

# Tango Noticias

January 06, Volume 07, Issue 01 [www.tangonoticas.com](http://www.tangonoticas.com)

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## Meet in the Middle Mt. Vernon, Missouri

The third festival I went to was the second edition of Meet in the Middle in Mt. Vernon, Missouri Aug. 4-7. It is not in the middle for Chicagoans, but three of us traveled there: Greg Hoffenkamp, Jim Halas and I.

I drove into town the day before the festival started so I explored the town of 4,017. It has a Ben Franklin, a traditional dime store with multiple flavors of fudge and sarsaparilla, (which heroic cowboys used to drink in saloons in Western movies instead of whiskey). It also has a courthouse square where Karen Whitesell, the host of the festival, has her beautifully renovated building. She makes stained glass art and rents her space for weddings and other events. She has a beautiful upstairs space with a very nice wooden floor that is perfect for tango. She provided floors and bathrooms for those with sleeping bags and housed the teachers and performers too. She also varnished the theater stage by herself in preparation for the Saturday night performance.

This festival was different from the other two because Karen provided meals for the three days and snacks for late-night tango. An ice cream truck came on Saturday and Sunday, which was very popular. She scheduled live music from Tango Lorca from Kansas City. Saturday night, and she also asked Korey Ireland to set up a performance in a brand new theater. An audience of 220--about double the number of festival dancers--attended.

This festival attracted 107 dancers. There were groups from Kansas City, Tulsa, St. Louis, Springfield (MO), Arkansas and a few from Iowa, Florida, Texas and Colorado. Others came from other Missouri towns like St. Louis and Springfield. The level of experience in tango ranged from a few months to over eight years.



# HOT TANGO FESTIVALS

**BY SHERRY BOEMMEL**

[CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER ISSUE]

# What I have learned from all this is to try not to plan what will happen at a given place except that it is usual to be exhausted from all the possibilities... Tango is a small world but one which requires lots of shoes and clothes.

Karen imported Robert Hauk from Portland and his partner Barbara Durr from Atlanta and Robin Thomas and Jennifer Bratt from New York to teach and perform. The men were also dj's and popular dance partners. Ney Melo, also from New York, was a partner in several dances performed at the theater. Mila also sang and danced, alone and with Korey, during the performance.

For me the best parts of the festival were the performances. Korey and his compatriots put together an entertaining and professional event despite the very hot, airless room and fiercely hot red lighting. Korey and Mila were outstanding because they did more than dance in traditional ways. In addition to their dramatic choreographed dances, Korey played the bandoneon along with Tango Lorca, who also played one of his compositions. It is hard to imagine a Russian woman could sing in Spanish as beautifully and convincingly as Mila did. The others danced much more informally, much as if they were dancing socially, though Jennifer had a more formal presentation too.

Though the venue was not large, there still was the natural tendency of group members to dance mostly with their friends, but there was some mixing

up as well. It was nice to meet more of the men in classes. I had not had classes with Jennifer and Robin before so I took their class, which was more salon than milongero. I discovered that one Tulsa man had taken lessons with my teachers' teachers in Chicago. I knew dancing with him felt more familiar than dancing with some others. Milongero/close embrace was prevalent there.

I loved the music from Tango Lorca too. In addition to the music during the performance, we had music during dinner and music during the milonga. I already had a Tango Lorca cd which is nearly worn out from playing it so I was especially happy to hear the music live. Tango Lorca also played during dinner and at the milonga. I enjoyed the dancing too because I got to dance with some excellent partners. One tanda hit my all-time favorite list along with the creative tanda in Montreal.

## The attraction of festivals

So what is it about these festivals which attracted me? I usually consider the teachers first though I knew few of the teachers in any of these three festivals. Location was important in choosing these festivals because I could drive to two, but it was the prospect of adventurous tango that

was always the most important, of course.

In Montreal's case it was Montreal with its deserved reputation for high-level dancing. In addition to the importation of skilled teachers I wanted to see what that reputation looked like on the dance floor. I also wanted to explore the city, but I had very little time and energy left.

Location was a factor for choosing the St. Louis festival. It was easy to get to, and it was something special to do over the 4th. I had danced in St. Louis before so I thought it would be friendly and fun which it was. The Mt. Vernon festival was attractive because several dancers had told how much fun they had last year. It was nice to have meals and treats provided, but it was a long drive.

