

TangoNoticias

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The 720 club closes its doors Part 2

The longest-running milonga in Chicago by Ana Savitzky

On November 4th, 2003 the 720 Club had its last milonga. The club closed its doors which ended the milonga that lasted more than 11 years. Its story was deeply connected to the history of tango in Chicago. This is the second installment of the story I wrote about the club. For the first installment please see the December 2003 issue.

FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

I admit that I had an emotional attachment to the club because it was there where I also started dancing. I never forgot when I first came in, during the summer of 2001, and Al Gates, who was my first instructor, jumped up from his stool to greet George and me with a hug and his famous laughter. At that moment he made us feel very special. Nobody else came to greet us. Later we saw him jumping up again to greet other people. "So it looks like we aren't the only ones who are special," George joked. I thought it was great that Al welcomed people with so much enthusiasm, offering them all kinds of snacks that he always had on his table, the same table he occupied for all these years, close to the stairs. He didn't miss one Tuesday since he started going to the club, nine years ago.

We needed that warm reception desperately because we didn't know anybody. The awkwardness of a beginning tango dancer was so overwhelming, that we starved for encouragement much more than for snacks. We watched the dancers and everybody looked great to us, I mean everybody. We both wondered if we would ever be able to dance tango like that. We came back and kept trying to dance better. Some generous souls carried our stiff bodies around the floor and that was thrilling enough to keep us taking lessons. If each experienced dancer saved a couple of dances per night for beginners, the community would grow faster. Yes, I made many mistakes on that floor, but I had good company. "I was allowed to make many mistakes at the 720 Club because the milonga wasn't owned by a tango dancer," said Yanira Collado, who

felt free to improve her dance on the club's floor, without criticism. In this sense, this milonga was very peculiar because the owners of the business, several managers, were not tango dancers.

MUSIC

The music is always a topic of discussion in a milonga. I talked to Tom Barnard, the DJ at 720. At the mezzanine level, Tom had a little room from where he operated the sound. "I played songs that I liked, but I also tried to accommodate dancers who loved the orchestras I didn't care for. It was part of the suggestions made by the committee. We wanted to increase turnout. Still I tried to play the best among the songs I didn't like," Tom told me. "In fact, I came to like some of those songs very well," he admitted.

Tom's favorite songs were played by orchestras conducted by Pugliese and DiSarli, but he was also fond of Tanturi, Calo and Troilo. His idea was to play the best music of the best orchestras. At first he played music recorded on tapes, but then he started burning CDs and bought a bigger hard drive for his computer to be able to install more sophisticated software to make it easier to manage his compilations. He burned new CDs every week. He also didn't start out using cortinas (a short piece of a song that separates the tandas), but the committee asked him to incorporate them in his compilations, the way they had heard it being done at the milongas in Buenos Aires.

But of course not everybody liked the music played at 720. From the comments I've heard, preferences for the music played at a milonga are very personal, especially for the DJs. They seem to develop very intense and often very

different tastes. Nevertheless I've noticed that all DJs play music conducted by one of my favorite maestros, Osvaldo Pugliese, and some beautiful waltzes. I dance to these songs everywhere. It's almost impossible to please everybody, but perhaps Pugliese accomplished that feat. Thank God for him!

A LITTLE HISTORY

As one of the original members of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine, Fred Romero thought that 720 was a real home for his group of tangueros. "At the time, there wasn't any place to dance tango in Chicago, except for a milonga held by Jim Sherry at his place on 63rd Street from time to time," Fred said. That's why he and his friends from the board were thrilled to hold a milonga at such a beautiful nightclub. However, it wasn't the first milonga in town. The very first one was held in an Italian restaurant called Mangia Italiano, at Wells and North Ave., according to Charlotte and a few tango dancers from that time. But they also say that by the time 720 started holding tango dancing, tangueros were no longer going to that restaurant for dancing.

