



C O N T E N T S

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SPECIAL REPORT ON ARGENTINA: Part I

By Séan Erwin: January 20, 2002

The Troubadour had spent the evening crooning tango standards and blowing kisses to the crowd at the pricey Café Tortoni, just off Buenos Aires' main road, Avenida de Mayo. So it seemed strange when, at the end of his act, the singer hardly acknowledged the patron's applause. Instead, he pushed his way to the door of the café, discarded his red lounge suit, and brusquely exited. The troubadour, it turned out, knew more than his audience did. Specifically, he knew that the street violence – a nightly ritual during my time in Buenos Aires last week – was about to begin. Just a few blocks from the café doors, young and old were pouring onto Buenos Aires' grand boulevards to vent their anger over Argentina's economic meltdown.¹

Joshua Kurlantzick, *The New Republic*¹

Interspersed in bits and pieces within the stream of docu-logues on American involvement in Afghanistan and ongoing revelations over the collapse of Enron, we have watched a drama unfold in Argentina – or, more precisely, a farce – at least as the American media would tell it. To be persuaded by *CNN* and the editorial staff of *Barron's* and *Time*² we seem to be seeing staged, again, the inevitable consequences of a nation whose corrupt leaders have allowed their country to acquire an unserviceable debt all so that well-placed Argentines could finance their Cartier watches, yachts in Uruguay, mistresses, London town homes and *Tango* jets. Given the space of 90-second sound bites and the two-sentence tease of rolling script at the bottom of our screens, perhaps the American news industry should be forgiven its compulsion to rehash old plot modes. After all, haven't we already been primed for just such crises in the theaters of Russia, Southeast Asia and Latin America during the 80's and 90's? Thus, Argentina's economic default, the largest national default in history,³ apparently replays a story line we've seen staged many times before, only this time it is just happening on a much grander scale; its denouement is predictable, or at least we have strong presentiments of what may come.

On the other hand, December events in Buenos Aires show symptoms of breaking through the farcical apparatus its

made-for-TV presentation has taken so far. What we have not seen or read as much about in the case of those other continental crises of annihilated capital is the prolonged bouts of social unrest, riots and attacks on state buildings experienced by the Argentine government in December. In the late 1990's, during the time of the Asian financial crisis, Bangkok's mandarins and its working class seemed united on at least one issue: how to deal with the economy. This took the predictable form of stalling reforms, increasing state spending to keep the people out of the streets and blaming the country's problems on the economic imperialism of the IMF. The results? Thailand has added prodigiously to its public debt and the banks have skirted successfully needed internal reforms – but there have been no riots over the economy, just scattered protests and some looting. As we have all seen, Argentines have not proven to be similarly united and one president after another has watched their support melt away in the space of days. So what, then, has produced Argentina's *December glitch*?

December Glitch: Politics of the *cacerola*⁴

“La protesta de comerciantes y ciudadanos realizada la semana pasada demostró que comenzó la rebelión de la clase media. Tanto el Gobierno como el oposición viven en la estratosfera, no sienten lo que le pasa a la gente.”
Osvaldo Cornide, *La Prensa*⁵

On the evening of Thursday, December 20, 2001 Fernando de la Rúa resigned as president of the Argentine republic and fled Buenos Aires by helicopter when an 11th hour bid to form a unity government with the Peronists failed.⁶ Thursday had begun with protestors forming crowds outside the presidential palace, clapping, banging pots and shouting “Come out, come out!” As darkness fell, looting erupted in the capitol. Smoke billowed from downtown Buenos Aires as protestors headed for Avenida 9 de Julio torching banks and cars, ransacking a restaurant and fighting running battles with police.⁷ The uprising on

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¹ “A Tale of Two Cities,” Jan 14, 02

² See “Trashing the Peso” in *Barron's*, Jan 7, 2002. Also: “Alas my poor peso, soon to be just junk” in *New Statesman*, Jan 7, 2002; and “How Argentina Blew its Big Chance” in *Time*, Jan 14, 02.

³ Argentina's debt represents 25% of all emerging market debt; *Washington Post*, Dec 23, 01.

⁴ The ‘pots and pans’ emblematic of the middle class protests in December that were instrumental in toppling the Presidencies of Fernando de la Rúa and Rodríguez Saá.

