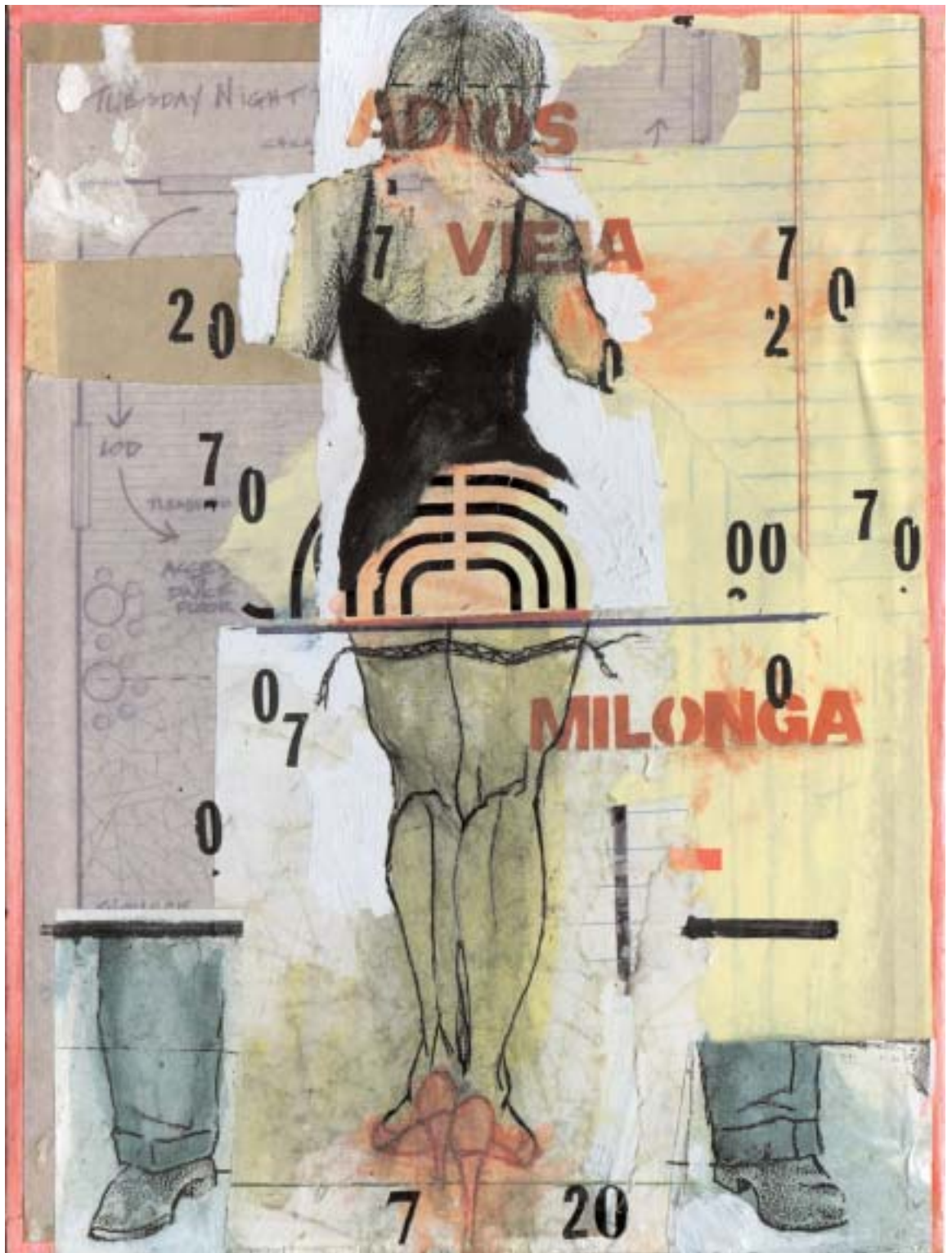


TangoNoticias

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more information

Dear Readers:

"The 720 Club Closes its Doors" is the first installment of Ana Savitzky's article on the milonga that has (so far) survived the longest in Chicago. Ana spent more than three weeks researching the club, its milonga, and how it all began. Through many interviews and even printed documents, Ana has managed to cobble together various people's memories, experiences, criticism, and emotion on all aspects of 720 and Chicago tango. The second installment will include a little history of the club and a discussion on the music, among other things. I am sure that everyone will join me in appreciating Ana's Herculean task of trying to reconstruct the past (and present) from so many people's passionate memories. As always we welcome your comments.

Sarah R. Graff, Senior Regional Editor

The 720 club closes its doors

The longest-running milonga in Chicago by Ana Savitzky

Ana, you know, Misha and I met at the 720 Club. He asked me to dance and from then on it's history!" Sarah Graff said, letting out her joyful laughter that always reminds me of a happy little girl. Like Sarah & Michael Goro (Misha), many other couples met at the 720 Club. It was a romantic place. But, what made this milonga really remarkable was that it lasted more than 11 years and it is deeply connected to the history of tango in Chicago. On its last tango night, November 4th, as the women spun around with mournful black veils on their heads, I sat at the bar and took mental pictures of the place. I knew I would miss it.