The Mt. Vernon festival took the prize for the most formal. Montreal women have a reputation for being very chic so I was afraid that would mean very chic milonga attire, but it did not. There were jeans and dresses with pants under them, some costumes and some beautiful dresses too, but everyone danced together. St. Louis attire was not formal, but the impression in my head was wiped out by the heat. But in Mount Vernon, the men were more formally dressed Saturday night than I have ever witnessed. At least for a while some men even wore jackets before they stripped down to shirts because of the heat at the milonga (quite hot but not unbearable). There were some women who were more formally attired than usual too. One woman wore a red ruffled dress with a full skirt. If I remember correctly, she also wore long gloves with a rhinestone armband.

What I have learned from all this is to try not to plan what will happen at a given place except that it is usual to be exhausted from all the possibilities. Each place will be different though some of the same people you know will probably be there. Tango is a small world but one which requires lots of shoes and clothes.

# CHICAGO TANGO PROJECT

WITH MISHA AND SARAH



09  
january  
start of upcoming  
class sessions

### Foundation Class

This class is designed to give students the foundations of tango technique. Absolute beginners are encouraged to start their tango experience here but seasoned dancers may find this class useful and are welcome as well. Registration is required.

Time: Mondays 8:30 – 9:30 pm

Cost: \$80 for a session of six classes.

### Intermediate Class

This class is a continuation of the Foundations Class. It focuses on technique, musicality and connection with your partner. Prior tango experience or completion of Foundation Class is required. Registration is recommended.

Time: Mondays 7:15 – 8:15 pm

Cost: \$80 for a session of six classes.

### Advanced Class

This class provides students with the techniques for complex movements in tango applying technical skills from the Foundation and Intermediate classes. Registration is recommended.

Time: Thursdays 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Cost: \$80 for a session of six classes.

### Chicago Tango Project Practica

The practica is where you can practice what you have learned in class and ask questions. This practica is open to tango dancers of any level and any style.

Time: Thursdays

8:30 – 10:00 pm

Cost: \$10 includes practica & refreshments. \$5 for students registered for classes.

Our classes are conveniently located at Dance Connection Studio in Chicago 3117 North Clybourn, just south of the intersection of Clybourn, Belmont and Western.

For private lessons, performances or information on class registration call: 773.575.6906 or visit us online:

[tangoproject.com](http://tangoproject.com)



Daniel Byrnes



digital + film > photography

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# The American Tango Institute

*De Corazón a Corazón*

ATI is dedicated to bringing the concept and the universe of tango, with all its elements, its roots, its history and its applications to the community at large in the U.S. Midwest. We will offer different classes of tango dance rhythms and styles at different levels of skill, along with artistic, musical and cultural programs and exhibits.

With two separate ballrooms, in addition to tango dance, music and art, ATI will offer instruction in other dance rhythms such as salsa, meringue, cha-cha-cha, danzón, cumbia, mambo, regional Mexican dances, stepping, as well as classes in yoga and tai chi, as part of its efforts to promote dance and movement as a means of enhancing the human spirit.

ATI is a place where people will be able to come to rediscover themselves, to find joy in movement, music and other forms of art or to just relax and to meet with friends to talk and have a good cup of coffee and a snack.



We would like to invite all Chicagoland and Midwest tango enthusiasts and friends to join us for our Grand Opening Reception & Milonga, with a special live performance by the Tiempo Tango Chicago Ensemble, accompanied by Maestro Gerardo Perez, bandoneonist, direct from Uruguay.

Thursday, January 19, 2006 6:00 pm - 12:00 am  
325 N. Hoyne Ave., Suite C-404 Chicago, Illinois 60612

R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 13, 2006

By phone: 312-464-9100 Attn. Elisa or 312-287-8406 Attn. Netza Roldan

By e-mail: [potranca@americantangoinstitute.com](mailto:potranca@americantangoinstitute.com)

Visit: [www.americantangoinstitute.com](http://www.americantangoinstitute.com)

