

Tango Noticias

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I made an error last month. Last month's article by Brooke Burdett, "Argentina's Economic Crisis and Tango," was erroneously attributed as an article original to tangoparatodos.com. I had failed to be conscious of the fact that tangoparatodos actually had a link to this article by Brooke that took me to Stephen Brown's website, **Tango Argentino de Tejas** at <http://www.tejastango.com> where Brooke's article actually originated. I regret the confusion and this month have printed another article from Stephen's website, properly attributed this time, and encourage any who haven't already done so to check out the wealth of information to be discovered there.

Learning to Dance Argentine Tango Outside Its Cultural Milieu

by **Stephen Brown**

Many of us who begin to dance Argentine tango have no experience with the culture and begin to learn the dance in a cultural environment that is alien to the dance. That places us at a disadvantage in learning to dance tango *authentically*—especially if *authenticity* is defined by what would be accepted in Buenos Aires.

To some extent searching for authenticity as pre-

scribed by a group of distant people may seem to be a pursuit yielding small returns. How much better to ask – 'what qualities would make dancing tango a transcendent

experience?' However, as my own experience with the dance has grown I have found that tango has developed as it has in Buenos Aires precisely because many people

found this form of the dance takes them to the 'inner tango' where they find a transcendent and sublime experience. The authentic forms of the dance consist of moving

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March

21st – Symphony Night “Tango Buenos Aires”

Sensual. Exotic. Fearless. Tango Buenos Aires features six musicians, a vocalist and more than a dozen dancers tracing the evolution of the tango. “Tango Buenos Aires” may be the rawest and grittiest of the recent touring tango revues, refusing to Frenchify, balleticize or glamorize the Tango idiom.” - Los Angeles Times. This is their only Chicago performance and Beth Braun from Lake Street Milonga has reserved a block of tickets at \$15 per person (a 25% discount for the group).

To reserve a ticket, you may pay by cash or by check made payable to Beth Braun; give to Beth, Jan Carpenter, or Erica Sutton. Deadline for

ticket purchase is February 21st. The performance is almost sold out.

After the performance, dash over to Lake Street Milonga, which has a late starting time of 10:15 p.m. and will continue until 1:30 am. The cast of “Tango Buenos Aires” has been invited to the milonga.

**Visit Our Website
at
www.tangonoticias.com**

Lake Street Milonga

942 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago
\$10 - light refreshments; BYOB

7th – “Carnival/Mardi Gras” -9:00 pm-1:00 am
Join in the worldwide celebration of fantasy and fun that is Carnival or Mardi Gras. Bring your imagination – masks, costumes, beads – and we will do the rest, including a shot of *Cachaca* at midnight. Olah!

21st - “Tango Buenos Aires” -10:15 pm-1:30 am
We salute the musicians and dancers of “Tango Buenos Aires.” Over 100 tango/music lovers are attending the performance at Symphony Center before dancing at Lake Street milonga. Note: we have a later start time of 10:15 pm, so that we hosts can also come to the performance. The performers and guests of the Symphony Center have been invited to the milonga. Join us for tango, tapas, dessert & a glass of champagne!

Call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137, Beth Braun 847.846.5611 check tangoparatodos.com for details.

JOINING THE REVOLUTION

By Natalie Pepa

They had warned me. Way back they had warned me. Before leaving for Buenos Aires, a well meaning friend from Chicago slipped me an article about the upheaval in Argentina and the dangers of traveling there. Particularly they warned me about the dreaded twentieth of December—the one year anniversary when hundreds of thousands marched upon the *Plaza de Mayo*, banging pots and pans, and demanding a change in government. The crowd became violent, the police overreacted and the aftermath was the killing of a number of protesters. But it was also the end of De la Rúa's presidency—he fled hastily out of the country. One year later the country was in worse shape than before and there was great fear that this year violence would erupt once again – perhaps with even greater repercussions.