"The first time I went to the 720 Club, I thought that everybody danced better than I," said Yanira Collado, a tango instructor who recently moved to the East Coast. "I was so scared, I didn't dance," she continued. "I only came back six months later, and then I was completely hooked on the place." She paused. "You know, it was my first milonga and the last place I wanted to go before I left Chicago." Yes, many people, like Yanira and I got bewitched by the atmosphere of the club. I always thought that there was some magic to it. I think it somehow reminded me of cabarets I had seen in old movies.

The 720 Club held the longest running milonga in Chicago, according to Charlotte Vikstrom. She was one of the first members of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine, the organization which started,

in 1992, hosting the milonga that just ended when the 720 Club was closing down. It was held on the third floor of an attractive red brick building, at 720 North Wells Street, at the corner with Superior, near downtown Chicago, where we could park or take a train without a problem.

The room on the third floor, called the "Cityscape Room," had a good size dance area, but its high ceiling made it feel even larger. Through the dark glass of its cathedral windows, tall and mysterious, we could overlook the city. Its brick walls gave it a rustic touch and its black floor went along with the black clothes favored by tango dancers. The U shaped bar facing the dance floor was a hot spot. Men and women whispered as they sipped their favorite drinks and watched the dancers. Gazing at each other around the bar, people found it easier to ask someone to dance. The way it was set-up facilitated invitations. "I've danced in Buenos Aires, London, Paris, Montreal, New York and Boston, but none of the milongas I attended was held in such a beautiful room as the one at the 720 Club," said Tom Barnard, the DJ of the milonga for the last five years. The beautiful room helped, but it wasn't enough to guarantee a successful enterprise.

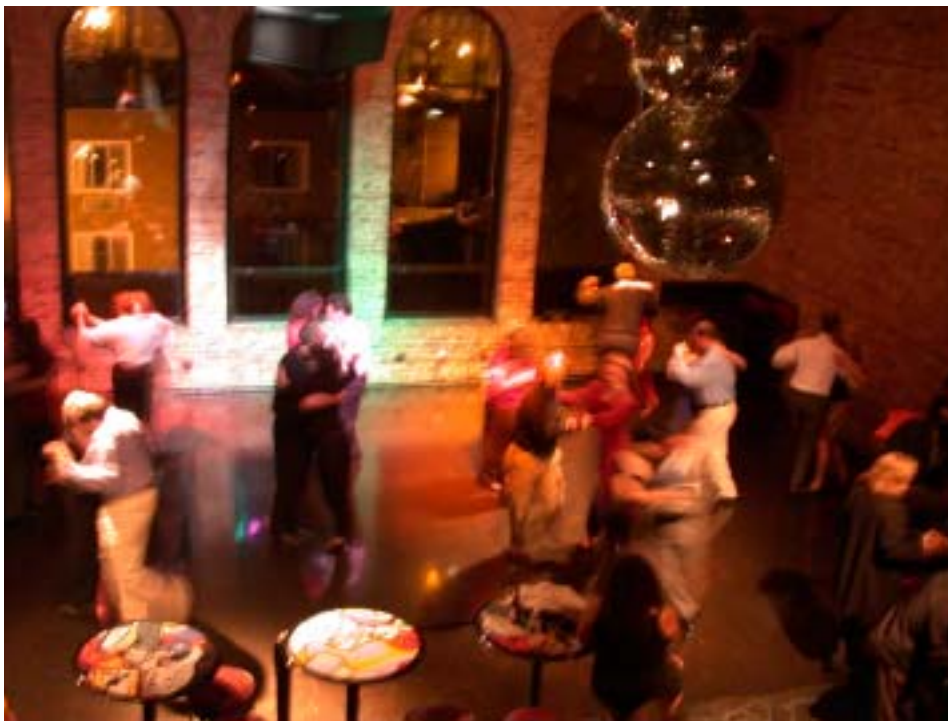
"The milonga at 720 was successful because of the vested interest of a group of people," says Tom Barnard. It's understandable that wherever there are many people involved in an enterprise, there will be problems. But, in one way or

another, the tango leadership in town managed to handle these problems for all the years the milonga was on. It only ended because the club closed down due to a family problem between the owner of the building and the owner of the club.

SHOWCASES

A number of famous tango dancers, especially from Argentina, had presentations at the 720 Club for the enjoyment of the Chicago tango dancers. These performers often came to town bringing their dancing shows or to hold workshops, and the club was one place where they could display their skills. Among many others were Daniel & Maria Bastone, Miguel Zotto & Milena Plebs, Carlos Copello and Alicia Monti, from the show "Tango Para Dos," Jorge & Mona Bartoluci, Eduardo & Gloria Arquimbau, Norberto Esbrez (El Pulpo) & Luiza Paes, Lorena Gasse & Ariel Barrionuevo, and Andrea Missé & Leandro Palou. Carlos Gavito didn't have a showcase but Tom Barnard has a videotape of him dancing there, among other dancers, when his show was in town.

