

# Tango Noticias



Photo courtesy of Geofry Broadhead

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Translated by Séan Erwin

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# Una historia del tango, Part III

(continued from June)

By Jorge Luis Borges  
Translated by Séan Erwin

For the first two installments of this essay see the May and June issues of *Noticias* at [tangonoticias.com](http://tangonoticias.com)

Later, the genre retold, like certain French naturalist novels or certain Hogarth engravings, the local vicissitudes of the *harlot's progress*: *Luego fuiste la amiguita – de un viejo boticario – y el hijo de un comisario – todo el vento te sacó*.<sup>1</sup> Later on the deplorable conversion of combative or impoverished *barrios* to decency – for instance: *Puente Alsina -- ¿Dónde está ese malevaje?*<sup>2</sup> Or, further: *¿Dónde están aquellos hombres y esas chinas, – vinchas rojas y chambergos que Requena conoció? Dónde está mi Villa Crespo de otros tiempos? Se vinieron los judíos, Triunvirato se acabó?*<sup>3</sup> From very early on, the anxiety of clandestine or sentimental love had exercised pens: *¿No te acordás que conmigo – te pusistes un sombrero – y aquel cinturón de cuero – que a otra mina le afané.*<sup>4</sup> Tangos of recrimination, tangos of hatred, tangos mocking and bitter all were written and all were resistant to transcription and to memory. All the everydayness of city life was entering into tango; the low life and the slums were not its only themes. In the prologue of his *Satires*, Juvenal wrote memorably that everything which moved men—desire, fear, anger, carnal enjoyment, intrigues, happiness—would be material for his book; with pardonable exaggerations we could apply his famous *quidquid agunt homines*<sup>5</sup> to the entire sum of

tango lyrics. We might also say that these lyrics form a vast, unconnected *comédie humaine* of the life of Buenos Aires. It is well-known that Wolf, at the end of the eighteenth century, wrote that the *Iliad*, before being an epic, was a series of songs and rhapsodies; this permits us, perhaps, the prophecy that, with time, the lyrics of tango will form a long civic poem, or will suggest to some ambitious person the writing of that poem.

Andrew Fletcher's similar statement is well known: *If they allow me to write all the ballads of a nation, it is not important to me who writes the laws;* the dictum suggests that the common or traditional poetry may influence feelings and dictate conduct. Applying this conjecture to Argentine tango, we would see in this a mirror of our realities and, at the same time, a mentor or model of a certainly ‘malicious’ influence. Milongas and tangos – the original ones – could have been foolish, or at least unreflective, but they were heroic and happy. The later tango is a resentful one that deplores with a sentimental luxury its own miseries and celebrates shamelessly the miseries of others.

I remember how around 1926 I was in the habit of attributing to the Italians (more concretely, the Genoese from the *barrio* of *La Boca*) the degeneration of the tango. In that myth, or fantasy, of our ‘native’ tango corrupted by ‘gringos’<sup>6</sup> I see a clear symptom, now, of certain nationalist heresies that, afterwards, laid the world to waste — at the impulse of the *gringos*, naturally.<sup>7</sup> It was not the bandoneón, an instrument I once ridiculed as cowardly, nor the assiduousness of composers of a fluvial *suburbio* who have made it that the tango may be what it is, but the entire republic. Moreover, those old *criollos* who engendered the tango were called Bevilacqua, Greco or de Bassi...

To my denigration of the tango from our period someone will want to

object that the passage from manliness or boastfulness to sadness is not necessarily blameworthy and could even be an indication of maturity. My imaginary contender could very well add that the innocent and valorous Ascasubi is to the plaintive Hernández what the first tango is to the latest and that no one — except, *perhaps*, Jorge Luis Borges — has dared to infer from this diminution of happiness that *Martín Fierro* is inferior to *Paulino Lucero*. The answer is easy: the difference is not only in its hedonistic tone – the difference is in the moral tone. In the everyday tango of Buenos Aires, in the tango of family evenings and respectable *confiterías*, there is a trivial vulgarity, a taste of infamy that the tango of the knife and the brothel never even suspected.

Musically, the tango ought not to be important; its only importance is that which we give to it. This reflection is correct, but perhaps applies to everything. For example, to our own personal death or to the woman who disdains us... The tango can be debated, and we have debates over it, but it still encloses, as does all that which is truthful, a secret. To the approval of all, dictionaries of music register tango’s short, sufficient definition. That definition is thoroughly elementary and promises its reader no difficulties, but the French or Spanish composer who, trusting in such a definition, contrives to correctly craft a tango discovers, and not without amazement, that he has contrived something that our ears do not recognize, that our memory does not harbor and that our bodies reject. It might be said that without the evenings and nights of Buenos Aires a tango cannot be made, and that in the heavens there waits for us Argentines the Platonic idea of the tango, its universal form (scarcely spelled out by *La tablada* and *El choclo*)<sup>8</sup> a happy species which, although humble, has its place in the universe.