Once in Argentina there were warnings again. Friends here told me that it was best to stay at home on that day—don't even think of going to the center. So I took care of business on Thursday, bought a few extra groceries (in

case of revolution) and on Friday, the 20th, I prepared to lay low with the rest of the porteños.

But then a Canadian friend mentioned that he wanted to see what it was all about and was planning to go to the *Plaza de Mayo*. A porteños friend was coming too. I couldn't resist. I said I'd join them. My only problem was – how do you dress for this event? I skipped my tango clothes and footwear and opted for comfortable pants and running shoes.

At four in the afternoon we walked toward a major intersection and were met by the sounds of drums and banging pots. A contingent of some forty people with flags, banners and signs was already walking along *avenida corrientes*. It was a neighborhood group heading toward the center. The three of us stepped in and joined the march.

We walked along the major avenue—strangely barren with all traffic stopped—and our group grew as others joined us along the way. There was a camaraderie and a feeling of belonging, even though I was not entirely sure what it was I was protesting or what good it would do. All I know is there was an incredible energy in being part of this human force. Our group was peaceful, but whenever we passed a

group of policemen standing ready on the sidewalks, the group erupted into taunting chants.

Atención, atención, el que no salta es un botón! – *Attention, attention, he who doesn't jump is a 'button' (policeman).*

Then everyone would stop and jump in place. At first I moved silently, but by the third time I was a participant, jumping and chanting with the others.

In about two hours, after walking some fifty blocks, we reached the Plaza in front of the presidential house, the *casa rosada*. We found a horde of people who had come from many directions. There were representatives from different neighborhoods with various agendas. There were those who simply came to mourn the dead of the previous

year; those who were asking for more job opportunities; those who damned the IMF and national and international financial institutions. The Peronistas were there with photos of Juan and Evita along with the Sandinistas and their pictures of Che Guevara wearing ban-

anas over their heads and black scarves over their faces. There were the curious, the angry, the poor, the idealists, the opportunists, and even those who simply made this another singles social event.

Vendors peddled sodas and water, hot dogs and ice cream. A barbecue grill had been set up and sausages on bread rolls—choripan—were sold. With all this going on it did not feel menacing—it felt like a parade. And in spite of the great number of people — the newspapers the next day estimated the crowd to be around 40,000 – and several radical groups, the day ended without any major alterca-



tions. Each group had an opportunity to speak at the make-shift podium set up in the middle of the plaza and then everyone went home as peacefully as they came. I had a date for coffee the next day with a man I had walked with along the way. If this is what a revolution feels like, sign me up for the next one!

Chicago Classes

On-Going Classes: call instructors for details or check the teachers' pages on our website www.tangonoticias.com:

- ▶ [Al Gates](#)
- ▶ [Séan Erwin and Yanira Collado](#)
- ▶ [Bob Dronski and Kathleen Kreher](#)
- ▶ [Elena Robles](#)
- ▶ [Erica Sutton and Douglas Rivera](#)
- ▶ [Carlos Favre and Michelle Costello](#)
- ▶ [Fred Romero](#)

Chicago Milongas

Tuesdays

Club 720, 720 North Wells 3rd Floor, Chicago

8:00 pm – midnight; \$5 cover, cash bar
Complimentary lessons 8:00-9:00 pm on the mezzanine with rotating guest instructors.

March 4th special Mardi Gras evening

Visit www.Club720.com for more information.

Thursdays

Milonga Loca, Erie Street Café 536 W. Erie, Chicago

8:30 pm – midnight Valet parking available – no charge.
Beginners' lesson \$5 — starts at 7:30p.m. SHARP!
Full bar dining until 11:00pm. For reservations/info: 312.266.2300
or contact Bill: williamduvall@ameritech.net

First & Third Fridays March 7th and 21th

Lake Street Milonga, 942 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago

9:00 pm – 1:00 am (10:15 pm – 1:30 am on the 21st) \$10; light refreshments; BYOB

7th – “Carnival/Mardi Gras” – Join in the worldwide celebration of fantasy and fun that is Carnival or Mardi Gras. Bring your imagination – masks, costumes, beads – and we will do the rest, including a shot of *Cachaca* at midnight. Olah!