Before the showcases, videotapes of the featured performers would be projected onto a screen placed high on the wall, way above everybody's heads. Many performers would dress at the mezzanine level above the bar and come downstairs, making their entrance to the dance floor. The brightly-lit dance floor favored the performers and its audience. Daniel Barenboim, conductor of the



Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was seen several times at the 720 Club, watching the dancers. Charlotte told me that once she volunteered to teach him, but he told her that he was only interested in watching.

STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE

The milonga at the 720 Club never had a Spanish name or any particular name, like many others. For Charlotte it was always the milonga of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine, which had its own board, with an average of 13 members, according to her recollection. But there was also a committee that evolved from a meeting initiated by Al Gates in the fall of 2001 to discuss problems that arose at 720. The objective of this group was mainly to keep tango in the club during hard times, as well as promote tango more broadly. "The recession had already hurt attendance," recalled Pamela Strateman, "and then the nation was stunned by the tragedy of September 11." Tom Barnard told me that there were nights when they had only about 40 people on the floor. He explained that the average attendance was around 100, and on good nights the count went up to 150. To keep the milonga going wasn't as simple as it may have looked.

The club's main source of revenue came from salsa dancing over the weekends, when they packed the four floors of the building, including the basement. I was told that the club had a crowd of 1,000 to 1,500 salsa dancers each night on the weekends. The real money came from these salsa nights. Tango dancers had an additional challenge. Ed Tunney, the last manager, claimed that salsa dancers generated more income than tango dancers because they drank more. "We knew we didn't make much money for the club because we didn't drink much. We worried about it because we could be kicked out of there anytime," said Al Gates. He paused. "Tango dancers usually don't drink much. They need to keep their balance. So if the bulk of the money couldn't come from liquor, it had to come from the number of attendees who paid the cover fee of \$5 to the bouncer at the entrance," he explained.

Of course the cover fee collected from the tango dancers couldn't make up for the difference in alcohol consumption, but at least a big crowd with many people dressed-up was not something to be ignored, and maybe it added to the crowd of salsa dancers that came to the club on the same night. On Tuesdays the crowd

of salsa dancers was relatively small and only occupied the first floor. Actually, the idea was for the tango dancers to come downstairs after midnight when the milonga ended and dance salsa downstairs, so that when salsa dancers came to the club, usually very late, they would find a party already going on there. The point is that the group of people who wanted to keep the milonga going on Tuesdays had to struggle to maintain a high attendance. Al Gates, for one, went as far as personally calling many people every week to ask them to come to the milonga.

For the first meetings of the committee, Al called a group of people among which were Pamela Strateman, who was the facilitator for most of the meetings, Liz, Tom Barnard, Fred Romero, Sean Erwin, Yanira Collado, Eduardo, Les Schier, and Elena Robles. Soon other people also joined the group, like Phoebe J. Grant, Leroy Hearon, Jr., Susan, and Valerie Wright. Al asked me to attend a couple of these meetings at Phoebe's house. These discussions generated some ideas to make the milonga more attractive and consequently increase the attendance. Among the ideas which were implemented were: removing the tables from the dance floor to make more room for dancers; announcing women's choice, when women were encouraged to invite men to dance; asking people to draw a card from a jar, where they would find the name of a dancing partner they should invite to dance; having different instructors giving free classes right before the milonga; and buying smoke filtering ashtrays. They also started keeping count of the attendees, so that they could report it to Ed Tunney, the club's owner. The main discussion was always about what to do in order to keep the milonga alive.

Fred Romero, Tom Barnard and Pamela Strateman accomplished the feat of being members of both the board of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine and the committee, the other group of people who met at Phoebe's house. "I tried to be the mediator between the two groups of



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The 720 club closes its doors

By Ana Savitzky continued from page 2

people," Fred explained, laughing as he remembered how the two groups had so many different ideas as to how the problem could be resolved. I had the courtesy not to ask Fred if he had succeeded in his mission. By the time I interviewed him, I already knew that he had to deal with quite a few strong characters.

LINE OF DANCE

The line of dance may be the most discussed issue in milongas all over the world. Much has been said about it, and it was one of the main complaints about the milonga at the 720 Club. "Almost nobody

followed a line of dance at 720," said Carlos Favre. I personally didn't think it was that bad, but there was

certainly room for improvement.

Sometimes people blocked the line of dance and whoever was following, had to go around them. Al Gates argued that even Carlos Gavito blocks the line of dance. "I was dancing next to Gavito at the Gala Ball this year and he paused for so long that I gave up waiting and walked around him." I could picture Al raising his eyebrows on the other side of the phone as he said, "Ana, what's the big deal about going around someone who is blocking the line of dance?" I replied that if too many couples block the line of dance, there wouldn't be a line anymore. "I need some kind of order," I explained, "otherwise people will bump into each other all the time."