⁵ “The protest of merchants and citizens that took place last week demonstrated that the rebellion of the middle class has begun. Both the government and the opposition live in the stratosphere – they do not perceive what is happening with the people.” *La Prensa*, Dec 16, 01; Cornide is the president of CAME, *Coordinadora de Actividades Mercantiles Empresarias*. Both CAME and the CGT (*Confederación General del Trabajo*) organized general strikes the week of December 12 that paralyzed Buenos Aires with work stoppages and blackouts.

⁶ See *La Prensa*, Dec 21, 01.

⁷ Riots on Thursday saw 22 people killed; see *La Prensa*, Dec 21, 01 and also *Chicago Tribune*, Dec 20 and Dec 21. To date the rioting related death toll has climbed to 28; for details see *Time*, Jan 14, 02.

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December 20th followed a weekend of looting in the cities of Rosario, Concordia and Mendoza where people surrounded supermarkets, demanding food.⁸ By Wednesday, De la Rúa had imposed a state of siege, but the week had already seen protests spread across the middle class areas in Buenos Aires province and in more than 20 cities and towns scattered across Argentina. Those killed included people reportedly shot by merchants defending their stores and five who died Thursday in the plaza facing the presidential palace.

What causes then precipitated such widespread, mass uprisings? After such a debacle as the Argentine crash enough scapegoats have already been framed to explain the crisis many times over: Argentine politicians were too shortsighted to reach a compromise on fiscal policy.⁹ The currency-board system was too rigid to allow Argentine exporters to regain their competitiveness following the devaluation of Brazil's currency in 1999. The dollar should have been adopted as Argentina's official currency, entirely scrapping the peso. Labor unions were too unresponsive to de la Rúa's demands for reform. Domingo Cavallo, finance minister responsible for the 1:1 peso to the dollar equation that curbed the hyperinflation of the early 90's, returned to the post but with no new miracles this time. Foreign creditors were too fickle and should not have reversed course so dramatically after their rush into Argentina in the 1990's. The IMF should have suspended loan installments much sooner; the IMF should not have suspended loan installments at all.¹⁰ To even begin to detect the incendiary points for the social crises in December one has to come to some understanding of the ways state-held debt shaped Argentine economic policy in the months preceding December's events.¹¹

Debt as Domestic Policy

Argentina's default on its 141 billion dollar debt on December 23 hardly came as a surprise to creditors. The country's long financial crisis went into high gear when the IMF

refused to disburse a 1.3 billion dollar loan at the beginning of December.¹² Multi-lateral banks, including the IMF, are in large part funded by participating governments;¹³ these sorts of institutions have lent Argentina about 25 billion of its \$141 billion total debt.¹⁴ Those loans currently held by the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank are exempted from government debt defaults because they lend at extremely low interest rates (usually below 3%) and do so during crisis situations when other lenders will not extend themselves.¹⁵ If Argentina fails to make payments to the IMF for six months it would join a shortlist of deadbeat states that includes Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Liberia and Sudan; these particular debts, however, will remain on the books.

The principal amount of the debt currently held by Argentina is in the form of government bonds issued to private investors and banks. Argentina owes 95 billion (US\$) to such private investors and private, i.e., non-government funded, banks. Individual American and European banks have extended themselves in greater and lesser amounts as bondholders in Argentine securities;¹⁶ these investors range from TIAA-Cref, Citibank, JP Morgan and MetLife to firms like Mn Services NV of the Netherlands.¹⁷ The difficulty compounded by Argentina's recent devaluation of the peso is that almost all of Argentina's 95 billion in bonds held by such creditors are denominated in US and European currencies; these bonds instantly became precipitously more expensive to finance when the peso became less valuable. The chance of a full-fledged default on this part of the debt has risen exponentially since the government will find it politically difficult to pay interest to its foreign investors while Argentines are still rioting for food.

To read the final pages of this month's article please [click here](#)

⁸ See *La Prensa*, Dec 16, 01.

⁹ See "*Medidas heroicas*" in *La Prensa*, Dec 2. It's interesting to note the degree of disaffection Argentines have recently expressed with both the political process and political candidates. Voting is compulsory in Argentina. Despite that fact nearly 23% of voters failed to turn out for the October 14 elections. Of those that did turn out, nearly 15% cast blank or spoiled ballots to express contempt for the choices they were being presented. In fact, blank and spoiled ballots comprised the largest single bloc of votes in Buenos Aires, Santa Fe and Tierra del Fuego; see *Latin American Southern Cone Report*, Nov 13, 01.