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Call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137, Beth Braun 847.846.5611, or Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 check www.tangoparatodos.com for details.

Last Friday of the Month – March 28th

Milonga Nuestro Tango, Inc.

Latvian Community Center, 4146 N. Elston (at Hamlin)

8:30 pm – 12:30 am \$10; includes light buffet; BYOB

Contact Valentina Cisar 773-763-8729, Carmen Pinto

773.279.9414, or Phoebe J. Grant 312.342.4335

WindyCityTango@yahoo.com

Saturdays March 1th, 15th, 29th

Recuerdo, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago

9:00 pm – midnight \$15

Complimentary beginner's lesson with the price of admission at 8:30 pm. Contact Carlos Favre or Michelle Costello at 773.301.0510 or www.recuerdotangoclub.com

Sundays March 9th, 23rd

Recuerdo, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago

7:00 – 11:00 pm Cost: \$15

Complimentary beginner's lesson with the price of admission at 6:30 pm. Contact Carlos Favre or Michelle Costello at 773.301.0510 or www.recuerdotangoclub.com

Chicago Practicas

Thursdays – 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Dance Connection, 3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago

Drop-in Class: 7:30-8:15; practica 8:15 onwards. Cost \$10.

Special Workshop on Giros - March 13th 7:30 - 8:30 pm.

Yanira and Séan in Buenos Aires – No practica March 27th or April 3rd. Contact Séan Erwin, drtango@hotmail.com, or 773.274.9564 for details.

Fridays 7:30 – 11:00 pm

Lake Shore Athletic Club, Main Aerobic Room

1320 W. Fullerton, Chicago - Cost \$12

Free Parking. Contact Al Gates at 773.994.8180 or www.tangochicago.com for details.

Fridays 8:30 – 10:30 pm

Gloria & Eduardo Arquimbau School of Authentic Argentine Tango

7646 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago - Cost \$5

Contact Elena Robles at *Tango Sentido Production, Inc.*

www.tangoinchicago.com or 773.550.2646

Sundays 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Gallery on Lake

942 W. Lake, Chicago - Cost \$5

Drop-in class 7:00-8:00 pm; \$10; includes the practica

Contact Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 or www.tangoparatodos.com

Sundays 6:00 – 8:00 pm

7646 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago - Cost \$5

Contact Elena Robles at *Tango Sentido Production, Inc.*

www.tangoinchicago.com or 773.550.2646.

The Editors of Tango Noticias



Senior Regional Editor:

Dr. Sean Erwin
773.274.9564
drtango@hotmail.com



Chicago Events Editor:

Jan Carpenter
312.258.6137
tangojan@hotmail.com



Layout & Design:

Connie Orbeta
tangoconnie@mac.com



Illustrator & Cover art:

Yanira Collado
Yaniratangoart@hotmail.com



Central Tango Editor:

Phoebe J. Grant
WindyCityTango
@yahoo.com
312.342.4335



Staffwriter:

Natalie Pepa
npepa@aol.com

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WindyCityTango, Inc.

Upcoming (sponsored or endorsed) Events

March 16 thru 23

C.I.T.A.