Listening to people who have been dancing tango for many years, I understand that some order is desirable. "In tango, unlike some other dances, people have to move in a particular direction, so if couples go in opposite ways, they will clash," said Charlotte. "Actually, most ballroom dances also have a line of dance," she added. For her, to keep a line of dance is a matter of

dancing in a safe environment. I kept thinking that high heels could surely cause as much harm as weapons. "Americans are very impatient," said Phoebe J. Grant. "In Buenos Aires the milongas are so crowded that we have to dance in the same little spot very often. When people complain about lack of space here, I laugh. We are spoiled." Kathleen Ahearn suggested increasing the vocabulary of steps done in the same spot so that dancers could have fun when the line of dance was blocked rather than becoming frustrated.

Tango dancers have different feelings about the line of dance. For some people it has to be extremely orderly, for others it's not a big deal to go around some dancers who want to pause or do their

On its last tango night, November 4th, as the women spun around with mournful black veils on their heads, I sat at the bar and took mental pictures of the place. I knew I would miss it.

fancy steps. I guess that flexibility and tolerance are the key words to have fun together. If the rules are too strict, we will feel as if we are in the army, if they are too loose, we will be afraid to clash into each other. The two extremes are stressful and end up stealing the moments of relaxed fun we can have in the dance floor.

"What do we do with the advanced dancers who block the line of dance with their wide steps?" a friend who is a dancer asked me. I burst into laughter. "Well, these are the Baryshnikovs," I replied.

THE BARYSHNIKOVS

"I liked the way the club had lights flooding the dance floor and dimming around the bar and the tables," said another dancer friend. "For one thing," he continued, "I like to watch the dancers and I can see them better when the floor is illuminated." I agreed and told him that I also think that tango is a show-off kind of dance and people like to be watched. "There is a problem with this show off dance," he argued. I can almost see him

scratching his head on the other side of the phone. "Some people take too much space for themselves even when the floor is crowded, so the result is that they crash into others. It's dangerous." I sneered on my side of the phone. "Darling," I said, "they are the Baryshnikovs of our community. They block the line of dance to perform their show. They want us to quit dancing and watch them in awe. You should be honored for the opportunity." He laughed for a few seconds. "I've seen people going to the hospital to get a number of stitches, just because of a high heel," he told me. I have to agree with that, but... "I still like to do my boleos, so I just hope that the men who lead me to make boleos watch carefully where I am before

they lead me to do them," I told him. "I've danced with men who are extremely aware of their surroundings.

They are great

navigators and never behaved like they are alone on the floor," I added. "Yes, you can do your boleos when there is room enough for them. A good leader will know when," he said.

I feel extremely embarrassed when a man makes me crash into someone. Accidents happen, but when they happen too often, I avoid the leader who put me in that embarrassing situation. Some men don't even apologize when they crash into other couples, showing their complete lack of consideration for others. Everybody bumps slightly into others once in awhile, especially in a crowded floor, but you only crash when you're not paying attention. I understand that it's hard to learn to navigate well on a crowded floor, but this is a skill every man or woman should develop if they want to be good leaders, otherwise the dance floor becomes a jungle.

Look for part two in the January 2004 issue.



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The Tango Teacher By Natalie Pepa

A few days after my arrival in Buenos Aires, I begin looking for lessons. There are too many choices. The publication "BA Tango" lists most classes and dances in the city. On any given evening one can choose from more than twenty--not including private lessons you can arrange. I pick a class that starts at nine in the evening and is followed by all night dancing.

At eight thirty I hail a cab and head to Club Armenia which is some ten blocks away.

"Baila tango?" the cab driver asks me.

"Un poquito," I tell him. "Just a little bit. I've only started a couple of months ago, but it's taken over my life. I want to become good, the best I can be."

"I used to teach the tango," he says. "I performed at Michelangelo back in the

seventies. It was my obsession--that's all I wanted to do and still would if I had the means. I had a partner then. We were going to open a club of our own. Put all our money into it, all our savings into this building. We had the top floor and were re-doing the ground level as a dance studio. As soon as all that was in place, we were to be married. It was a grand plan."

"And what happened?"

"Whole thing went up in smoke, literally. The place burned down." He sighs. "She died in the fire."

"How awful," I swallow hard. "I'm so sorry. How did it happen, how did the fire get started?"

"It didn't get started, someone started it."

We ride in silence for awhile, then he continues.

"She was a poet, read her poetry of protest in the Plaza. I wanted her to stop, it was too dangerous. She was bringing in too many people, becoming too powerful. So they killed her, like so many others..."

I cringe at what the cab driver may tell me.

"A week after she died the first mothers appeared in the plaza. You know about the mothers, don't you?"

"Yes, of course. The ones who started telling the world about los desaparecidos."

He nods and sighs. "Los desaparecidos," he repeats. "Her picture was on the first few placards. Hers and the pictures of the mothers' own children who had disappeared, but her picture too. She started it."