"The milonga at the 720 Club started in 1992," said Charlotte Vikstrom. "At the time, the name of the nightclub was Cairo. Melissa Brown, its Special Events Manager, asked the Chicago Tango Club Argentine to start a tango dance at her club," she added. Charlotte was co-founder and president of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine for many years, so she took the members of her club and others to Cairo nightclub on a Tuesday, once a month, at 5:30 p.m. during the cocktail hour. At the beginning, the dance was held on the first floor of the building, then it moved to the third floor and for a few months it was held in the basement, which was called the "catacombs."

Yes, the milonga that just closed started in 1992 with the Chicago Tango



Club Argentine, but the Cairo nightclub had another milonga before that, according to Jorge Nidas. He is an Argentine ballet dancer who came to Chicago to work with the Lyric Opera in 1989. "First I was asked to perform at the Cairo nightclub, then I was asked to hold a milonga there, at the same time that I was holding the milonga at the restaurant Mangia Italiano," said Jorge Nidas. Sandra Adrian, Jorge's partner at the time, gave me copy of a brochure from the Cairo nightclub advertising an event called Tropical Tuesdays. In this brochure their names were featured as the Argentine tango performers for one of these nights. This night took place on March 5th, 1991.

According to Jorge someone from the Cairo nightclub came to Mangia Italiano, saw the milonga in the restaurant and wanted them to dance in the club. "Manuel Tejeiro, owner of Mangia Italiano, agreed to have a milonga on the third floor of his restaurant, on Sunday nights," he said. Sandra Adrian sent me a copy of a story published in Crain's Chicago Business, on September 17th, 1990 which featured the milonga at Mangia Italiano and talked about Jorge as the host of these "tango sessions." The article mentioned a group of people "wearing party clothes and high black heels with straps." In the middle of the page there

was a picture of Jorge and Sandra. Jorge doesn't remember the name of the woman who came from the Cairo nightclub to see the dance at the restaurant. When I mentioned the name of Melissa Brown, he said that the name sounded familiar, but he couldn't be sure if she was the one who came to the restaurant. "This woman from the Cairo nightclub wanted to have a Latin Night at her club and liked what she saw at Mangia Italiano," Jorge said. "So I held a milonga at the Cairo nightclub for three or four weeks, on Tuesday nights, but when it got crowded and I wanted some compensation for my work, the club didn't want to pay me, so I left," he continued. Jorge told me that he was in a difficult position because he was a professional dancer who made his living with dance, including tango performances and tango events. "Other people could afford to hold a milonga for free at that time, but I couldn't," he explained.

In 1992, when the Chicago Tango Club Argentine started the milonga at the Cairo nightclub, the experience of the group gradually became a success. "As we attracted people who came into the bar to drink, we also took the opportunity to promote tango in town," said Fred Romero, who was part of this core group. "Little by little the membership grew and we started teaching more people, bringing

in more revenues for the Chicago Tango Club Argentine," he added. "It started getting very crowded," Charlotte said, "and we started going there on the second and the fourth Tuesdays of the month." Eventually, they started going every Tuesday at night.

Charlotte told me that the club went through three owners during the time tango was being danced there. "The first one liked tango, but the two sisters who followed him didn't care much for it," she recalled. At the time the sisters owned the business, the name of the club was My Sisters' House. They sold it to Ed Tunney, the latest owner, who changed the name to 720 Club. According to Charlotte and other leaders of the community, Ed liked the idea of tango, but always complained about the low revenues the tango dancers generated. Fred said that the Chicago Tango Club Argentine never made money from the milonga. I reminded him of some weeks when we paid an additional fee of \$3 on the third floor. He explained that the fee was charged only for a few weeks because attendance went way down. They made money with the membership and with the students they recruited for their own club.

Jim Sherry, one of the first members of the Chicago Tango Club Argentine, talked about other milongas that preceded the one at the 720 Club. "There was one milonga at the Chicago Ball Room Dance, at 3660 W. Irving Park Road, where Gavito used to teach, another called Casa de Tangueros, at a place that I still own on 63rd Street, and another one at a place called Rupers, close to O'hare Airport," he said. He also mentioned another milonga hosted by Jorge Nidas for some time at a restaurant called Ñandu, on Fullerton.