*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2*

## The Challenge

There is a legendary or historical account – or just an account made of both legend and history at the same time (which, perhaps, is another way of saying legendary) – that demonstrates the cult of courage. Its best written versions can be found in the novels of Eduardo Gutiérrez, now unjustly forgotten, such as *Hormiga negra*<sup>9</sup> or *Juan Moreira*; among its oral versions the first I heard came from a Buenos Aires neighborhood, named *Tierra del Fuego*, that was bound by a jail, a river, and a cemetery. The protagonist of that version was Juan Muraña, a cart driver and knife fighter, in whom converged all the stories of courage passing among the docks on the Northside. A man from *Los corrales* or *Las barracas*, knowing the fame of Juan Muraña – whom he has never seen – came to fight him from his slum in the South; he provokes him in a warehouse, and the two went out to fight in the street; they wound one another – Muraña, in the end, marks the other man and says to him: ‘I’m leaving you your life so that you can look for me again.’

### Conclusion in August

#### (Footnotes)

- 1 “Next you became the little mistress/of an old apothecary/and the police chief’s son/knocked the wind out of you.”
- 2 “Puente [Bridge] Alsina – Where is that malevolent one?”
- 3 “Where are those men and their chicks /those red bandannas and slouched hats that *Requena* knew? /Where’s the Villa Crespo of other times? /Then the Jews came and the Triumvirate was finished.”
- 4 “Do you remember when with me/you put on that hat/and that leather belt/I’d worked off another *mina*?” [*mina*: both a mine – like a silver mine – but also slang for a young woman].
- 5 “In whatever ways human beings act.”
- 6 Generally ‘foreigner’ but more often used, of course, to specify particularly American and English foreigners. Everyone knows this already, but this word reverberates in a lot of ways – both for us, now, and for Borges especially given the timing of his project; see next note.
- 7 The Spanish here reads: *En aquel mito, o fantasía, de un tango ‘criollo’ maleado por los ‘gringos’ veo un claro síntoma, ahora, de ciertas herejías nacionalistas que han asolado el mundo después – a impulso de los gringos, naturalmente.* I find this an amazing statement for a few reasons: 1) This paragraph, and the ones immediately following it, clearly reveal Borges’ intention to use the history of tango as a way of commenting, indirectly, on the political regime of Perón in the early 50’s; 2) Those of us who have been part of any tango community for any length of time have long ago grown thoroughly accustomed to this rhetoric of the *gringo* as the source of tango’s contamination, something Borges clearly identifies here as having its origins and manifestation from the 1920’s – not because of the influence of *gringos* – in the narrow sense – but because of the influence on tango by ‘Italians.’ I find his remarks in this paragraph especially marvelous given that this period – the 20’s and 30’s – is often now cited by our ‘authoritative’ contemporaries as the time when *tango* persisted in its somehow *purest forms*, both as music and dance. For Borges, apparently, this would not be the case, and the implications of his statement here suggest that he wasn’t alone in this evaluation of the state of tango during and in his own time.
- 8 *La tablada* = the corral of a slaughterhouse; *el choclo* = the corn-cob, i.e., a man’s erection.
- 9 *La hormiga negra* = black ant

*In the world of Tango,  
it takes two.*

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[www.tangonoticias.com](http://www.tangonoticias.com)**

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Advertise in both the *Tango Noticias* newsletter and our website [www.tangonoticias.com](http://www.tangonoticias.com). The cost of advertising per month on the website is only an additional 50% of the monthly newsletter fee:

Size of ad	Newsletter	+	Website	Total
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whole page	\$85		\$42	\$127



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Chicago, IL 60603

## **New Milonga! Cousin's on Wednesdays**

I am always suspicious of milongas in restaurants. In the past, many milongas I've attended in these venues seemed to me more geared to sell drinks and dinners than to actually provide a place for substantial dancing. The dance floor has tended to be small and cramped, waiters inevitably walk through the dance floor, and often the genre of the place doesn't complement the activity of dancing this particular dance. I remember distinctly a milonga set in a breakfast place – the mix of omelets and giros seemed and was entirely off. At the same time, I think this almost now unconscious attitude has kept me from enjoying a different sort of tango experience – one not necessarily better or worse than those situated in places specifically designed for many dancing couples – just different.

I was confronted by this need to re-evaluate when attending the new milonga on Wednesdays hosted by Somer Surgit at *Cousin's*, a Turkish restaurant located at 2833 North Broadway. I was really very tired that Wednesday and usually that would put me in a mood to focus on nothing but the faults of something – whatever it might be. That really didn't happen. Thinking over the evening later I suspect the reason for my positive appreciation of the evening was two-fold:

1) The pleasantness of the host, Somer. I like to be greeted when I come to a milonga by someone who smiles, seems genuinely happy that I've come and even takes a moment to make sure I have a seat. I've noticed this to be a feature of some milongas – especially here in Chicago – and I find my experience is radically different in these milongas than in those where this doesn't happen. Somer did all of these for me, and I'm pretty sure he did this for each person who walked in during the evening. He even flagged down a waiter for me at one point. He did this even though there didn't seem to be an admission price for the milonga; the \$5 admission seems to apply only to those attending the introductory class (though I could now owe Somer \$5).