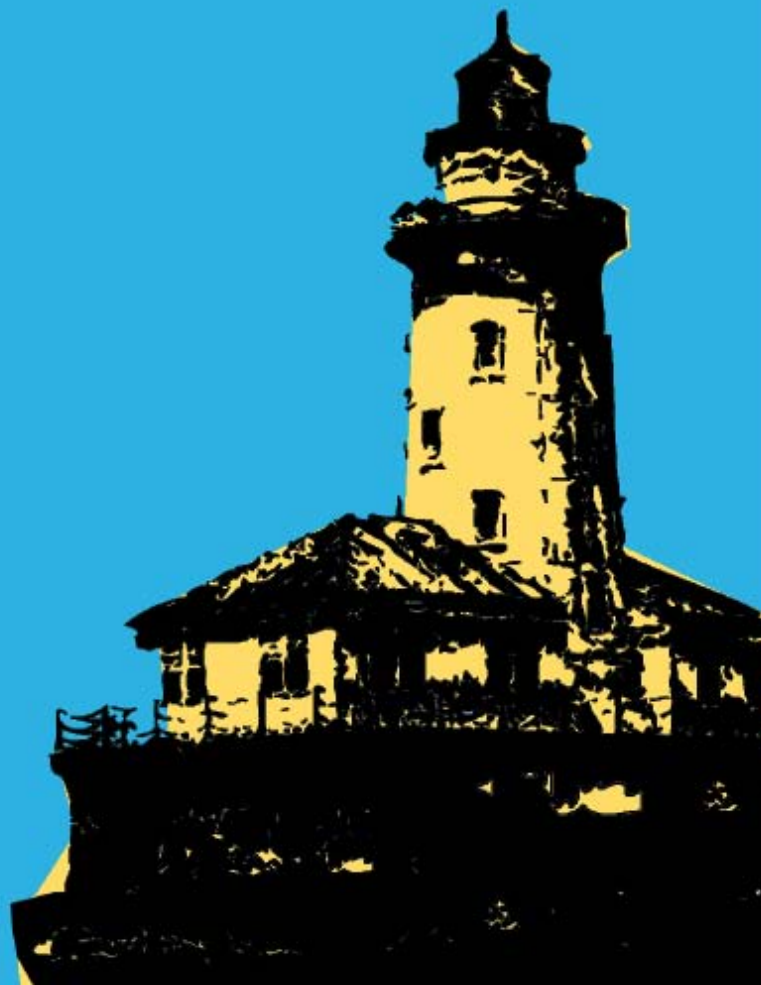
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# Chicago Tango

## CHICAGO MILONGAS

### TUESDAY

#### Tango Chicago Tuesday Night Milonga

Tango Chicago Dance Centre.

1043 W. Madison, Chicago.

8:30 pm – 12 midnight, \$12.

Contact: Al Gates at 312.850.1078 or [www.tangochicago.com](http://www.tangochicago.com)

#### American Tango Institute's Tuesday Night Milonga

Palwaukee Inn (formerly Kabak)

1090 South Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, Illinois

8:30-12:00am, lesson prior to milonga.

\$10. Contact: Netza Roldan 312.287.8406,

[MyTangonet@yahoo.com](mailto:MyTangonet@yahoo.com) or [www.americantangoinstitute.com](http://www.americantangoinstitute.com)

### WEDNESDAY

#### Somer & Agape's Tango Motivo

Barba Yianni Grecian Taverna

4761 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

9:30pm-12:30am, lesson prior to milonga.

\$10. Contacts: Somer 773-807-5704,

[somersurgit@yahoo.com](mailto:somersurgit@yahoo.com); Agape 773-936-

1619, [findagapepappas@yahoo.com](mailto:findagapepappas@yahoo.com)

### THURSDAY

#### "Entre Amigos" Cabana Nights

Vida Lounge

1248 W. George Street, Chicago

Contact : Jorge Nidas 312-397-0100 or

D'Antoni Productions at 312-217-0304 or

visit [www.21tango.com](http://www.21tango.com)

### FRIDAY

#### Milonga Vida

American Tango Institute

325 N. Hoyne Street, Chicago.

9pm - 2am, \$15, \$12 for students with ID

Refreshments provided but BYOB.

Contact: Beth 847-846-5611; 630-254-8628.

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

#### Los Besos Milonguita

Every 2nd Friday of the month

American Tango Institute

325 N. Hoyne St., Chicago

9pm-2am; \$15 cover.

Contact: Ellen & Oleg Mashkovich

847-409-4513; [una\\_emocion@yahoo.com](mailto:una_emocion@yahoo.com)

#### Milonga Vida-Blue Moon

4th Friday, when there are 5 Fridays in a

month. American Tango Institute, 325 N.

Hoyne Street Chicago. Check the ATI website

for details, [www.americantangoinstitute.com](http://www.americantangoinstitute.com)

or call Beth 847-846-5611; 630-254-8628

#### Nuestro Tango

Last Friday of the month.

Latvian Community Center

4146 N. Elston Ave., Chicago

8:30pm – 12:30 am; \$10, Contact:

262.942.4587 Valentina, 773.279.9414 Carmen,

312.342.4335 Phoebe or [WindyCityTango@](mailto:WindyCityTango@Yahoo.com)

[Yahoo.com](mailto:Yahoo.com)

### SATURDAY

#### Recuerdo Tango Club

6137 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago.

9pm.- ?, \$15. Hosted by Carlos & Melisa Favre

Contact: [tango@recuerdoclub.com](mailto:tango@recuerdoclub.com)

### SUNDAY

#### Somer & Agape's Tango Motivo

Flatfile Galleries

217 N. Carpenter St., Chicago

Milonga 8-11pm, lesson prior to milonga.