Tango activities began in Chicago in the summer of 1989 when Miki Kawashima started teaching it. A classic ballet dancer from Japan, Miki had been living in Buenos Aires where she had learned and fallen in love with tango. She came to Chicago when she was 23 years old and she was the one who started teaching tango to the people who later became the core group for the Chicago Tango Club Argentine. ■



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Registration is now open for the first & second sessions in 2004.
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A Personal Experience of the Portland Tango Festival

By Jim Halas

The Afterglow. It lingers. Where to start. The people - Connecticut, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, DC, Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Austin, Albuquerque, LA, San Francisco, Seattle, Twin Cities, Portland ... dance partners all. I went to Portland for the milongas, and I was not disappointed.

As many know, from the time I decided to attend the 7th Annual Portland TangoFest, my anticipation grew. Everything I had heard about the extended tango weekend was good, but it was my first time. Wednesday (October 15), after work, I went directly to O'Hare, caught the 6:55 p.m. flight and landed a little after 9 p.m. Portland time. The festival's website had a link to transportation in Portland; having input my arrival time, the airport location and the address of the Jupiter Hotel (my destination), it provided a perfect time table and transfer point to the hotel.

At 10:30 p.m., the bus left me in front of the Jupiter. As I entered, I heard a milonga playing through an open second floor window on the next block. The hotel's desk clerk wanted to chat about the Midwest, but by this time I was burning with dance fever. Extracting myself, I dropped the bags in the room and was on my way out again before they hit the floor. I crossed a side street, passed several small shops, spotted the Viscount Ballroom's front door and entered. This was TangoFest central. I paid my \$8 at the 3 foot diameter, theater style, first floor box office and went up the carpeted, slightly creaky, wide, wooden stairs to the second floor. I thought, "These older buildings sure have a lot of steps between floors." The music grew louder as I approached through a couple of doorways.

I was stunned. The floor was packed. In a space that looked to be about 2-3

times the size of the Latvian Community Center's total floor space, there were more tango dancers than I had seen in one place. I guessed 150 couples were on the floor - at 11 p.m. on a Wednesday in Portland, Oregon. All dancing was close embrace; there was no room for open style or performance moves.

I took two minutes to explore this part of the Viscount. An adjacent room with a cash bar and café style tables around the dance floor held an additional 50-100 dancers socializing. This is only the first milonga, I thought, what will the weekend bring? The ambience was marvelously retro with a large half moon hanging from the ceiling of the 3 story high ballroom above the low rise stage. Below the moon there was a large multi-color fan outlined

Over five days I danced 45 hours in seven milongas Wednesday through Monday morning plus daily late afternoon practicas under the eye of selected festival teachers.

by lights as a backdrop on the stage. The music was recorded. Then I was on the dance floor with my first partner - Joan from Connecticut.

This first evening set the tone for the rest of the event. The milonga lasted until 2 a.m. with most of the dancers still on the floor at the end of the night. I too was still dancing, although it was 4 a.m. in Chicago. Over five days I danced 45 hours in seven milongas Wednesday through Monday morning plus daily late afternoon practicas under the eye of selected festival teachers. Because of the crowds, I was forced to adjust my dance style. Floor management by other dancers was generally good, but not perfect.

With several exceptions, most festival instructors were U.S. based. I did not pre-register for the workshops, but I did take one on Thursday from Miriam Larici & Hugo Paytn, which probably had 150 dancers in the Viscount ballroom. The

teachers wore head mikes so everyone could hear the instructions. Many participants at the festival came from smaller tango communities that do not offer workshops by master teachers, unlike Chicago. Festival workshops are their only alternative. Paulo Araujo was teaching in Portland for the first time, and he later told me he liked it. He exhibited the same grace and energy he shows in Chicago by welcoming his students and dancing with many partners.