2) The ambiance of the place. Materially speaking, the floor is solid; it's a pretty (wood) rectangular space surrounded by tables. It seemed to accommodate easily about 8 to 10 careful couples  
*continued on page 13*

# CHICAGO TANGO

## CHICAGO MILONGAS

### Mondays

Souk, 1552 N. Milwaukee, Chicago  
8:30 pm—12:30 am \$5 cover  
Complimentary class from 7:30-8:30 pm  
20% discount on food and drinks for  
tango dancers. For more details contact  
Somer Surgit at 773.807.5704 or  
[somersurgit@hotmail.com](mailto:somersurgit@hotmail.com).

### Tuesdays

Club 720, 720 N. Wells - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor; Chicago  
8:00 pm – midnight; \$5 cover, cash bar  
Complimentary lessons 7:30-8:30 pm  
on the mezzanine with rotating guest  
instructors. Visit [www.Club720.com](http://www.Club720.com) for  
more information.

### Wednesdays

#### Starts July 9th!!

Tango in the Park, just south of Buckingham  
Fountain in Grant's Park  
8:00 – 10:45 pm; Free  
Dance under the stars and watch fireworks  
while dancing in the rose garden just south  
of Buckingham Fountain. The dance floor  
is soft asphalt. Bring a chair or blanket.  
Check weather around 7:30 pm – if in  
doubt don't come out! Even if it has rained  
and then stopped it may rain again. Note:  
the parking meters along Columbus Avenue  
now require a quarter every 5 minutes!!  
Contact Beth Braun 847.846.5611 or  
[bethdanceb@aol.com](mailto:bethdanceb@aol.com) for details

### A New Milonga!!

Cousin's Turkish Dining Milonga – 2833 N.  
Broadway Avenue  
8:30 pm - Midnight – Class from 7-8:  
30p.m. \$5 cover  
Contact Somer Surgit for information:  
773.807.5704 or [somersurgit@hotmail.com](mailto:somersurgit@hotmail.com)

### Thursdays

Milonga Loca – at one of two locations:  
Erie Street Café, 536 W. Erie or Mi Ciudad,  
3041 W. Irving, Chicago  
8:30 pm – midnight No charge  
Beginners' lesson: \$5, 7:30 – 8:30 pm  
with Pamela Stratemann. Check  
[www.milongaloca.com](http://www.milongaloca.com) for each  
week's location or contact Bill Duvall  
at 773.549.0935 [williamduvall@ameritech.net](mailto:wiliamduvall@ameritech.net)

### First & Third Fridays – July 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

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

9:00 pm – 1:00 am \$10; light refreshments;  
BYOB

4<sup>th</sup> – "Red, White, and Blue" – Wear your  
favorite patriotic colors and enjoy a hot  
evening of dancing. Our guests are more  
sparkly than the fireworks!

18<sup>th</sup> – "Ice Cream Social" – It's the  
heat of summer and everyone loves a  
cool ice cream sundae. We are looking  
for a few ice cream makers, so we can  
provide the homemade kind of cool  
dessert. Bring a favorite topping to share.  
Call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137,  
Beth Braun 847.846.5611, or  
[www.tangoparatodos.com](http://www.tangoparatodos.com) for details.

### Last Friday of the Month – July 25<sup>th</sup>

Milonga Nuestro Tango

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

8:00 pm – midnight \$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](mailto:WindyCityTango@yahoo.com)

### Saturday – July 5<sup>th</sup>

Giddings Plaza, 4729 North Lincoln Avenue  
(Beside Café SelMarie)

9p.m. – 1a.m. \$5 donation  
Contact Beth Braun at 847.846.5611 or  
[bethdanceb@aol.com](mailto:bethdanceb@aol.com)

### Saturday – July 19<sup>th</sup>

Recuerdo, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago

9:00 pm – 3:00 am \$15 includes  
light buffet, BYOB

Saturdays in August – 2nd, 16th, 23rd.  
Contact Carlos Favre or Michelle  
Costello at 312.593.3553 or  
[recuerdochclub@aol.com](mailto:recuerdochclub@aol.com). Check their  
website [www.recuerdochclub.com/](http://www.recuerdochclub.com/)

## CHICAGO PRACTICAS

### Wednesdays 7:30 to midnight

Located at Ñ – restaurant and bar  
2977 North Elston Avenue, Chicago  
Hosted by Javier Gomez and Olga  
Drop-in Class from 7:30-9:30 followed by

practice afterwards.