Congreso Internacional de Tango Argentino

Travel to Buenos Aires with WCT

Featuring:

Fabián Salas y Carolina del Rivero, Cecilia González, Julio Balmaceda y Corina de la Rosa, Mariano "Chicho" Frúmboli y Lucía Mazer, Facundo y Kely Posadas, Nito y Elba García, Fernando Galera y Vilma Vega, Eduardo Cappussi y Mariana Flores, Sergio Natario y Alejandra Arrué, Eduardo Saucedo y Marisa Quiroga, Chiche y Marta, Milena Plebs y Ezequiel Farfaro, Roberto Herrera y Natacha Poberaj, Sebastian Arce y Mariana Montes, María Cieri y Nauhel, Ezequiel Paludi y Sabrina Masso, and, Carlos Gavito
Additional 10% discount if at least 10 Chicagoans attend
(6 registered as of 02/20/03)

Spring, Summer and Autumn

Tango Fantasy (Miami – May 17-26)

Tango Fireworks (Los Angeles)

Nora's Week/Weekend (San Francisco)

TangoFest (Portland)

and several others we'll note soon!!!

Also coming to Chicago in 2003 with WCT

Carlos y Maria Rivarola

Carolina Zokalski y Diego DiFalco

Marcelo Martins e Vanessa Galvao

Another Brazilian discovery by Julie Koidin

"El Pulpo" y Luiza

Paulo Araujo returns in May

Cecilia Gonzalez returns in the Autumn

Winner(s) of a FREE future WCT event from attendance at the **Antonio "Junior" Cervila workshops** is/are:

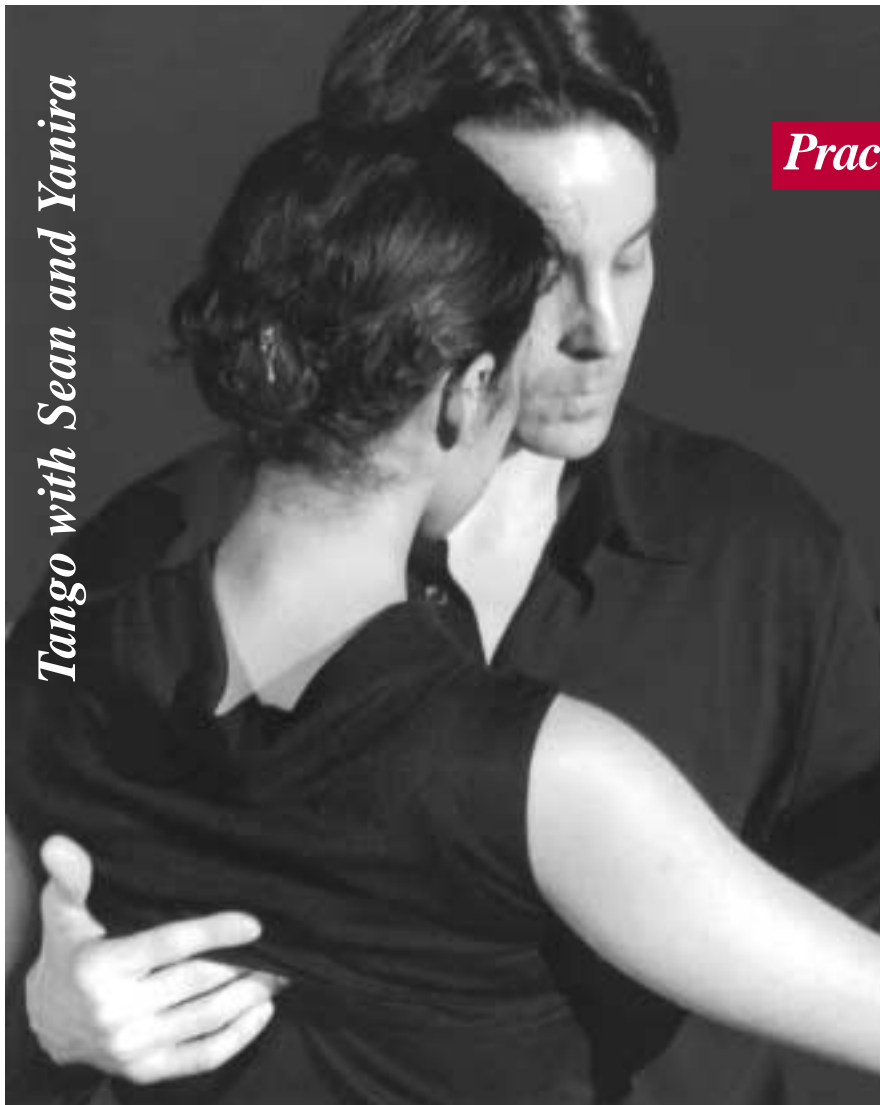
Edwin Goldfarb & Patricia Ward

Random drawing for 1 certificate per each 50 attendees

contact **Phoebe J. Grant**

WindyCityTango@yahoo.com (312) 342-4335

Tango with Sean and Yanira



Practica at Dance Connection

with Séan and Yanira

**COME TO THE PRACTICA
THAT'S TURNED
INTO A PARTY!**

Our practica-parties are every
Thursday from 7:30-9:30

**BACK TO
BUENOS AIRES!
NO PRACTICA
MARCH 27th
OR APRIL 3rd**

Cost: \$10 includes
both practica,
opening workshop
and refreshments.

Tango Classes with Séan & Yanira

On Mondays a tango basics class from 7:30 to 8:30
at *Dance Connection*, 3117 N. Clybourne.
Cost \$10

Special Workshop on Giros - March 13

Also ongoing Group Classes on Wednesdays
at *Rhythm TLC* – 327 N. Aberdeen –
to register, phone 773.625.2053

**BACK TO BUENOS AIRES! NO CLASSES FROM
MARCH 25th TO APRIL 8th**

Private Instruction and Ongoing,
Semi-Private Group Classes
For details contact
drtango@hotmail.com or 773.274.9564

Where?
Dance Connection
at 3117 North Clybourne
Just south of the intersection of
Clybourne, Belmont
and Western.
AMPLE PARKING.

Questions?
drtango@hotmail.com
or 773.274.9564

Photo by Dan Byrnes

Regional Supplement to Tango Noticias

To add, change or update information appearing in this section please send your notices to central_tango@hotmail.com

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts:

Leonardo: Tangoleon@aol.com;
217.328.1311

Joe Grohens: grohens@uiuc.edu;
217.328.1008

Milongas: *Tango Society of Central Illinois* – Monthly milongas held at *Phillips Recreation Center*, Springfield and McCullough, Urbana. Sat. - Mar. 1 st 9:00 p-12:30 a; \$5 for dance / \$7 with pre-milonga lesson at 7:30p. For more information contact Leonardo at above e-mail/phone.

Workshop: Sat., Mar. 8 with Fred and Yermen Romero at Phillips Center – 5:00-6:30 p – Salon Tango; 6:45-8:15 p – Milonga.

Practicas: Sundays 8:00-10:00 p at Erwin's.

Classes and Other Events: For schedules visit www.centraltango.com.

Milwaukee, WI

Contacts:

www.milwaukeeetango.com
Marek: argtango@hotmail.com
414.817.6775

Milongas: *La Conexión*; *Conexión* – **note changes in day of week and location for March**, every 2nd and 4th – Saturday – Mar. 8th and 22nd at Gary Allen Dance Studio (611 S. Layton Blvd. = 27th St.); Free beginner class 8:00-9:00 p; Milonga 9:00 p-1:00 a; Admission \$10 (\$7 w/ student ID, light buffet provided.; BYOB

Classes: Sundays: at Kinetic Dance Studio (3068 S. 13th St. at Oklahoma)

Intermediate/Advanced 2:30-4:30 p; Beginners' 4:30-6:00 p; \$50 for 5 classes or \$15/person/class drop-in rate. contact Marek to pre-register or to schedule privates.