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December 5th & 19th
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12.05.03 Holiday Milonga

12.19.03 Sparkly White Night

for information call **jan carpenter 312.258.6137** or **beth braun 847.846.5611**
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lake street milonga is located at 942 lake street (at peoria), chicago illinos

"I'm so sorry..."

"Ay, carajo, it's been more than twenty years but I haven't forgotten. Not her, not her poetry, and tango. Puta madre, my life's like a fucking tango lyric: love, loss, anger and pain. She and the tango, my two loves. She's gone but the dance is still in my blood."

We ride in silence for a few minutes.

"But you've given up the tango?"

"Had to make a living somehow. That's how I got into this business. And now I'm stuck. I'm a good dancer, still am."

He wants to know where I live and I tell him. He says he has never been to America, that he has a cousin in New York.

We are standing at a red light and he digs into his breast pocket, pulls out a card.

"Here, take this," he says as he hands it to me. "You go back to America, if you want a good teacher, I would come. All I need is for someone to sponsor me, pay

my one way over there, I'll pay back in lessons."

"I...I don't have the means. I'm just a student."

"Take it, maybe you know people in your city. I know Americans are always looking for good tango teachers. All I need is a break."

I am feeling very uncomfortable and hope my destination is close by. Finally he rounds a corner and stops in front of a two story building.

"That's it, you're here."

I hand him the money for the ride, round it off to the nearest peso and tell him to keep the change.

"Don't lose my card," he says as I'm leaving. "I'd like to think my dream is still alive, on its way to North America."

Luis Gamboa is his name, Profesor de tango, says the card. I know I won't be able to help, but I have a hard time throwing away his card. If I keep it, it

seems that his dream will keep too.

*You've the gift of gab,
so tell me a story.
Put everything in it,
do not make me beg*

*Tell me a different story,
an exquisite ballad that brings a dream.
Take away the sadness I have inside me
and the stench of death in my loneliness.*

*Tell me a story...
Lie to me in a whisper
sweet fables of a loving world,
better than a dream...
Open a door that the soul's fever
may finally leave....*

(Contame una historia, tango)





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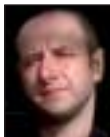
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WindyCityTango, Inc.

Happy Holidays to all!!!

Thank you to the Chicago Argentine Tango community - and to visitors from around & outside the Midwest - for your support of *WCT, Inc.'s* workshops and events during 2003. We are looking forward to a fabulous 2004, including the long-awaited return of a missing leader ...

Tuesday, December 16, 2003

Happy Birthday to

Charlotte Vikstrom
at Rumba

In 2003, WCT, Inc. enjoyed sponsoring:

Antonio "Junior" Cervila

Carolina Zokalski y Diego DiFalco

Cecilia Gonzalez

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Jackie Ling Wong

Kara Wenham

Nito & Elba Garcia and,

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As always, we're open to your suggestions to bring your favorite traveling instructors to Chicago.

Winner(s) of a FREE future WCT event from attendance at the Paulo Araujo and Kara Wenham workshops will be drawn at the Nov. 30th **milonga Nuestro Tango.**

Random drawing for 1 certificate per each 50 attendees

Contact Phoebe J. Grant

WindyCityTango@yahoo.com

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Chicago Tango

Chicago Milongas

MONDAYS

Arkadash Café, 5721 N. Clark (near Bryn Mawr), Chicago

9:00 p.m. – midnight. \$5 cover; lots of free parking. Lesson from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.; \$7
For more details contact Somer at 773.807.5704, somersurgit@hotmail.com, or Agape 708.945.4140 or visit www.tangoardiente.com

Cousin's Turkish Dining, 3038 W. Irving Park, Chicago

9:00 pm – midnight. \$5 cover; additional buffet at special price of \$10.
Lesson from 8:00 – 9:00pm. For more details contact Tom Aksoy at 773.968.0101 or visit www.chicagotangoloop.com

TUESDAYS

Fine Arts Building Milonga, 410 S.

Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

7:30pm – 11:30pm, \$10 cover. Lesson: 7:30pm Tell the elevator operator to "take you to tango" For details contact Al Gates at 773-994-8180

Milonga en el Rumba, Rumba, 351 W.

Hubbard Street, Chicago

7:00pm – midnight, \$5 cover (come early for a fantastic meal!) Special Wine Prices for Tango Dancers! Contact Beth Braun at bethdance11@aol.com or 847.846.5611
Rumba features Nuevo Latin/Cuban cuisine, a beautiful dining/dancing room, vintage posters from Argentina, lamps from Morocco, and other artistic touches. There is already a picture of Gardel in the foyer!