Cost \$10

### Thursdays 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Dance Connection, 3117 N. Clybourn,  
Chicago

Drop-in Class: 7:30-8:15; practica 8:15  
onwards.

Hosted by Sean and Yanira

Cost \$10.

Contact Séan Erwin, [drtango@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.tangochicago.com) for details.

### Sundays 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Schopf 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](http://www.tangoparatodos.com) for details.

## CHICAGO CLASSES

**On-Going Classes:** call  
instructors for details or check  
the teachers' pages on our website  
[www.tangonoticias.com](http://www.tangonoticias.com):

► Al Gates

► Séan Erwin and Yanira Collado

► Pamela Stratemann

► Elena Robles

► Erica Sutton and Douglas Rivera

► Carlos Favre & Michelle Costello

► Fred Romero

► Javier Gomez and Olga Kokavora

# Gloria & Eduardo Arquimbau

the last living legends of Authentic Argentine Tango

July 30 – August 6, 2003



<b>Thursday July 30</b>	Canyenge-Primitive Tango	7:00 pm - 8:30pm	all levels
<b>Friday August 1</b>	Rhythmic Tango	7:00 pm - 8:30pm	all levels
<b>Saturday Aug. 2</b>	Tango: Ocho Milonguero	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	all levels
	Milonga	1:35 pm – 3:05 pm	all levels
	Tango: Giros	3:15 pm – 4:45 pm	Intermediate/Adv*
<b>Sunday Aug.3</b>	Tango: enrosques and sacadas	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Intermediate/Adv*
	Milonga Traspie	1:35 pm – 3:05 pm	Intermediate/Adv*
	Vals	3:15 pm – 4:45 pm	all levels

\* entry level (less than 6 months dancing tango) will not be allowed without the master's approval

#### Guest teachers for Danny & Elena

<b>Monday Aug 4</b>	Tango: dance to Pugliese (boleos, sacadas, etc)	7:00 pm – 8:30pm
<b>Wednesday Aug 6</b>	Tango: dance to playful D'Arienzo	7:00 pm – 8:30pm

**Location:** Seward Park Field House, 375 W. Elm, Chicago. There is no Elm St – there is only one building between Division and Hill St, west side of Orleans Street.

**Cost:** All walk-in (without reservation) classes are \$30.00 per person. Thursday Class: everyone pays \$15

#### Early Bird Discount:

3 classes: intermediate/ Adv.	\$ 75 (with Monday and Wednesday \$ 95)
4 classes : All levels	\$ 90 (with Monday and Wednesday \$110)
7 classes : all classes	\$150 (with Monday and Wednesday \$170)

Monday & Wednesday classes: \$10 per person with any 3 weekend classes. Without weekend classes is \$ 30 per person.  
Limited Privates are available:

Non workshop attendees: \$110.00 per hour

Workshop attendees: Single private \$90.00 per hour

Two privates \$85 per hour

Three privates or more: \$80 per hour

**All privates must be paid in advance.** Be on time or lose your time.

**For any cancellation after 24 hours there are no refunds.**

**Early bird deadline is by July 15, 2003.** Timely registration and payment guarantees you a space in the classes, as well as a discount. See our website [www.TangoInChicago.com](http://www.TangoInChicago.com) or call Elena or Danny at 773.550.2646 for details. Make check payable to

**Tango Sentido Production, Inc**

4751 W Touhy, suite 201

Lincolnwood, Il. 60712

# C H E V E N G A S G O

**July 5<sup>th</sup> – Milonga Under the Stars!**  
Located at Giddings Plaza, 4729 North Lincoln Avenue, next to *Café SelMarie*. The plaza is newly renovated with a flagstone surface, iron benches and other places to sit. The café has outdoor seating right on the plaza. Street parking and two city lots with meters at \$.25/hour are within one block. 9p.m. – 1a.m. \$5 donation appreciated. Contact Beth Braun at 847.846.5611 or [bethdance@aol.com](mailto:bethdance@aol.com).

**July 7<sup>th</sup> – Tango in Daley Plaza**  
Organized by Beth Braun, *TangoVida* will perform a showcase of the forms of social Argentine Tango during the first 20 minutes of every hour. Open dancing will follow the demonstrations – shoes for dancing outdoors strongly recommended. Contact Beth Braun 847.846.5611 or [bethdanceb@aol.com](mailto:bethdanceb@aol.com) for details.

**July 9<sup>th</sup> – Tango in the Park Begins Again on Wednesdays**  
*South of Buckingham Fountain - Grant's Park*  
8:00 – 10:45 pm; Free. Dance under the stars and watch fireworks while dancing in the rose Garden just south of Buckingham Fountain. The dance floor is soft asphalt. Bring a chair or blanket. Check weather around 7:30 pm – if in doubt don't come out! Even if it has rained and then stopped it may rain again. Please note: the parking meters along Columbus Avenue now require a quarter every 5 minutes – Yes, 5 minutes per quarter! Contact your alderman to help us get this changed. Contact Beth Braun 847.846.5611 or [bethdanceb@aol.com](mailto:bethdanceb@aol.com) for details.