Madison, WI

Contacts:

Steven Fosdal: steve@fosdal.net;
608.288.8339

Anna Snider:
asnider@nutrapark.com;
608.836.7716

Web Site: <http://tango.doit.wisc.edu>

Practicas: *Pasión del Tango* at Union South (227 N. Randall St.; Univ. of Wis. campus at the corner of Randall and Johnson; Tuesdays 7:00-10:30 p; Free.

Twin Cities, MN

Contacts:

Tango Society of Minnesota -
Mntango.org

Steve Lee: 612.729.5306

tango@winternet.com
www.geocities.com/twincities-tango

Lois Donnay: 612.822.8436
donnay@donnay.net
Frank Williams: 612.379.4565
Frankw@tc.umn.edu

Milongas:

Tango Society of Minnesota: 2nd Saturday/monthly at *Dancesport Dance Studio* in Hopkins; lesson 8:00-9:00 p; dancing 9:00 p-1:00 a; Admission: \$5 for members or \$8 for others. *Steve Lee's Tango Plus*; Friday after 2nd Saturday of each month; 9:00 p-1:00 a; lesson 9:00-9:30 p.; Admission: \$5. *Michael Corder's Mini-Milongas* at *Four Season's Dance Studio* 1637 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; Sundays 7:00-9:30 p; Admission: \$2; 612.342.0902.

Practicas:

Rebecca Trost's Tango Practicas; Tuesdays 9:00-10:30 p; \$2.

Four Season's Dance Studio (1637 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis); Mondays 9:00-10:30 p; \$4; 612.342.0902.

Lake Harriet Dance Studio (6438 Lyndale Ave., Richfield)

Structured *practica* w/ Steve Lee 9:00-10:30 p; \$4 unstructured, \$5 structured.

Classes: please see the following websites for details: www.mntango.org/tsomcal <http://i.am.tctango>

Visiting Teachers:

Florencia Taccetti – ongoing at *Four Seasons Dance*

Studio; contact at 612.379.4565 or ftaccetti@yahoo.com

For a weekly update of *Twin Cities tango activities*, go to <http://mntango.org/mailmn/listinfo> and subscribe to 'TSOM-announce.'

Ames, IA

Contacts:

Valerie Williams:
www.vjw.biz/docs/amessocdnc.htm; v@vjw.biz;
515.232.7374;

Tango Salon: Classes will not occur until April.

Detroit, MI

Contacts:

Amy & Ray:
MotorCityMilongueros.com;
313.561.3236

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In the world of Tango, it takes two.

In the world of real estate investments it also takes two, you and Henry Holt.

Don't use just anyone with a real estate license. Use a specialist!

For a commitment to your future commercial real estate investments, whether to buy or to sell, contact

Henry E. Holt II
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(630) 954-4447 • Fax (630) 954-5695
Email: holt@inlandgroup.com • www.inlandresales.com

Lori Burton:

Argentinatangodetroit.com;

586.726.2370

Amy & Ray:

MotorCityMilongueros.com;

AmyandRay@comcast.net

Milongas:

Milonga de la Motor City

Milongueros: Tuesdays at Father O'Kelly Knights of Columbus Hall (23663 Park, Dearborn), 7:00-10:00 p; -contact them at above e-mail/phone for details.

La Practica: Thursdays at the *Pittsfield Grange*; (1/2 mi. S of I94 on Ann Arbor/Saline Rd., exit 175); 7:00-10:00 p; Admission: \$10 (\$5 w/ student ID)

Special Events:

Noche Latinas – Sat. March 1st and Fri. May 9th at Giovanni Caboto Club (21275 Parent, Windsor, Ontario).

Tea Dance – Sun., Mar 2 at the *Pittsfield Grange*; 2:00-6:00 p; \$8 members (\$10 non-members); preview for vals steps for the following event.

Latin & Argentine Tango Club 10th Anniversary Celebration – October 17th at Giovanni Caboto Club (21275 Parent, Windsor, Ontario).

Lori Burton:

Argentinatangodetroit.com or Lori@Argeintinetangodetroit.com; 586.254.0560

Milongas:

Argentine Tango Detroit/Tango Suave; three times weekly see website for details.