\$15. Contact: Somer 773-807-5704,

[somersurgit@yahoo.com](mailto:somersurgit@yahoo.com); Agape 773-936-

1619, [findagapepappas@yahoo.com](mailto:findagapepappas@yahoo.com)

## CHICAGO PRACTICAS

### THURSDAY

#### Chicago Tango Project Practica

Dance Connection Studio

3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago

8:30 to 10:00 pm; \$10, registered students

\$5. Lesson prior to practica. Refreshments

provided. Contact: Sarah & Misha at

773.575.6906 or [www.tangoproject.com](http://www.tangoproject.com)

### FRIDAYS

#### Tango Chicago Dance Centre

1043 W. Madison, Chicago. Practica 7:30p.m.-

11:00 p.m, open to all levels, \$12. Contact: Al

Gates at 312.850.1078, [www.tangochicago.com](http://www.tangochicago.com)

Sundays

Tango Sentido Productions Practica

## ON-GOING CLASSES

Check the Chicago Teachers link on our

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

# Central Tango

## FAYETTEVILLE, AR

Contacts: Elayne's Dance - The Art of Social Dancing, [www.elaynesdance.com](http://www.elaynesdance.com), [info@elaynesdance.com](mailto:info@elaynesdance.com), 479.521.6683

## DENVER AND BOULDER, CO

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## ATLANTA, GA

Contacts: [www.atlantatangofestival.com](http://www.atlantatangofestival.com)

## CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL

Contacts: [www.centragtango.com](http://www.centragtango.com); Joe Grohens: [joegrohens.com](mailto:joegrohens.com); [www.tango.joegrohens.com](http://www.tango.joegrohens.com) 217.378.4751, Ron Weigel: [TangoSociety@aol.com](mailto:TangoSociety@aol.com); 217.328.1311  
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## AMES / DES MOINES, IA

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## FAIRFIELD / IOWA CITY, IA

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Iowa City Tango Club - Gregory Kovaciny [kovaciny@inav.net](mailto:kovaciny@inav.net) or [tangoic@yahoo.com](mailto:tangoic@yahoo.com) 319-338-0655, Fairfield Tango Community - Christopher Everett [ceverett@ceverett.com](mailto:ceverett@ceverett.com) 641-919-1991 cell. Kelly Custer: 641-472-1001

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Michelle Murphy: [mcmurphy@psych.purdue.edu](mailto:mcmurphy@psych.purdue.edu)

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Metro-Detroit area: Argentine Tango Detroit  
Lori Burton: [Lori@argentinetangodetroit.com](mailto:Lori@argentinetangodetroit.com); <http://www.argentinetangodetroit.com> 586.254.0560

## TWIN CITIES, MN

Contacts: [www.mntango.org](http://www.mntango.org) [www.geocities.com/twincitiestango](http://www.geocities.com/twincitiestango) Steve Lee: 612.729.5306,  
Lois Donnay: [donnay@donnay.net](mailto:donnay@donnay.net), 612.822.8436;  
Frank Williams: [Frankw@tc.umn.edu](mailto:Frankw@tc.umn.edu), 612.379.4565. For a weekly update of Twin Cities tango activities <http://mntango.org/mailmn/listinfo> and subscribe to 'TSOM'- announce.

## KANSAS CITY, MO

Contacts: Korey Ireland; at <http://www.ko-arts.com/tango.html>; [korey@ko-arts.com](mailto:korey@ko-arts.com); or 816.931.9545

## MT. VERNON, MO

Contacts: Karen Whitesell: [www.thelearningdepot.com/murrays-1/](http://www.thelearningdepot.com/murrays-1/); 417.471.1001; Fax 417.471.1002

## ST. LOUIS, MO

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## CLEVELAND, OH

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## PITTSBURG, PA

Contacts: PATangoS - Pittsburgh Argentine Tango Society at [www.pitt.edu/~mchp/PATangoWeb.htm](http://www.pitt.edu/~mchp/PATangoWeb.htm), Trini or Sean [patangos@yahoo.com](mailto:patangos@yahoo.com) or 412.521.1478

## MADISON, WI

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Nicole Stevens: 608-213-8301, [milongamadison@yahoo.com](mailto:milongamadison@yahoo.com)

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## MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

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## TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA

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Please send any information regarding contact information for Argentine tango events in the Midwest to [central\\_tango@yahoo.com](mailto:central_tango@yahoo.com) and we will be sure to update each community's contact listing. Also, let us know if you'd like your community featured in an upcoming issue.