## July 11<sup>th</sup> – Leader's Technique Class for Men and Women

Sean will host a workshop dealing with different areas of technique for leads. Some of the subjects to be covered will be the embrace, musicality and turns. Both men and women are welcome. Cost \$15 at Dance Connection, 7-8:30, 3117 North Clybourne.

## July 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Brooke Burdett and Javier Rochwarger Workshops

Brooke and Javier return to Chicago for workshops and private lessons. Expect the unexpected! Classes to amuse, delight, and basically re-energize your tango dancing! Complete workshop schedule will be online at [www.tangoparatodos.com](http://www.tangoparatodos.com) or call Erica Sutton to book your private lesson right now at 773.505.1577.

## July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup>

### Gloria and Eduardo Arquimbau return for Workshops

*Seward Park Field House, 375 W. Elm*  
They are back! Gloria and Eduardo Arquimbau have been dancing Tango for 50 years! They began working together as youngsters with Francisco Canaro's orchestra in the 1950's and they have risen to become one of the most popular tango dancing couples in the world. Their style is that of the authentic milongueros. They have performed in Central America, Europe, Japan and the U.S., thrilling audiences in venues ranging from "The Ed Sullivan Show" to the Congress Center of the Kremlin in Moscow. They performed with the critically acclaimed musical *Tango Argentino* from 1985 to

1992 and with the 1990 *Forever Tango* tour throughout the United States and Canada.

#### Workshop Schedule:

July 30, *Canyenge-Primitive Tango*, 7:00 – 8:30 (all levels). Friday Aug. 1, *Rhythmic Tango*, 7:00-8:30 (all levels). Sat. Aug. 2, *Tango: Ocho Milonguero*, 12:00 – 1:30 (all levels); *Milonga*, 1:35– 3:05 (all levels); *Tango: Giros*, 3:15 – 4:45 (Intermediate/Adv\*). Sun. Aug. 3, *Tango: enrosques and sacadas* 12:00– 1:30 (Intermediate/Adv\*); *Milonga Traspie*, 1:35– 3:05 (Intermediate/Adv\*); *Vals*, 3:15– 4:45 (all levels)

#### As guest teachers for Danny & Elena:

Mon. Aug 4, *Tango: dance to Pugliese (boleos, sacadas, etc)* from 7:00–8:30. Wed. Aug 6, *Tango: dance to playful D'Arienzo*, 7:00–8:30. Classes will include tango, milonga and vals. Classes begin at 7:00 p.m. during the week and three classes beginning at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Cost for walk-ins is \$30 per class. Discounts available with pre-registration prior to July 15<sup>th</sup>. Privates are also available. See further details on page 6 of *Tango Noticias*. Check Elena's website at [www.TangoInChicago.com](http://www.TangoInChicago.com) or call Elena or Danny at 773.550.2646.

## August 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Authentic

### Buenos Aires: Summer Tango Tour

It may be a little chilly in Buenos Aires in August, but it's hotter than ever in the milongas! Come and experience the tango scene at its most authentic – away from the crowds of tourists that pack the city in high season. You'll get more immersed into *porteño* life and culture, and have more opportunities to dance with Argentineans at the milongas. Our favorite transplants, Kara and Nina, are the organizers of this trip. Contact them at [encuentrotango@hotmail.com](mailto:encuentrotango@hotmail.com) for details.

## August 9<sup>th</sup> – Tango Gala Evening

*Chicago Athletic Association, 12 S.*

*Michigan Ave., Chicago*

We haven't had a big gala event in some time, so add this to your calendar. The Club's magnificent main dining room will dazzle you with its Old World elegance, exquisite décor and a breathtaking view of Lake Michigan. Hosted by Carlos Favre and Michelle Costello. Stayed tuned to *Tango Noticias* next month for additional details. Contact Carlos Favre or Michelle Costello at 312.593.3553 or [recuerdochclub@aol.com](mailto:recuerdochclub@aol.com). Check their website for further details [www.recuerdochclub.com](http://www.recuerdochclub.com).

## E N C U E N T R O T A N G O

*Are you a tango fanatic?*

*Are you dying to come to Buenos Aires,  
but don't know where to begin?*

Let us help you!

Some of you may already know us, Kara and Nina, two Midwest milongueras now living in Buenos Aires. You'll feel right at home with us as your personal guides. Our extensive experience (and Spanish!) inside the community will bring you directly to the pulse of Tango in Buenos Aires.

#### *Want to know how?*

By assessing your individual needs and desires we will

In essence, help you adapt quickly and effortlessly to Buenos Aires and its incredible tango scene!