Brickhouse. Auburn Road, Utica; 8:00 p; \$7.

Sky Club. Tuesdays- on hold

Classes: Argentine Tango

Detroit: every day of the week, 7758 Auburn, Utica; see website for details.

Kansas City, MO

Contacts:

Korey Ireland; korey@kodair.com or 816.931.9545;

<http://www.kodair.com/tango>

Milongas: Wednesdays at *Fedora on the Plaza*; 210 W. 47th; Lesson w/ Mitch Weiner 7:00-8:00 p; Live music by *Tango Lorca* 8:00-11:00 p; Free. "La Ceremonia"; Sundays at *Westport Presbyterian Church* (201 Westport Rd.); Intermediate "cool move of the week" class 7:30-8:30 p; Milonga 8:30-10:30 p; live music by *Tango Lorca*; \$5/person including pre-milonga class. Monthly Saturday night on Dec. 14; hosted by Toi Shaw at the Swing Club, 6101 Martway, Mission; dancing 8:00-11:00 p.

Practicas: Sundays 5:00-7:00 p at *The Hurricane* (Westport and Broadway)

Classes: Tuesdays at Woodside Health Club (200 W. 47th Place); Beginning & Technique 7:00-8:30 p; Intermediate/Milonga 8:30-10:00 p; \$5/person/class (no classes until 14th; practica only on 7th).

Roxanne McKenny classes; Tuesdays (Body Parts Technique series = improve your dance); Thursdays (Legoland = get out of the rut); Fridays (Tango Basics = building community); Weekends (variety of topics to freshen your repertoire); contact Korey Ireland at above e-mail/phone.

Mt. Vernon, MO

Contacts:

Karen Whitesell: 417.471.1001; Fax 417.471.1002; www.thelearningdepot.com/murrays-1/

Classes: Wednesdays at *Murray's Vintage Venue* (202 S Hickory, Mt. Vernon); 7:00-9:00 p; All Levels; \$5/person/class.

St. Louis, MO

Contacts:

Carter Maier: tngomn@hotmail.com Estella & Randy:

tangoartists@tangorosa.com

Lourdes Ylagan:

Lylagan@path.wustl.edu

Milongas:

Club Viva; second Tuesday of every month; contact Roxanne. *Soulard Coffee Garden*; 910 Geyer Ave.; call 314.241.1464 *Monthly Milonga*; at Focal Point; Admission: \$10; Call Estella & Randy **Practicas**: First two Mondays at *Focal Point* in Maplewood, MO; 8:00-10:00 p; Admission: \$5; call 314.849.3007.

Classes:

Estella & Randy: call for classes or see schedule at www.tangorosa.com Roxanne: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced

Tulsa, OK

Contact:

Bob & Gretchen Manhart; OKTANGO@prodigy.net

Milongas: Contact for details.

Classes: Every other Saturday 6-8 p. \$8/person or \$15/couple.

Fayetteville, AR

Contact:

Elayne Hency at *Elayne's Dance-The Art of Social Dance*; elaynesdance@aol.com; 479.521.6683 or 479.263.6683

Practicas & Milongas:

Contact for more details.

Classes: Mondays, monthly sessions – contact for schedule

Ann Arbor, MI

Contacts:

www.umich.edu/~umtango; umtango@umich.edu 734.327.0642

Membership/Fees: All events are free for members and 1st timers; membership is \$10 for students, \$15 for non-students per 4 month semester

Classes/Practicas: every Wednesday (check website for location)-; 8:00-11:00 p-

Milonga: Saturday, Mar. 15th and 29th at Pendelton Room,

Michigan Union (530 S. State St.); Beginners' lesson 8:00-9:00 p; dancing 9:00 p-1:00a. Workshops: Tom Stermitz on Fri. & Sat., Mar. 14th and 15th; (check website for details).