The milongas filled early, and the bulk of the dancers stayed late (unlike those in Las Vegas, the one other festival I attended where the majority of the dancers left early). Thursday's "Black and White Milonga" (wear those colors, please) as well as Friday's "la Milonga

Rosa" ran from 9 P.M. until 2 A.M. On Saturday, the "Grande Tango Ball" at Tiffany Center started at 8 P.M. and

ran until midnight and featured showcases by many of the instructors. All the teachers showcased either Friday or Saturday. Paulo danced two showcases with different partners - one a milonga, the other a tango (with Brooke Burdette). Live music was provided by Tangos Pa'Milongueros from New York.

There were 600 dancers, elegantly dressed and matched by the quality of the music - all tango. Enough said.

Saturday at the Tiffany, Clay Nelson was recognized as the organizer of this tango gathering. He in turn acknowledged the specific help of dozens of volunteers. At midnight, many of the dancers walked a few blocks to the Fez "ballroom" for a sunrise milonga that ran from 12:20 a.m. to 6 a.m. The 12:20 starting time was picked to lose as little dance time as possible. The Fez looked like something from J.R.R. Tolkien with its hidden-away, local, dark and earthy upstairs in contrast to the elegance of the Tiffany, a

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Sunday night we were back at the Viscount with an optional buffet and a milonga that ran from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. Alex Krebs - a Portland native who is a

dance instructor and professional dancer - hosted a second sunrise milonga at his combination tango dance studio and

pleasure hall. It nominally ran until 6 a.m. Monday morning. Although I had to check out by 11 a.m. to make my return flight, I played the tanguero and danced until 6:15 a.m.! There were 50-100 dancers still going when I left. Later, a new friend from Austin said dancing continued until 7:30 a.m. followed by the serving of Alex Krebs' breakfast crepes.

The ages of the tango dancers ranged from teenagers to "honored citizens" (Portland's official phrase for those the

rest of the country calls "senior citizens").

The youth movement energized the milongas because they know how to dance tango and they don't leave the floor. Friday's showcases, for example,

In Portland, I had an opportunity to feel the music, share moments with dance partners, and understand the community we form. I enjoyed the five days immensely.

started with "the youngest dancers to showcase" in Portland - Jaimes Friedgen & Rachel Smith (of Seattle). They looked like typical teenagers. He had his shirttail out and danced with rubber soled popeye style shoes. They received a deserved standing ovation when finished.

Instead of the workshops, I chose to do some sight seeing. I visited Mt. Saint Helens, the Columbia River Gorge, Central City Portland, the Japanese Garden and Powell's block long New and

Used Bookstore. Just across the Willamette River about a mile from the hotel is the funkier weekend open air market. Surely all the old hippies retired to Portland to run booths at this market. I

learned Oregon has four wine regions with dozens of wineries. Did you know that northern Oregon is at the

same latitude as the wine growing region of southern France? Maybe that French connection has something to do with Portland having a remarkable tango community.

TangoFest did feel like a community. The Jupiter included a continental breakfast at Grendel's, a coffee shop across from the Viscount. Every morning it was a gabbing spot for dancers. Those who did the workshops were able to pre-order lunch there. The Jupiter itself is a

Lake Street Milonga



January 10th
9:00 pm – 2:00 am

January 16th, 23th
9:00 pm – 1:00 am

01.10.04 3rd Anniversary Party

01.16.04 Lake Street Milonga

01.23.04 Blue Moon Milonga

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lake street milonga is located at 942 lake street (at peoria), chicago illinos

converted Travel Lodge owned by tango dancers, and every night they played tangos into the open air courtyard. Russ - one of the owners - attended each of the milongas. Nearly all the Jupiter's 80 rooms had festival attendees as did the larger Thriftlodge across the street. Although workshops are a way to meet other dancers, I found no difficulty meeting experienced dance partners in the milongas or the practicas. The more committed dancers go to festivals, I found, so the quality of the dance experience was superb.

