Internet has been our best resource for recruiting younger dancers
- Printed flyers & business cards: Still need to print new business cards with St. Clare location
- Internet SSDS website + list: working fine
- USMail + permit: No mail permit, might not need it

3. Financial Report: Greg is currently working on filing our taxes. Deb will be added as a signer for the checkbook. Insurance for 2010 has been paid.

## 4. Upcoming Events

- Mario Robau, Jr. in Syracuse, April 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010
  - Ukrainian Home will be our venue for Saturday and Sunday.
  - There will be four one-hour WCS classes Saturday.
  - There will be three one-hour classes on Sunday. These will include advanced hustle, advanced WCS and a critique class.
  - The Friday class will be hustle and hosted by Dancelovers at their monthly dance. This venue will be the Pasttimes club. The admission will be \$8 for the class and this includes the dance.
  - Pricing will be \$80 pre-registered and \$100 at the door. Price per workshop will be \$13 pre-registered and \$15 at the door.

- The Ukrainian Home floor is slippery but Maria is working with Nikola to solve this problem.
- Flyer will be drafted within the next couple days and printed (hopefully) in the next week or so.
- Jack'n'Jill novice level competition will be offered during the Saturday night dance. If we have any t-shirts left, these will be awarded as prizes.
- Saturday night dance admission will be \$10 but is included with the all-in pass. We will appoint a coordinator to help organize the dance.
- 2010 Picnic Arrowhead Lodge Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Reservation is paid for, no flyer drafted yet.
- Halloween Dance, Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

#### 5. New Business, Other Business

- Planning events for 2010: Open discussion about rotating local dance instructors and building a stronger dance community. Strengths, weaknesses, teaching styles, offering one or more instructor might complement one another's teaching style. Our local dancers would benefit from having the opportunity to learn from other instructors in addition to taking Steve's weekly lessons. One option would be to bring alternate instructors in for one-day workshops. Another option would be to take advantage of any breaks in Steve's teaching schedule to bring in an alternate instructor during the break(s). The group liked the suggestion that we arrange for some guest instruction by taking advantage of the dates that regional instructors might be traveling through Syracuse on their way to national events. The schedule for national events would allow for Antoinette on April 29<sup>th</sup>, because she would be traveling to the Swingin' into Spring event. Subsequent 2010 events would be June 17<sup>th</sup>/Liberty Swing/invite Bob&Louise, August 26<sup>th</sup>/SummerHummer/Maria&Andre and November 11<sup>th</sup>/Swingin'NE/Julie Epplett. These would be guest instructors and we would need to determine how they should be paid, possibly a percentage of the door or flat fee.
- Driving village lower level, below Donna's studio, might be a dance space with some development. It is currently being used to park cars there during winter months. The floor is concrete with tile. If there was a wood floor, it could become a dance venue. This venue might be useful for other dance events, not only the weekly SSDS dance. They might require the building be closed by 10pm. Eric, Mary Ellen (and possibly Deborah if scheduling allows) will investigate the possibility of using this space as a dance venue.

Next Meeting date, time, place: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 3pm, Panera Bread Company, Cicero.

Addendum: After the meeting adjourned, open discussion continued about the imbalance of leaders/followers that we've recently noticed. There have not been enough followers coming to our weekly St. Clare Thursday night dances. A suggestion of offering "Ladies night" was entertained and expanded upon with setting this to occur on the night that Maria will be the volunteer deejay. The group liked the idea and would like to offer free admission before 9pm to ladies attending the February 25<sup>th</sup> dance. All present were in agreement to this plan. We'll try it and see how things go.

Another item: Maria reminded Mary Ellen that we never followed up with our plan to host Jennifer Lyons for dance workshops in Syracuse. Mary Ellen will add this to the SSDS 2010 event plan.

To do list:

- Announce our snow/bad weather cancellation policy and post this information on our website
- Mary Ellen has called YMCA maintenance supervisor, Don Abulencia, no answer, left message, waiting for reply.
- Mary Ellen has called David Mulherin regarding floor surface at St. Clare; No answer, left message, waiting for reply.
- Greg, Mary Ellen and Tania will complete the paperwork to add Deborah to the check book account so that she can have signing privileges.
- Business cards should be printed with our SSDS website and St. Clare venue
- Kris, Maria and Mary Ellen will produce flyer for Mario weekend. This flyer will be printed and distributed pending approval by SSDS board.
- Mary Ellen will contact Antoinette about possibly teaching April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Eric and Mary Ellen (and possibly Deborah) will follow up with the Burdick rental office about the space below Donna's studio.