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Yanira*

## **WHO'S HOT IN BUENOS AIRES?**

### **Javier and Geraldine:**

*By Natalie Pepa*

#### *The house had a railing...*

*...painted with sorrow and ballads of love.* This is the way *Pedacito de Cielo* – one of the most beautiful Argentine waltzes – begins. It is also the first thing you see as you approach the home of Javier Rodriguez (28) and Geraldine Rojas (21) in Buenos Aires. They, too, are among the most beautiful tango dancers in the world today. Though not yet very well known abroad – except for those fortunate to have seen them perform in Buenos Aires or Europe – they will indubitably win the hearts of the world with the magic of their dance.

They met seven years ago at a dance at *Sin Rumbo* club in Villa Urquiza, a *barrio* known for its good *milongueros*. Something happened that night to bring them together and they have been partners in tango and life ever since.

Though only fourteen at the time, Geraldine had already been dancing for years. Her mother and stepfather are great *milonguero* dancers, and they began to bring her to the *milongas* when she was six years old. Geraldine loved tango from the start and soon was a regular. She asked older *milongueros* to dance with her with an innocent – “*Baile conmigo, tio.*” And they adored her and took her under their wing teaching her the *milonguero* style and all the intricate steps they knew. Everything came together with Geraldine—natural beauty, innate ability, passion, dedication and the right conditions. All of these elements have made her indisputably the best female tango dancer in the world today.

Javier's career began at 19 when he



*Javier, Natalie, Guillermo Thorp (a journalist for La Cronica newspaper in BA) and Geraldine.*

decided to study tango, which he had seen both his father and stepmother dance for many years. It was shortly after this that he met Geraldine and continued learning with her. He is an agile and elegant dancer, the perfect foil for making her shine.

To say that Geraldine *dances* is an understatement. She glides with such speed and fluidity that she appears to be hovering over the dance floor. While her legs are executing sensuous long strides, her feet embellish each step with amazing movements. You can watch Geraldine many times and she will amaze you with still another new foot movement. In her nearly five inch heels and amazing foot extension, it seems as if she was dancing on the nails of her toes.

On April 10, 2003 I had the pleasure of being with them for an interview arranged by Guillermo Thorp, a journalist of the Buenos Aires newspaper, *La Cronica*. We sat in the living room of their house, which they are remodeling and spoke about their past and future.

When I asked Geraldine who were her most influential tango teachers, she

said it was her mother and stepfather, all the old *milongueros* and Gloria and Eduardo Arquimba. The latter helped Geraldine and Javier turn their dance into an artistic interpretation for the stage.

Javier says that in order to dance tango well “you must love the floor and fall in love for three minutes,” and about Geraldine’s footwork he says “her adornments are a tiny slice of feeling in the moment.” “Yes,” adds Geraldine, “you must feel the music, become emotional about it, vibrate and improvise.”

A few days after the interview they were leaving on a world tour to perform and teach tango. They would return to Japan and Europe but were particularly excited about their first tour in the U.S.A. They were to be in San Francisco from June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>.

In spite of the accolades Geraldine and Javier have remained humble and accessible. But they know that they are unique in their dance and they are ready to show the world.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITORS**

Dear *Tango Noticias*,

### **This is an open letter to all our lovely tango partners.**

We want you to know that each one of you is special to us and we look forward to dancing with all of you at the milongas. Sometimes after three, four or five hours of dancing in high heels, the pain in our feet tells us to take a break, maybe for a couple of songs or for an entire *tanda*. If we turn you down for a dance at that time, please don't be offended, especially if you see us dancing the next *tanda* with someone else (because you were probably similarly occupied when it began). And if we are blessed with two invitations to dance at the same moment, and you are not the one we have accepted to dance with first, we do hope you will ask us again. Each of you is a challenge and a joy and without you there would be no reason to spend all the hours practicing, primping and sometimes even suffering pain in our feet!

This being a small tango community and, as custom permits, we may sometimes take the initiative to ask you to dance. If you refuse us two or three times in a row, we'll get the message and won't ask you again. However, if you later decide you'd like to dance with us, ask us and we will happily accept. We believe in dancing with everyone – beginners, intermediates and advanced. We remember when we were just learning and when a few kind, experienced dancers gave us a chance to get much needed experience at the milongas. We also recognize that we still have a lot to learn. After all, tango is like life: some do a better job than others, but there is always room for improvement!

See you on the dance floor,

**Babette Klein, Margaret Zaremba**

# **Lake Street Milonga**

### **“Red, White, and Blue”**

**Friday, July 4th - 9:00 pm – 1:00 am**

Wear your favorite patriotic colors and enjoy a hot evening of dancing. Our guests are more sparkly than the fireworks!

942 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago

### **“Ice Cream Social”**

**Friday, July 18th, 9:00 pm – 1:00 am**

It's the heat of summer and everyone loves a cool ice cream sundae. We are looking for a few ice cream makers, so we can provide the homemade kind of cool dessert. Bring a favorite topping to share.