WEDNESDAYS

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Broadway, Chicago (1/2 blk N. of Diversey)

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THURSDAYS

Milonga Loca at one of two locations:

Erie Street Café, 536 W. Erie or Mi Ciudad, 3041 W. Irving, Chicago

8:30 p.m. – midnight; free

Beginners' lesson: \$5, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Check www.milongaloca.com for each week's location or contact Bill Duvall at 773.549.0935, williamduvall@ameritech.net

Tango "Entre Amigos" Chitalia Café, 939

W. Madison Avenue, Chicago

(312.666.5544) Plenty of street parking available. 9:00 pm to midnight; free. For more information contact Jorge Nideas 312.901.2121

FRIDAYS

Friday December 5th and 19th

Lake Street Milonga

Schopf Gallery on the Lake 942 Lake Street (at Peoria), Chicago.

Milonga 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. \$10 sweets & savories; BYOB.

5th - Holiday Milonga at Lake Street. Join us for a festive evening with holiday treats! A chance to wear your holiday best and celebrate the season.

19th - Sparkly White Night! Our traditional milonga at the Winter Solstice. For more information: Bethdance11@aol.com, 847-846-5611; JanCarpenter@ssaglobal.com, 312-258-6137 or www.tangoparatodos.com
Note: NO milonga on Friday, January 2, 2003. Look for a special milonga on Saturday, January 3, 2003. Check www.tangoparatodos.com for details.

Friday December 12

The Mexican Cultural Center and

Educational Institute 702 N. Wells

Argentine Tango Party. \$5 cover. Buffet and cash bar. If you bring a dish for the buffet or someone new to tango then you do not pay the cover charge. For more information contact Elena Robles and Danny Novakovich at 773-550-2646 or visit www.TangoInChicago.com

Friday, December 26th

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

Milonga 8:30 to midnight; \$10 includes light buffet. For details contact Valentina

Cisar 773.763.8729, Carmen Pinto

773.279.9414 or Phoebe J. Grant

312.342.4335,

WindyCityTango@yahoo.com

Chicago Practicas

WEDNESDAYS

ñ – restaurant and bar, 2977 North Elston Ave., Chicago

9:00 p.m. – 10:30 pm. Hosted by Javier Gomez and Olga Kokourova
Drop-in Class: 8:00-9:00 p.m.; \$10.

Practica is a \$5 donation or free with class. December 17th will be the last class and practica at ñ. Contact Javier & Olga at (773) 252-2382 or javiolgatango@hotmail.com

THURSDAYS

Dance Connection, 3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago

7:30 to 10:00 pm. Hosted by Sarah Graff and Misha Goro. Drop-in workshop from 7:30-8:30 p.m. followed by practica until 10 p.m. Cost \$10. Includes opening workshop and refreshments. Contact Sarah & Misha at 773.575.6906 or visit www.mgoro.com/tango.html for details.

FRIDAYS

Lake Shore Athletic Club, Main Aerobic

Room, 1320 W. Fullerton, Chicago

7:30 – 11:00 p.m. Hosted by Al Gates

Cost \$12. Free Parking.

Contact Al Gates at 773.994.7929 or www.tangochicago.com for details.

SUNDAYS

Schopf Gallery on Lake, 942 W. Lake,

Chicago 8:30 – 10:00 pm. Hosted by Erica & Douglas

Cost \$5. Contact Erica Sutton

773.505.1577 or 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:

- **Al Gates**
- **Misha Goro and Sarah Graff**
- **Pamela Strateman**
- **Elena Robles**
- **Erica Sutton and Douglas Rivera**
- **Carlos Favre and Michelle Costello**
- **Fred Romero**
- **Javier Gomez and Olga Kokourova**

Chicago Events

December

16th - "Charlotte's Birthday Bash" Rumba, 351 W. Hubbard Street, Chicago 7:00pm to midnight, \$5 cover. Celebrate Carlotte Vikstrom's birthday and enjoy great dancing and Nuevo Latin/Cuban cuisine (food not included in the cover charge).

Please no presents, just your presence! Contact Beth Braun at bethdance11@aol.com or 847.846.5611 for details.

31st - "The Crystal Milonga" on New Year's Eve Schopf Gallery on Lake, 942 W. Lake Street, 8pm-3am. This year The Crystal Milonga features the wonderful Brazilian cuisine of Jorgina Sinha. Enjoy appetizers, dinner and desserts, and a champagne/sparkling cider toast at midnight. Selections for vegetarians and omnivores alike! Bring a crystal glass for

the midnight toast! \$65 through Friday, December 26. \$75 thereafter, \$20 "After Midnight" ticket - dessert and dancing. Tickets available from Carmen Pinto, Phoebe Grant and Beth Braun. Cash or check. Reserved tables for 6 or more. For further information: Bethdance11@aol.com; 847-846-5611 Jan.Carpenter@ssabglobal.com; 312-258-6137 or visit www.tangoparatodos.com