¹⁰ What does seem to be clear is that Argentina took more steps during the 1990's toward trade liberalization, tax reform, privatization, and financial reform than virtually any other country in Latin America. See "*Trade Rout*" by Dani Rodrik in *The New Republic*, Jan. 14, 02. See also "Capitalist Transformation in Argentina" by Pablo Pozzi in *Latin American Perspectives*, v 27:5. It is interesting to note the *curative* proposed by George Bush in his speech to the OAS on January 16. President Bush said Argentina should attack its budget excesses, continue opening its borders to trade, sell off state-owned companies, deregulate domestic markets and invest in health care and education. In other words, President Bush proposed that Argentines should continue to back the same policies that brought their economy to precisely where it is and they should do this **as conditions** for the US to back currently suspended economic assistance from international financial institutions; see *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 17, 02. Bush's comments were said to be directed at protectionist remarks made recently by Duhalde. Such protectionist plans would conflict with the Bush administration's intentions to forge a *Free Trade Area of the Americas*. On American disinterest in backing any further bail-out of the Argentine economy, see treasury secretary's Paul O'Neill's comments in *Wall Street Journal*, Dec 21, 2001: "White House, IMF Say No to Argentina Aid." Also, *Washington Post*, Dec 24, 01.

¹¹ Argentina has been experiencing the effects of a prolonged recession for the last four years; see *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 7, 02.

¹² See *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 4, 02

¹³ 175 governments provide the capital and the implicit government backing that enables the World Bank to invest in businesses in more than 140 developing countries that have limited access to capital. This year the World Bank's business finance arm will post its first-ever loss as a result of its Argentine investments; see *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 25, 02.

¹⁴ See *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 4, 02

¹⁵ On January 16, the IMF agreed to extend a one-year forbearance to the Argentine's January payment of \$936 million on their IMF loans. The fund has lowered its 2.6% growth forecast next year and said the economy was likely to contract by 1.1%; *Latin American Weekly Report*, Jan 2, 2002.

¹⁶ European banks are much more greatly exposed to the crisis than American banks. Spanish banks are estimated to hold 18.32 billion (US\$) in Argentine debt and German banks \$8.76 billion; American exposure is estimated at \$11.21 billion [*The Times (London)*, Dec 27, 01]. Citigroup and Fleet-Boston are the two largest American banks most exposed in the crisis. Citigroup will still show strong fourth-quarter profits despite having both Enron and Argentine losses. At the other extreme, Fleet-Boston is currently contemplating the political feasibility of simply folding up operations in Argentina, a move that could leave Argentine account holders with nothing; *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 18, 02.

¹⁷ *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 18, 02.

Personal Responses to the Argentine Crisis

Lorena Moskovich,
Argentine residing in Buenos Aires

For at least six weeks now Argentina has been under the world's gaze. Once again, a deep economic and social crisis has hit this always-promising country. The trust of the people was betrayed, rules were changed from one day to the next and Argentines have found themselves having to start again. How could it have happened? It was a mix of macroeconomic factors: the IMF's mistaken advice, recurrent domestic problems and, mainly, political clumsiness.

During the last presidential campaign, in 1999, both presidential candidates – Radicalist Fernando De la Rúa and Peronist Eduardo Duhalde – aimed to differentiate themselves from the former president, Carlos Menem, by announcing the “end of the convertibility model.” What seemed to be forgotten by both of them was an explanation of which economic model they would then attempt to establish. Next, the uncertainty started to undermine foreign investors' trust who were afraid of not being able to carry on with their businesses and started looking for other destinies for their money.