\$10 - light refreshments; BYOB

Call Jan Carpenter 312.258.6137, Beth Braun 847.846.5611 or check [tangoparatodos.com](http://tangoparatodos.com) for details



# **WindyCityTango, Inc.**

Coming to Chicago in 2003 to early 2004

**Cecilia Gonzalez** - September 11-15

In conjunction with Ray Barbosa

**Nito y Elba Garcia** - September 17-24

In conjunction with Fred Romero

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**Marcelo Martins e Vanessa Galvao**

Another Brazilian discovery by Julie Koidin

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For those of you who enjoyed (or missed but wished you hadn't) ...

**Carolina Zokalski & Diego DiFalco,**

here are other opportunities to study with them:

1. Purchase their new set of instructional videos "One Step Further" (4 for \$150 + shipping)
2. Join them for their Sept. seminar in B.A.
3. Join them at another U.S. festival

Contact Phoebe for further information

## Upcoming WCT Events

(sponsored or endorsed)

**Spring, Summer and Autumn 2003**

**Tango Fireworks** (LA - June 27-July 5)

[www.apurotango.com](http://www.apurotango.com) - with Carolina & Diego!!

**Nora's Week/Weekend** (San Francisco - July 4-11) [www.tangoweek.com](http://www.tangoweek.com)

**Brooke Burdette** with Erica Sutton - [www.tangoparatodos.com](http://www.tangoparatodos.com)

**Gloria y Eduardo Arquimbau** (July 30-Aug. 7) with Elena Robles - [www.tangoinchicago.com](http://www.tangoinchicago.com)

**Las Vegas Tango Party** (Las Vegas - Aug. 29-31) [www.lasvegastango.com](http://www.lasvegastango.com)

**World Tango Festival II** (BA - Oct. 5-12) [www.worldtangofestival.com.ar](http://www.worldtangofestival.com.ar) - with Paulo!!!

**TangoFest** (Portland - Oct. 15-19)

[www.claysdancestudio.com](http://www.claysdancestudio.com)- with Paulo!!!

**Fandango de Tango** (Austin - Nov. 26-30) [www.learn2dance.com](http://www.learn2dance.com) - with Carolina & Diego!!

and several others we'll note soon!!!

Winner(s) of a FREE future WCT event from attendance at the Lorena Gasse & Airel Barrionuevo and Paulo Araujo workshops &/or private lessons are: Louise Kwaan, Ala Peluchiwski, Donita Slaska, Elizabeth Stewart, Patti Ward  
Winner(s) from attendance at the **Carolina Zokalski & Diego Di Falco** workshops / private lessons will be announced. Random drawing for 1 certificate per each 50 attendees

Contact Phoebe J. Grant

[WindyCityTango@yahoo.com](mailto:WindyCityTango@yahoo.com) (312) 342-4335  
or visit [www.tangoparatodos.com](http://www.tangoparatodos.com)

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# C E N T R A L

## **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 first Saturday of each month at *Phillips Recreation Center*, Springfield and McCullough, Urbana.; 9:00 p-12:00 a; \$5 for dance / \$7 with pre-milonga beginner lesson at 7:30 p. For more information contact Leonardo at above e-mail/phone.

## **MILWAUKEE, WI**

### **Contacts:**

[www.milwaukeetango.com](http://www.milwaukeetango.com)

Marek Szotkowski:

[argtango@hotmail.com](mailto:argtango@hotmail.com) 414.817.6775

**Milongas:** *La Conexión*; – Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup>

– 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:** For schedules visit [www.milwaukeetango.com](http://www.milwaukeetango.com) or contact Marek at above phone number/e-mail.

## **MADISON, WI**

### **Contacts:**

Steven Fosdal: steve@fosdal.net; 608.288.8339

Anna Snider:

[asnider@nutrapark.com](mailto:asnider@nutrapark.com); 608.836.7716

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

**Prácticas:** 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](http://Mntango.org)

Steve Lee: 612.729.5306  
[tango@winternet.com](mailto:tango@winternet.com)

[www.geocities.com/twincitiestango](http://www.geocities.com/twincitiestango)

Lois Donnay: 612.822.8436

[donnay@donnay.net](mailto:donnay@donnay.net)

Frank Williams: 612.379.4565

[Frankw@tc.umn.edu](mailto:Frankw@tc.umn.edu)

### **Milongas:**

*Tango Society of Minnesota*: 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month; 9:00 p-1:00 a; lesson 9:00-9:30 p; Admission: \$5.

*Michael Cordner's Mini-Milongas* at Four Season's Dance Studio 1637 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; Sundays 7:00-9:30 p; Admission: \$2; 612.342.0902.

*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](http://www.vjw.biz/docs/amessocdnc.htm); [v@vjw.biz](mailto:v@vjw.biz); 515.232.7374;

**Milongas:** Tuesdays (1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) at Café Diem (323 Main St.), lesson 7:00-7:30 p, dance 7:00-10:00 p, \$3.