Portland's festival was a wonderful experience - and a bargain. With round trip airfare, shared hotel accommodations and milonga admissions, I paid about \$400 total from Wednesday through Monday. Entrance to the milongas varied from \$5-10, except for the Tiffany Center's \$20. My sight seeing was facilitated by an Enterprise rental car from a location 2

blocks from the hotel at \$33 (including tax) for the entire weekend.

A shortcoming was that there were not many restaurants in the immediate area of the Viscount. On Thursday evening Steve Pressling and I walked about a mile before we located a comfortable place to eat dinner and watch the Yankees vs. the Red Sox. Phoebe J. Grant later joined us there direct from her flight. The neighborhood around the Viscount was rough around the edges but there were dancers everywhere, and everything was close given the short blocks in Portland's street system.

Admittedly, dancing tango is a personal experience. In Portland, I had an opportunity to feel the music, share moments with dance partners, and understand the community we form. I enjoyed the five days immensely. Highlight your calendar for October 13-16, 2004 (or, if you can't wait a year, there's

the smaller ValenFest in February) and start counting the days. I am sure you will enjoy the experience. I can't wait for a repeat.

A BIG NOTE OF THANKS

I compared notes with so many dancers from around the country that I learned anew to appreciate the opportunities we have to dance here in Chicago. We are envied. I found myself explaining that we have so many committed dancers that provide these events. So - the next time you attend one, take five seconds to thank the organizers. ■



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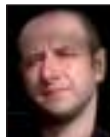
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www.claysdancestudio.com

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www.tampatango.com

In March - travel to Buenos Aires with WCT, Inc.

City sponsored Festival (Feb. 28 - Mar. 10)

World Tango Festival II (Mar. 5-12)

www.worldtangofestival.com.ar – with Paulo!!!

Congreso Internacional de Tango Argentino (CITA)
www.cosmotango.com (Mar. 14-21)

MetaTango Festival (Houston – April 7-10)
www.metatango.com

USTC Tango Fantasy (Miami – May 22-30)
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and several others we'll note soon!!!

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Winner(s) of a FREE future WCT, Inc. event from attendance
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Random drawing for 1 certificate per each 50 attendees

Contact Phoebe J. Grant

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Chicago Tango

Chicago Milongas

MONDAYS

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; 7pm-Midnight

\$5 cover; no cover with dinner entrée.

Special Prix Fixe dinner in January for Chicago Winter Delights - \$30. Wine special on Tuesdays - one red, one white - ask the bartender! Lesson - "Tango Fundamentals" 7pm with Pamela Strateman. For more information: Bethdance11@aol.com, 847.846.5611.

WEDNESDAYS

Cousin's Turkish Dining, 2833 N.

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

9:00 p.m. – midnight; \$5 cover.

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THURSDAYS

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 Nidas 312.901.2121

FRIDAYS

Friday January 16th and 23rd

Lake Street Milonga

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

Milonga 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. \$12 sweets & savories; BYOB. Jan 23rd - "Blue Moon Milonga," an extra milonga in a month with an extra Friday! Lake Street Milonga Third Anniversary Party on January 10th.

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. Check www.tangoparatodos.com for details.

Friday January 9th

The Mexican Cultural Center and

Educational Institute 702 N. Wells,

Chicago. Argentine Tango Party & Milonga, every 2nd Friday of the Month; 8:00pm to Midnight; \$5 or free if you bring a dish for the food table or a non-tango person. For more information contact Elena Robles and Danny Novakovich at 773.550.2646 or visit www.TangoInChicago.com

Friday, January 30th

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

Milonga 8:30 to midnight; \$10 includes light buffet. Fundamentals lesson before the milonga from 7:30 - 8:15 pm, taught by Valentina Cisar and Phoebe J. Grant, free with paid milonga admission. For details contact Valentina Cisar 773.763.8729, Carmen Pinto 773.279.9414 or Phoebe J. Grant 312.342.4335, WindyCityTango@yahoo.com