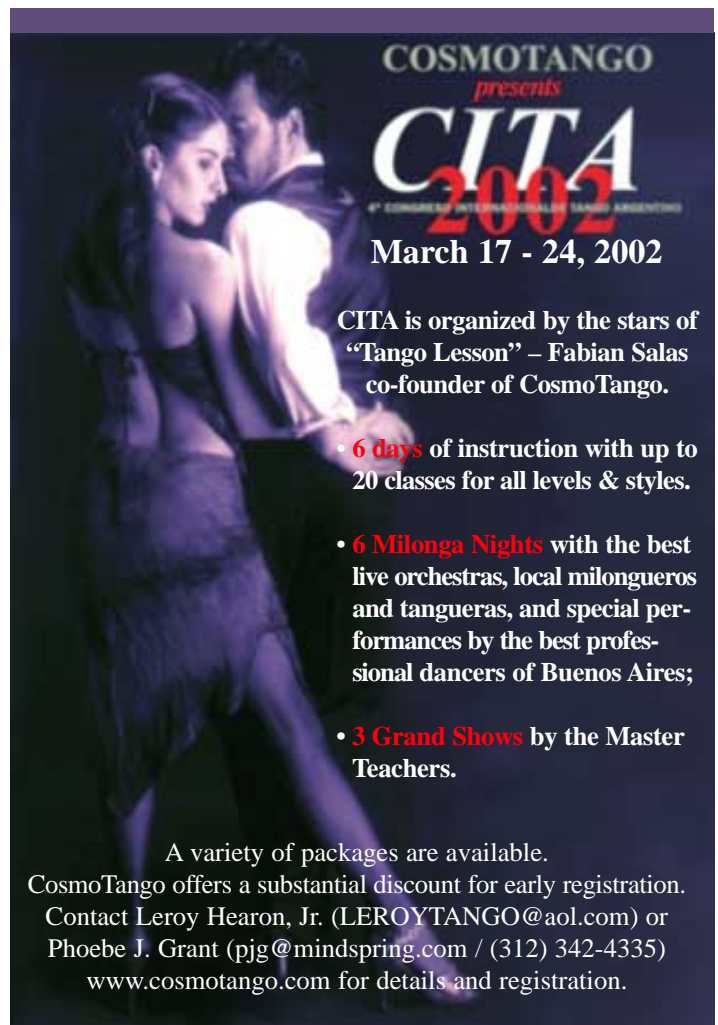
The evolution of this crisis was accompanied by social protest. First, there were many spontaneous mobilizations by the middle class: thousands of people walked down Buenos Aires' elegant avenues clapping their hands and banging their “cacerolas.” Then, these

protests were followed by other violent and organized groups of people breaking glasses, burning banks and looting shops. Things seemed to stabilize when, after ten days of chaos, the fifth president, Eduardo Duhalde, was elected by the general assembly to finish the presidential term till 2003. However, though his first economic announcements attempted to consider the interests of the middle class, there were still protests in the streets. Of course, he had not been able to liberalize the current banking restrictions. If he had, a total financial system bankruptcy would have left everybody without their money.

For a decade now Argentina's model has been a pattern for other countries to follow. Then, this developmental model ran out of solutions and nobody was willing to run the risks needed to replace it. Indeed, neither the Argentinean political class nor the IMF could give an answer to the question “how could it happen?” In the meantime, Argentines have found themselves disappointed yet one more time: they cannot withdraw their savings from the banks; they do not know what the rules will be. Therefore, they cannot plan their future; they cannot dream.

Joe Landolfo,
Argentine-American residing in Chicago

We are observing on TV the events of this crisis and our feelings are of impotence and sadness. Those feelings and our concern for family and friends affected by the situation remain very present and don't go away by turning off the screen. As you see, there are many millions of needy people - almost half of the population -



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and the loss of faith in the institutions and the lack of leadership created political unrest. The late measures from the economic minister gave occasion to the protests ending in the state of siege that backfired and forced the government to resign.

What is next? All agree that drastic changes are necessary beginning with those to be taken on the economic sector. On the other hand, pressure from the foreign debt complicates matters with the menace of default. The looting and uprising in many neighborhoods where I grew up make me wonder how all of this could have happened. Perhaps the part that worries me most is the sense of anarchy. Nobody

seems to want to take charge and the people are tired of promises where names change but nothing is resolved. Unaccountability on the part of the government and corruption created frustration and impotence that exploited all areas of the social scale.

I changed jobs some months ago and had to learn a new career very much in a hurry; that is why I don't go regularly to the milongas. I am sure that all *argentinos* feel the same concern and sadness and wish for a return to normality.

Sociology, perhaps, has an answer or explanation. For me it is very difficult to watch and I suppose it is the same for those that remember better times too.