31st - "New Year's Eve Party" Cousin's Restaurant, 2833 N. Broadway (1/2 block north of Diversey) Somer Surgit and Agape Pappas invite you to join them as their regular Wednesday milonga becomes an intimate New Years' Eve dinner and milonga at their regular location from 9pm until ...? Cousin's entire restaurant has been reserved for an Argentine tango New Year's Eve party with 2 rooms for dinner and dancing. \$45 per person (\$50 after December 17th) includes

a multi-course New Year's Mediterranean menu featuring: appetizers, salad, your choice of entree (e.g., lambchops, lambshanks, shrimp, beef, fish, chicken, or one of several vegetarian dishes), dessert, coffee/tea, and 1 bottle of wine or champagne for every two people. The price also includes: door prizes, special performances, Belly Dancer 'Carmela', and a real-time countdown from Times Square at midnight with a champagne toast. Purchase your tickets from Somer or Agape at their Monday night milonga (at Arkadash Cafe, 5721 N. Clark) or Wednesday night at Cousin's, or by mailing your check payable to Agape Pappas, 1319 N. Oakley #2 Chicago, IL, 60622. For more information contact: Somer Surgit 773.807.5704, somersurgit@hotmail.com, Agape Pappas, 708.945.4140, findagapepappas@yahoo.com



See what everyone is talking about...
(and, man, are they talking!)

What tango-related issue is
BURNING YOU?

Post your own line of discussion,
eavesdrop or just chat - check it out

The Tango Talk forum of
tangonoticias.com

tangonoticias.com/tangotalk

Central Tango

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts: Web Site:
www.prairienet.org/white-street/tango.html
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.m. -12:00 a.m.; \$5 for dance / \$7 with pre-milonga beginner lesson at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Ron Weigel at [Ron Weigel@aol.com](mailto:RonWeigel@aol.com) or 217.328.1311.

West Lafayette, IN

Contacts: Web site –
<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~tango/>;
Ricardo Fanciulli: 765.404.5367,
riccardo@purdue.edu
Classes/Practica: Tuesday nights on Purdue Univ. Campus, Mechanical Engineering Building (Room 156), 8:30-10:00 p.
Workshops: Friday nights, 7:30-10:00 p. with Joe Grohens of Champaign/Urbana; locations vary.
Milongas: Check with above contact for next scheduled milonga.

Milwaukee, WI

Contacts: Web Site:
www.milwaukeeetango.com
Marek Szołkowski: argtango@hotmail.com;
414.543.7665
Milongas: La Conexión – Saturdays, December 6th and 20th at East Towne (614 N. Broadway) and 25th at Gary Allen Dance Studio (611 S. Layton Blvd. = 27th St.); 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.; Admission \$10 (\$7 w/ student ID) light buffet provided.; BYOB.

Madison, WI

Contacts: Web Site:
<http://tango.doit.wisc.edu>
Steven Fosdal: steve@fosdal.net,
608.347.0014; Krista Bultmann:
kabultmann@yahoo.com; Nicole Stevens:
608-213-8301,
milongamadison@yahoo.com
Milonga: 3rd Saturday of every month.
Dec. 20th - Beginning tango lesson 7-8 p.m., Practica 8 - 8:30 p.m. Free. Milonga 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. \$12; \$10 students
Located at Art of Dance, 212 N. Henry Street, Madison.
Practicas: Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Free. Located at Union South, 227 N. Randall St.; Univ. of Wis. campus at the corner of Randall and Johnson.
Sundays 1:00 -2:30 p.m., \$3 Located at Art of Dance, 212 N. Henry Street.
Workshops: December 20th with Misha Goro and Sarah Graff at Art of Dance, 212 N. Henry Street. Workshop #1: Tango Turns. Workshop #2: Milonga technique and musicality. For details contact Nicole Stevens 608-213-8301,
milongamadison@yahoo.com

Twin Cities, MN

Contacts: Web sites: www.mntango.org
www.geocities.com/twincitiestango
Steve Lee: 612.729.5306
tango@winternet.com; Lois Donnay:
donnay@donnay.net, 612.822.8436;
Frank Williams: Frankw@tc.umn.edu,
612.379.4565
For a weekly update of Twin Cities tango activities, go to
<http://mntango.org/mailmn/listinfo/> and subscribe to 'TSOM- announce.'
Milongas: Tango Society of Minnesota: 2nd Saturday/monthly at Dancesport Dance Studio in Hopkins; lesson 8:00-9:00 p.m.; dancing 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.; Admission: \$5 for members or \$8 for others.
Steve Lee's Tango Plus; Friday after 2nd Saturday of each month; 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.; lesson 9:00-9:30 p.m.; Admission: \$5.
Michael Cordner's Mini-Milongas at Four Season's Dance Studio 1637 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; Sundays 7:00-9:30 p.m.; Admission: \$2; 612.342.0902.

Ames, IA

Contacts: Valerie Williams:
www.vjw.biz/docs/amessocdnc.htm;
v@vjw.biz; 515.232.7374;
Milongas: Tuesdays at Café Diem (323 Main St.), lesson 7:00-7:30 p.m., dance 7:00-10:00 p.m., \$3.