SATURDAYS

Saturday January 3rd

"Tango on the Town", Prairie Moon

Milonga, 1502 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL; 9pm-2am; \$20 cover charge includes appetizer buffet; cash bar. Lots of street parking (meters until 9pm); parking garage across the street; Davis Street stop on the Purple line is 2 1/2 blocks away. For more information: Bethdance11@aol.com, 847.846.5611. For updates check www.tangoparatodos.com

Saturday January 10th

Lake Street Milonga Third Anniversary

Party Schopf Gallery on Lake; 942 W. Lake

Street, Chicago. 9pm-2am; \$12. Celebrate our 3rd birthday with Erica, Jan and Beth. We will have sweets and savories and some special treats. For more information: Bethdance11@aol.com, 847.846.5611; JanCarpenter@ssaglobal.com, 312.258.6137 or www.tangoparatodos.com

SUNDAYS

Cousin's Turkish Dining, 2833 N.

Broadway (1/2 blk N. of Diversey), Chicago. Dancing 8-11pm; \$5. Beginner's Lesson 6-7pm, Intermediate & advanced lesson 7-8pm. For more info contact.

Somer 773.807.5704;

somersurgit@hotmail.com or Agape 708.945.4140

findagapepappas@yahoo.com

Chicago Practicas

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 9:00 – 10:00 pm. Hosted by Erica & Douglas. Free. Contact Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 or www.tangoparatodos.com for details.

Tea Practica, Dance Connection, 3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago. 3:00 - 6:00pm. Hosted by Pamela Strateman. January 4th, 11th and 18th from 3:00-6:00pm; \$10. Starting Sun, January 25: class from 3-4pm.; \$10, followed by Tea Practica, 4-6pm; \$5. Contact Pamela - 773.224.9151 - www.dancethetango.com for details.

Chicago Events

January

10th – Lake Street Milonga Third Anniversary Party
Schopf Gallery on Lake 942 W. Lake Street, Chicago. 9pm-2am; \$12. Celebrate our 3rd birthday with Erica, Jan and Beth. We will have sweets and savories and some special treats. For more information: Bethdance11@aol.com, 847.846.5611; JanCarpenter@ssaglobal.com, 312.258.6137 or www.tangoparatodos.com

13th – Tango at Daley Center
Noon-1:30pm; Daley Center, 55 W. Randolph Street at Dearborn, Building Lobby. Take a tango break with guest hosts Misha Goro & Sarah Graff in the middle of the day when Daley Center Programs presents Tango. The program includes a short lesson and demonstration, and a milonga on a marble floor that is marvelous for dancing. For more info contact Normandie Hand, normandiehand@cityofchicago.org

25th – Winter Tango Brunch
The Drake Hotel; 11:30am-4:30pm; \$43 through TangoVida includes tax and gratuity (\$10 off the regular price); \$50 after January 17. Our first Tango Brunch in September was a great success, this time we will make seating reservations ahead of time, and the food will be available until at least 3pm. For more information: Bethdance11@aol.com, 847.846.5611.

29th – Tango at Daley Center
Noon-1:30pm ; Daley Center, 55 W. Randolph Street at Dearborn, Building Lobby. Take a tango break with guest host Pamela Strateman in the middle of the day when Daley Center Programs presents Tango. The program includes a short lesson and demonstration, and a milonga on a marble floor that is marvelous for dancing. For more info contact Normandie Hand, normandiehand@cityofchicago.org

February

15th thru 26th – Brooke Burdette
Brooke Burdette's return to Chicago is sponsored now by WindyCityTango, Inc., with the cooperation of TangoParatodos. She will offer workshops and be available for private lessons in Chicago, Madison and other Midwest cities. Contact Phoebe J. Grant of WindyCityTango, Inc. at 312.342.4335 or WindyCityTango@yahoo.com or Jan Carpenter for more information. Brooke's schedule will be listed in the February Noticias and at www.tangoparatodos.com when it is available.