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Federico Costantino,
*Argentine residing in
Buenos Aires*

For a translation of Federico's statement, please go to www.tangonoticias/costantino.com

Es muy triste la realidad en estos días, estamos pagando los malos manejos de las administraciones políticas sanguinarias que gobernaron durante décadas la Argentina, olvidándose de la producción y el capital humano de esta bendita tierra, dedicándose solamente a especular con los mercados financieros y beneficiando únicamente a los intereses de las grandes corporaciones. En estos últimos años, desde hace 11 años exactamente, veníamos conservando un tipo de cambio con el dólar americano de uno a uno (1 peso=1 US\$). Cambio que era totalmente ficticio e insostenible, basado como dije antes en la especulación. Un país sin producción es un país vacío.

Hoy escuché en la radio que mucha gente en estos años depositaba pesos argentinos y luego llamaba al banco para que los cambiara a dolares. El banco accedía y se generaba un cambio a dolares ficticio pues los billetes de dólar no estaban, ahora que la gente reclama por sus depositos en dolares el dinero no está. Ésto es responsabilidad de los bancos que están y estuvieron directamente estafando a la gente y el gobierno no hace más que protegerlos lo cual es logico pues sino sería un desastre financiero. Los argentinos tienen sus ahorros prisioneros resultante de un mal manejo de la economía de estas últimas administraciones. Solo nos queda reclamar y ponernos a trabajar seriamente. El gobierno más que nunca tiene que apoyar planes de reactivación de la industria y apoyar al con-

tinuo desarrollo de la exportación. Yo fui a una escuela estatal gratuita de la que obtuve una excelente educación como muchos de mis compatriotas, que hoy dadas las circunstancias tienen que emigrar en busca de nuevas oportunidades. A los que se dedican al arte como yo nos espera un destino incierto aquí.

Creo que esta situación de algún modo favorecerá a la escena del tango, el dólar ahora es libre y éso hará que sea más favorable el cambio para los extranjeros que vengan a Buenos Aires. Por otro lado la escena local se ve afectada por la situación de crisis y las orquestas y bailarines tendrán hoy más que nunca salir al exterior en búsqueda de divisas fuertes para poder subsistir. Hoy las milongas están llenas de extranjeros y me da orgullo verlo, como se preocupan por aprender y disfrutar del tango. Buenos Aires sigue siendo una ciudad segura y hermosa apta para recibir miles de visitantes.

Kara Wenham,
*American residing in
Buenos Aires*

Well, that which has been threatening to happen since I came to live here six months ago has finally happened. We started the New Year with a 40% devaluation. Everything seemed to escalate quite quickly since the IMF closed its doors on Argentina. There was the banks' general commotion and chaos due to the limiting of cash withdrawals to \$250 per week; the protests, the violence and repression; the renunciation of de la Rúa and then the replacement of Saá by Duhalde; finally the devaluation. What next?

Many people are struggling here. Some with paying their bills and others with simply

getting something to eat. There is always someone to sell you something on every bus, train, café or street corner. Of course, I am careful and take the extra precautions I need to take. Personally, I don't feel in immediate danger on the streets...yet. That could change. However, the milongas go on as usual. At times they seem scarce, or lacking in energy, but for the most part I think people dance right through whatever it is that has been going on. It feels like it is a great time of change and upheaval. Things happening for the first time, things that everyone has suspected for ages would happen, and I am afraid that things will probably get worse before they get better.

Alexander Kummings,
resident of Buenos Aires

When I started writing this message about five weeks ago the country was on the brink of defaulting on payments servicing its 112 billion dollar debt. Speculations about *dollarization* and peso devaluation were, unlike the currency, floating freely. Well, things got progressively worse. Due to a currency shortage, people's accounts were frozen, allowing them to withdraw only \$250 per week in cash. The idea was to "bankarize" the economy in an effort to control transactions and limit capital flight out of the country. After a couple of weeks tensions brimmed higher than ever. People rampaged supermarkets – a sad sight – and demonstrated in numerous cities. Folks, it got ugly. Although violence was never directed against individuals – other than those in high government positions – there was quite a bit of vandalism and many police confrontations. The *Obelisco* – located about 4 blocks from my house – usually sees a lot of action in good

times and bad. It did so again, several nights running. Some shops were destroyed, sometimes by fire, and many banks suffered some vandalism. The *Casa Rosada* was the usual focal point of marches, which in all honesty were usually peaceful.