Des Moines, IA

Contacts: Valerie Williams:
www.vjw.biz/docs/amessocdnc.htm;
v@vjw.biz; 515.232.7374.
Note: Classes in Des Moines have been cancelled for December; watch here for January schedule in next issue.

Fairfield, IA

Contacts: Fairfield Tango Community Sheryll Ryan: sryan@humanfactors.com, 641.233.1011, Kelly Custer: 641.472.1001
Milongas: "Over the Katop" dance gala on Saturday, Dec. 6th will feature showcase by Carlos Favre and Michelle Costello; admission is \$8.
Workshops: Weekend of workshops – Dec. 5th to 7th; (Friday evening preceded by public demonstration, Saturday morning and afternoon, Sunday morning) with Carlos Favre and Michelle Costello of Chicago. Classes and lessons will be at Morningstar Studios, 52 Court St.

Detroit, MI

Contacts: Amy & Ray:
MotorCityMilongueros.com, 313.561.3236;
Amy & Ray: MotorCityMilongueros.com;
AmyandRay@comcast.net;
Lori Burton: Argentinatangodetroit.com;
586.726.2370
Milongas: Argentine Tango Detroit/Tango
Suave; three times weekly see Lori
Burton's website for details. Brickhouse -
Auburn Road, Utica; 8:00 p.m.; \$7.
Milonga de la Motor City Milongueros:
Tuesdays at Father O'Kelly Knights of
Columbus Hall (23663 Park, Dearborn),
7:00-10:00 p.m.; contact Amy & Ray at
above e-mail/phone for details.
Guest Instructor: Francisco Santapa -
a "classic milonguero" - is returning from
B.A. with Amy and Ray and will guest
instruct for them from Aug. 26th through
Dec. 12th. He also will be available for
private tango lessons during this time. For
the schedule of classes or to reserve a
lesson time, contact them at the above e-
mail/phone.
Special Event: Holiday Tango Fantasy will
celebrate the 5th Anniversary of Milonga
del Domingo on Sunday, Dec. 7th; 7:00-
11:00 p. at Zomboneez (7755 Auburn Rd.,
Utica); \$12 entrance includes 1 drink.
Many prizes will be offered, including the
Grand weekend at Das Minne Ski Haus in
Cadillac; bring a \$5 gift to exchange.

Ann Arbor, MI

Contacts: www.umich.edu/~umtango;
umtango@umich.edu; 734.327.0642 or
734.564.0811

Kansas City, MO

Contacts: Korey Ireland;
korey@kodair.com or 816.931.9545;
http://www.kodair.com/tango
Milongas: Wednesdays - NOTE: venue
has changed. Visit website or contact Korey
for current location.
"La Ceremonia": Sundays at Westport
Presbyterian Church (201 Westport Rd.);
Intermediate "cool move of the week" class
7:30-8:30 p.m.; Milonga 8:30-10:30 p.m.;
live music by Tango Lorca; \$5/person
including pre-milonga class. Monthly
Saturday night (usually 2nd week) hosted
by Toi Shaw at the Swing Club, 6101
Martway, Mission, dancing 8:00-11:00 p.m.

Mt. Vernon, MO

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

St. Louis, MO

Contacts: Rosanne McKenny:
www.tangoteacher.com; 314.342.0887
Carter Maier: tngomn@hotmail.com
Estella & Randy:
tangoartists@tangorosa.com;
www.tangorosa.com; 314.849.3007
Lourdes Ylagan: Lylagan@path.wustl.edu
Milongas: Soulard Coffee Garden (910
Geyer Ave.); every Sunday; 6:00-9:00 p.m.;
call 314.241.1464
Monthly Milonga at Focal Point; admission:
\$10; Call Estella & Randy

Tulsa, OK

Contacts: Bob & Gretchen Manhart:
OKTANGO@prodigy.net

Fayetteville, AR

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

Cleveland, OH

Contacts: Web Site:
www.tangocleveland.com
Timmy Tango: Timmy Tango@aol.com;
440.327.8211
Milongas: First Saturday of the month at
Belinda's Bar (9613 Madison Ave.) 7:30-
11:00 p.m.; \$7.
Workshops: Isidoro and Vivianna
Levinson of Washington, D.C. will have a
milonguero weekend January 16th to 18th;
watch for further details on line or in next

Denver and Boulder, CO

Contacts: Web Sites:
www.ragtime.org/dance/
www.danceoftheheart.com Deb Sclar
(Boulder): deb@danceoftheheart.com
Milongas: Boulder - Saturdays, 2nd and
last; at Bantaba; intro. class 8:30-9:30 p.m.
(check w/ Deb Sclar for special topic each
time); milonga 9:30 p.m.-??; \$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.m.-??; www.tangosprings.com

NOTE: Please send any information
regarding Argentine tango events in the
Midwest to central_tango@hotmail.com
and we will be sure to update each
community's contact, milonga and
workshop/special event listings. Also, let us
know if you'd like your community featured
in an upcoming issue.