29th – ¡Tango, Tango! at the Chicago Cultural Center
1-4pm. Includes a short lesson, demonstration, and milonga. Hosted by the Chicago office of Tourism and the Department of Cultural Affairs. Contact Normandie Hand for more info normandiehand@cityofchicago.org

2nd Michigan Tango Festival



January 16-18, 2004
Ann Arbor, Michigan

For details and updates check
<http://www.umich.edu/~umtango/events/festival-jan04/>
Early bird prices are in effect until January 14th.
Limited housing with local dancers is available

"FOR THE DANCERS BY THE DANCERS"

Featuring workshops with Brigitta Winkler (Berlin & New York) and Tom Stermitz (Denver, Colorado) and guest DJ Robin Thomas (New York) at the University of Michigan campus, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Please join us, Michigan Argentine Tango Club and Metro Detroit area tango dancers, for our second mini tango festival at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Enjoy the charm of downtown Ann Arbor, State Street and the University Campus. Let us share the energy, the dance and the connection with dancers from Michigan and around. Last year we had over 190 participants!

THE FOCUS OF THIS FESTIVAL IS:

- Social dancing: 3 Milongas! – Fri, Sat and Sun
- Workshops emphasizing Close-embrace Tango.
- Bring dancers from, but not exclusive to, the mid-west region and Ontario together for an intense fun weekend.

MILONGAS

Friday: Welcome Milonga

(DJ: Ramu Pyreddy)

Saturday: Milonga Picante

(DJ: Robin Thomas)

Sunday: Die-hard Practica

(DJ: Tom Stermitz/Ramu Pyreddy)

WORKSHOPS

Saturday and Sunday: Close-embrace tango workshops with Brigitta and Tom

Central Tango

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts: Web Site:
www.prairienet.org/white-street/tango.html
Leonardo: Tangoleon@aol.com;
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., locations vary.
Milongas: Check with above contact for next scheduled milonga.

Milwaukee, WI

Contacts: Web Site:
www.milwaukeetango.com
Marek Sztokowski: argtango@hotmail.com;
414.543.7665
Milongas: La Conexión – Saturdays, January 14th and 21st 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.
January 17th - 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: Tuesdays in February – 17th and 24th, Brooke Burdette returns for two nights of workshops and will be available for private lessons; contact individuals and/or websites above for details, which also will be posted here next month.

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; Burak Ozkosem:
ozkos002@umn.edu,
www.tangoshusheta.com (including a special section regarding Twin Cities Milonga venues and their details with milonga photos, venues, the hosts and their contact infos in brief).
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.
New venue – Conga Latin Bistro (501 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis); every other Tuesday 9:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m.; Burak Ozkosem: ozkos002@umn.edu,
www.tangoshusheta.com.

Ames, IA

Contacts: Valerie Williams:
www.vjw.biz/docs/tango.htm; v@vjw.biz;
515.232.7374;
Milongas: Thursdays, January 8, 22 at Café Diem (323 Main St.), lesson 7:00-7:30 p.m., dance 7:30-10:00 p.m., \$3.

Des Moines, IA

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

Fairfield, IA

Contacts: Fairfield Tango Community Sheryll Ryan: sryan@humanfactors.com, 641.233.1011, Kelly Custer: 641.472.1001
Workshops: Weekend of workshops – Jan. 9th to 11th; (Friday evening, 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.
Workshops and Private Lessons:
February 11th to 22nd with Angel G.
Clemete and Rosa Collantes; contact Amy
& Ray (contact info above).

Ann Arbor, MI

Contacts: www.umich.edu/~umtango;
umtango@umich.edu; 734.327.0642 or
734.564.0811
TangoFest: January 16th to 18th featuring
Brigitta Winkler and Tom Stermitz
and guest DJ Robin Thomas; see website
or ad on page 10 for details.

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: 314.849.3007;
tangoartists@tangorosa.com;
www.tangorosa.com;
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;
contact above Web Site for more
information

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.