Financially, things are only going to get worse. Supposedly the peso is now exchanged freely with its value determined by capital markets and trading at around 1 US dollar to 1.5 Pesos. Savings accounts, many of which were in US dollars, are now frozen until the end of 2003, and the life savings of many seem to be wiped out—just like that. People are not happy. Although not always visible in Buenos Aires, there are daily demonstrations and endless lines at some banks around the country. The retired people are protesting the loss of their savings and pension benefits; various government workers are protesting the loss of their jobs; people in general are protesting their poverty and inability to feed their kids; and the transvestites are protesting cruel treatment by the police.

Did I mention that Tango is still great?

Eduardo Moskovich,
*Argentine-American
residing in Chicago*

My last trip to Argentina was on November 23rd 2001; I had returned to Argentina on family business – a niece was having a wedding. I left Argentina on December 12th and the CGT (Confederación General del Trabajo) had called a general strike. The whole city was paralyzed. My family lives in the suburbs and I had wanted to get into the city for a lesson; no trains were running and I had to call a *remis* (private car). Financially, the whole country has become totally frozen. My

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father, a rancher, is in his 90's and can't take out more than \$1000 monthly or \$250 weekly. Of course this must be used for basic expenses such as food, rent, traveling, gas and phone, electric bills, etc. There is nothing left over for other expenses and this situation is still unchanged. Therefore no one is buying anything extra, and most stores are paralyzed. If you use a debit card or checks it seems to be possible to access more of your cash but cards are not used as much in Argentina as here. Two other of my nieces are actually paid, not in dollars or pesos, but in vouchers that circulate in Buenos Aires. I am told that some provinces actually have three or four different currencies. Even though devaluation officially began in January, I was told when I was there in December that the peso had already been devalued in

Montevideo, Uruguay where people were taking their money to get it out of the country. Theft is growing worse. My niece and nephew stepped off from the train and were robbed three blocks from their home. As far as the effect on tango is concerned it is difficult to say because I was there for family events and was not as much involved in tango as I have been on prior trips – however, to my eyes, there seemed to be markedly fewer tourists than before. Nobody can really afford to buy anything at all let alone go out or take tango lessons.

Brooke Burdett,
*American residing in
Buenos Aires*

The news keeps changing every day and it's hard to make a brief comment on something so complicated. I can say that in the past 5 years that I've lived in

Buenos Aires, I've seen the standard of living of the middle class go down, the number of people unemployed go up, people who have jobs have been working longer hours and for lower wages/salaries, the number of people living in poverty has gone up, and the people as a whole have grown less and less confident in any political figure. At the end of 1999, everyone hoped that the new president and the new millennium would bring better times; but, instead, conditions have only worsened. It is a no-win situation. Devaluation or not, it is going to be a struggle and everyone will feel it. It's a big crisis, and hopefully the country can come out of it O.K. Argentina has seen worse crises, so I think the people here are less shocked than North Americans watching television coverage of the riots.

The people are depressed, and this is felt everywhere. It saddens me and I hope that Argentina and its people, whom I love, will see better times.

Jan Carpenter,
*American, returned from
Argentina - Feb 1, 2002*

I just wanted people to know that my stay has not been impacted dramatically by the economic and political events happening in this city. There have been protests, but they are scheduled and have occurred in the town center away from the milongas. Attendance has been down in general at the milongas. When asked about this, the consensus is that the decline is due to the overall situation here and so people are staying in or maybe they don't have the money to go out every night.

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15th - No *Lake Street Milonga*. Instead, a Valentine's Ball organized by **Corazón Tango** will be held at the Gallery on Lake. See description below and ad on Page 2.

For Lake Street milonga please call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137, Beth Braun 847.846.5611, or Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 erica@tangoparatodos.com for details.

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questions about local
accommodations contact:

Joe Grohens
grohens@uiuc.edu
217.328.1008

Our best kept secret:

SEE WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT
(AND, MAN, ARE THEY TALKING!!) –

The Tango Talk Forum of tangonoticias.com

This month on TANGO TALK:

A Game: Your Favorite Chicago Milonga and Why!

**A New Game: A Space for Responses
from Organizers of Milongas**

Why is it that Important?

Tango Challenge!

Should Newcomers Dance at Milongas?

Moving to Chicago

What is Tango to You?