## **FAIRFIELD, IA**

### **Contacts:**

Heartland Social Dance Association [Sheryll.Ryan@humanfactors.com](mailto:Sheryll.Ryan@humanfactors.com).

## **DETROIT, MI**

### **Contacts:**

Amy & Ray: [MotorCityMilongueros.com](http://MotorCityMilongueros.com) 313.561.3236

Lori Burton: [Argentinetangodetroit.com](http://Argentinetangodetroit.com); 586.726.2370

**Amy & Ray:** [MotorCityMilongueros.com](http://MotorCityMilongueros.com); [AmyandRay@comcast.net](mailto: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 Práctica:** 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)

**Milonga at Café Zola:** Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in a cafe that is reminiscent of the cafes in Buenos Aires (without the smoke); 11:00 p-2:00 a; (112 W. Washington, Ann Arbor; 734.769.2020); \$5.

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

**Lori Burton:** [Argentinetangodetroit.com](http://Argentinetangodetroit.com) or [Lori@Argeintinetangodetroit.com](mailto: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.

**Workshops/Special events:** Gloria and Eduardo Araquambo ) August 20-24

## **ANN ARBOR, MI**

### **Contacts:**

[www.umich.edu/~umtango](http://www.umich.edu/~umtango);

[umtango@umich.edu](mailto:umtango@umich.edu) 734.327.0642

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

### **Milongas:**

*Tango al Fresco* (outdoors) - Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> at Regents Plaza (at the Cube), 8:00 p-1:00 a.

*Milonga Picante* - Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> - Milonga Picante at Pendleton Room, Michigan Union (530 S. State St.); Beginners' lesson 8:00-9:00 p (on 11<sup>th</sup>); dancing 9:00 p-1:00a.

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## KANSAS CITY, MO

### Contacts:

Korey Ireland; [korey@kodair.com](mailto:korey@kodair.com) or 816.931.9545;

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

**Milongas:** Wednesdays at *Fedora on the Plaza*; 210 W. 47<sup>th</sup>; 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 hosted by Toi Shaw at the Swing Club, 6101 Martway, Mission; dancing 8:00-11:00 p.

**Practicas/Classes:** 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/](http://www.thelearningdepot.com/murrays-1/)

## ST. LOUIS, MO

### Contacts:

Carter Maier: [tngomn@hotmail.com](mailto:tngomn@hotmail.com)

Estella & Randy:

[tangoartists@tangorosa.com](mailto:tangoartists@tangorosa.com)

Lourdes Ylagan:

[Lylagan@path.wustl.edu](mailto: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/Classes:** contact above individuals and/or websites.

## TULSA, OK

### Contact:

Bob & Gretchen Manhart;

[OKTANGO@prodigy.net](mailto:OKTANGO@prodigy.net)

**Milongas and Classes:** Contact for details.

## FAYETTEVILLE, AR

### Contact:

Elayne Hency at *Elayne's Dance-The Art of Social Dance*; [elaynesdance@aol.com](mailto:elaynesdance@aol.com); 479.521.6683 or 479.263.6683

**Milongas, Practicas and Classes:** Contact for more details.

## DENVER AND BOULDER, CO

### Contacts:

[www.danceoftheheart.com](http://www.danceoftheheart.com);

Deb Sclar:

[deb@danceoftheheart.com](mailto: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](http://www.mercurycafe.com)

**Colorado Springs** - every

Wednesday at *Rum Bay* (Fat Alley Jazz upstairs room); 7:00 p-????; [www.tangosprings.com](http://www.tangosprings.com)

**Practicas and Classes:** check website or contacts listed above.

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without painfully cramping them. Nor did I have the sensation of actually ‘dancing on the plates’ of those eating around me. On the other hand, I do believe that appreciably adding more than this number of couples would make dancing something of a challenge, given the space. The food was good – my ‘Turkish-style’ baklava was quite fine, and those who had eaten more substantially assured me that they had enjoyed what they had had.

Two negatives: 1) it was strangely hot in the part of the restaurant where the dancing took place. I thought that was unusual given how cool it was in the other main room of the restaurant; I didn’t have a sense that the dancers were generating that much heat for the temperature to be as it was, but I could be mistaken about this. Others, besides myself, seemed to notice this too. 2) I think the music could have been handled a little more smoothly. I really like an unbroken continuity in the progression of songs when dancing – or even when just sitting and enjoying the music. Some interruptions were a little longer than I would have liked. That feature may have been something caused by the sound system itself, but during those pauses the place began to feel a little too much like ‘just a restaurant’ again. However, I feel that both of these features were very likely just a result of this being the milonga’s opening night.

Overall I liked my first experience at *Cousin’s* and wish it many nights of floor and tables full of dancing couples.

**Sean Erwin**