Denver and Boulder, CO

Contacts:

www.danceoftheheart.com;

Deb Sclar:

deb@danceoftheheart.com

Milongas:

Boulder - 2nd and last in Boulder at *Bantaba*; intro. class 8:30-9:30 p. (check w/ Deb for special topic each time); milonga 9:30 p-??; \$10 for class and milonga; \$7 for milonga.

Denver - every Friday at *Marilyn's Mercury Café*;

www.mercurycafe.com

Colorado Springs - every Wednesday at *Rum Bay* (Fat Alley Jazz upstairs room); 7:00 p-????; www.tangosprings.com

Practicas: Boulder - Mondays: 10:00 p-??? at *Bantaba*

Classes:

Boulder - Mondays at *Bantaba*; Fundamentals 7:00-8:30 p; Intermediate 8:30-10:00 p.

Special Events:

Performance of Ana Maria Stekelman's Tangokineses on Tues., Mar. 11 at Historic Paramount Theatre in Denver (see www.historicparamounttheatre.com).

¡ Nuevo Tango Intensive Day on Sat., Mar. 8th at Pearl Studio (2126 Pearl, Boulder); 1:00-5:30 p; all 3 classes are Intermediate/Advanced; more info at contact/website listed above.

To add, change or update information appearing in this section please send your notices to central_tango@hotmail.com

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to the music, engaging in rhythmic play, developing a heart-to-heart connection with our partner, and spontaneously creating as the dance floor and our skills permit.

Finding Authenticity

In Buenos Aires, tango is so ingrained in the culture that even someone who doesn't like tango knows a lot about it. Many *porteños* (citizens of Buenos Aires) grow up with an inner sense of

side this frame of reference are dependent upon our instructors to a degree that is unfathomable to most Argentines, including those Argentines who regularly teach tango to foreigners. We must learn to hear the rhythm of the music before we move to it. We must understand that tango is an improvisational dance that engages the intellect, but is expressed from the heart. In short, we must understand the craft and the heart of tango before we create the

“...knowing the rhythm of the music, and implicitly understanding that the essential elements of the dance are improvisation, moving to the music, engaging in rhythmic play, and developing a heart-to-heart connection with one's partner.”

tango—hearing the music on a daily basis, knowing the rhythm of the music, and implicitly understanding that the essential elements of the dance are improvisation, moving to the music, engaging in rhythmic play, and developing a heart-to-heart connection with one's partner. Because *porteños* come to the tango with an implicit knowledge of its essential elements, learning the steps and figures can be sufficient for them to develop the ability to dance tango authentically.

Those of us who learn out-

art of dancing it.

However, taken outside its original milieu much of the available instruction in Argentine tango conveys only the craft. It unintentionally conveys the view that the dominant style is salon executed in a relatively open embrace, perhaps with a few *fantasia* or *nuevo* elements, and that tango is largely danced through the execution of memorized figures that are based on an eight-count basic. Only a few instructors, and a few instructional videos, try to convey the improvisational nature of tango. Few

instructors – and no videos – attempt to convey any of the ‘inner senses’ of tango, such as: moving to the music, engaging in rhythmic play, and developing a heart-to-heart connection with one's partner.

For those of us outside tango's original cultural milieu, finding our way to the inner tango is largely a personal challenge. Trips to milongas in Buenos Aires can be helpful, as can be working with an instructor who is capable of bridging aspects of the cultural gap that separates us from that sort of authenticity that makes dancing tango a transcendent and sublime experience. Building a collection of tango music for social dancing, listening to it regularly, and learning to move to the music without a partner can also be helpful. Perhaps the greatest help, however, is simply understanding what elements might be missing from our dancing and/or the instruction we are receiving and looking for them in our own hearts and experiences.

For another discussion of authenticity and tango, check out the December 2001 issue of Noticias and the interview there with Diego Amorín of Tango Danza.