**And others...Let us know what you think or
post your *own* line of discussion!**

Just go to tangonoticias.com/tangotalk

Please call or e-mail Editors Sean Erwin or Jan Carpenter with your copy or questions. *Tango Noticias* is a not-for-profit, independent, monthly newsletter whose objective is to provide timely information about happenings of interest to members of Chicago's Tango community.

February

18th - Milonga Madness Workshop/Practica

Tango...nada mas, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago
8:00-9:00 pm class; 9:00-11:00 pm practica
Review from Facundo & Kely's workshops. Cost is \$15

12th - 21st Brooke Burdett Returns to Chicago

Brooke Burdett is back to teach workshops and private lessons! See Brooke's interview with *Tango Noticias* at www.tangonoticias.com.

Workshop schedule:

Saturday, Feb. 16th: At Dancers' Delight, 1623 W. Melrose

3:00-4:30 Sacadas for Leaders

4:45-6:15 Sacadas for Followers

6:15-7:00 Mini-practice session. Both classes are for both Leaders and Followers

Sunday, Feb. 17th: At Gallery on Lake, 942 W. Lake St.

5:00-6:30 Moving Embrace

6:45-8:15 Changes of Direction

8:15-10:00 Practica. Free for workshop attendees

Monday, Feb. 18th: At Gallery on Lake, 942 W. Lake St.

7:00-9:00 Follower's Technique & Creating Awesome Embellishments. \$30 per class. Register and pay by Feb.

15th & pay only \$25 per class.

Full class description at www.tangoparatodos.com; for more details chat with Erica Sutton or call 773.505.1577.

15th – Corazón Tango Ball/Benefit for September 11th

Gallery on Lake, 942 W. Lake, Chicago

8:30 pm - 2:30 am

Come for a special evening of tango, tapas, and art, in honor of Valentine's Day. Enjoy Spanish tapas, door prizes and great music. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door with all proceeds benefiting the Families of Freedom Fund, which provides scholarships for those affected by the tragedy of September 11th. For tickets call 773.505.1577 or buy tickets online at www.CorazonTango.com.

21st – March 10th – Paulo Araujo Returns to Chicago

By popular demand Paulo is back in town. Keep your calendar open. Details are still to come. Contact Phoebe Grant pjg@mindspring.com or 312.342.4335 for details.

Mid-February 2002 Immersion Tango Tour

Ah, the chill of autumn...winter's on its way. Don't despair, just plan to get away...

Contact Natalie Pepa 312.217.4363 tangonata@aol.com or Phoebe Grant 312.342.4335 pjg@mindspring.com.

March

17th - 24th Congreso Internacional Tango Argentino (CITA)

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Registration is now open for the 4th CITA event, which is organized by one of the stars of "Tango Lesson," Fabian Salas. Besides 120 classes with extraordinary instructors, extravagant shows and performances at special milongas, there is an opportunity to meet and dance with tango enthusiasts from around the world. A variety of packages are available to fit your budget and stamina. Contact: Leroy Hearon leroytango@aol.com or Phoebe Grant pjg@mindspring.com; 312.342.4335 for more details.

April

28th Brango Champagne Brunch

Chicago Yacht Club, Belmont Harbor, Chicago

This annual event sponsored by Chicago Tango Club Argentine welcomes Spring. Your \$40 gets you fabulous food, wonderful lake views, a large wood floor, and parking close by (don't forget quarters). The yacht is scheduled to be moved so this may be our last year at this wonderful site. Contact Charlotte Vikstrom 773.493.0666 for details.

May

24th - June 1st Tango Fantasy

Miami Beach, Florida

Juan Carlos Copes - Osvaldo Zotto - Fernanda Ghi - Facundo. These are just a few of the dance professors teaching at this event. Come for the Memorial Day weekend or stay for a week. Packages and discounts available using WindyCityTango group registration. Full details at www.TangoFantasy.com or by contacting Phoebe Grant at 312.342.4335 pjg@mindspring.com or Leroy Hearon leroytango@aol.com.

Other News

Charlotte Vikstrom, President of *Chicago Tango Club Argentine*, is looking for suggestions and ideas for a Chicagoland "North Branch Brunch Tango Party" in March. How about an event in Skokie or Glencoe? What about March 10th for a Sunday afternoon dance? Contact Charlotte at argentango@usa.net or 773.493.0666.

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eavesdrop or chat check it out