

Tango Noticias

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Cover Photo by Artist StudioMari, Interview with the photographer on page 13

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Argentina's Economic Crisis & Tango

Given the great number of people in the Chicago area who, over the last few months, have been making their first trips to Buenos Aires, we've been eager to find materials that would give them some sense for how the current uncertainties of Argentina's economy might impact their trip. December's piece by Kara Wenham began this series of reports. In a similar vein, we discovered a superb article addressing just this question at tangoparatodos.com with the following article by Brooke Burdett. Special thanks go to Erica Sutton for her permission to reprint Brooke's article in the newsletter this month..

Brooke Burdett is an American and an Argentine tango dancer and instructor who has lived in Buenos Aires for the past five years. Brooke will be returning to the Chicago area from February 23rd to the 25th. For more information on her upcoming teaching

schedule please see her listing in our Chicago Events Calendar.

It's true that Argentina is in economic crisis, and the reverberations of the crisis are felt in every place, in every person, in every moment. Foreign visitors will certainly see the eroding effects the crisis has had on local Argentines, but this needn't prevent them from having an enjoyable vacation. For tourists, the advantages of visiting Argentina far outweigh the disadvantages. The advantage is mostly due to the devaluation of the Argentine peso and the fact that the price of food, clothes, taxis and some lodging are one-third or less than what they would be in dollars. Imagine buying a pair of tango shoes for US \$20.

Some Safety Precautions

While I recommend visiting Argentina, Buenos Aires is somewhat more dangerous than it used to be. I used to feel fairly safe walking around by myself and waiting for the bus at 3 a.m. on a weekday. Now, I would only do that if I had to – for instance, if I didn't have taxi money. The streets are a little less safe simply because there are fewer people out late at night, and there are more impoverished and hungry people in the country and in Buenos Aires.

Be sensible under these circumstances — don't walk around alone at 3 a.m. For foreigners, taxis are very inexpensive, and taking one to and from destinations is probably the safest route late at night. I have read in the newspapers that there have been situations where taxi drivers and accomplices have robbed passengers. However, the number of times I have heard of this happening is minuscule compared to the number of people taking taxis every day and night without problems.

I think that the likelihood of being assaulted or robbed in a taxi scam is very low for most foreign tango tourists with some urban awareness. For example, don't take a taxi sitting outside on the street if you have just walked out of a bank, an *American Express* office, or any place where you might be getting or changing money. In general, it's best to hail a moving taxi rather than one that's sitting, unless it's a taxi sitting outside a milonga. The milongas have taxi drivers who work for them and those drivers are trustworthy. If you are going out at night from a home, hotel or somewhere where there is a phone, calling a radio taxi is the safest option.

Keep in mind that phones generally are not available for public use in most

places. As a tourist, if you use your street smarts and keep a low profile—don't wear fancy jewelry or fur coats, and don't flash wads of cash—then the danger index for you is low. If you're concerned about political uprising — well, the likelihood of one occurring is very low. At most, you might see some demonstrations. If you do, the best thing to do is stay away from them to avoid any complications. The city is

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it takes two.*

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it also takes two,**

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big enough that you should be able to do so.

The Good News

The plus for tourists who visit now is the strength of the dollar. Even though inflation is occurring, prices in Argentine pesos still end up costing less for tourists with U.S. dollars or any currency of similar value. Priced in foreign currency, clothes, restaurants and shoes(!)

are all one-third less than what they used to be. From what I can see, tango shoes here are still sold in pesos.

It seems, however, that tango housing and hotels remain in dollars, but prices are certainly reasonable. You also will be asked to pay in dollars for private tango lessons with many teachers – especially those who are more well-known – and the

fee will be the same amount you would pay in the United States. Group classes, however, are priced in Argentine pesos and are extremely inexpensive when compared to those in the United States.

The Effect on the Tango Scene

How has the local tango scene been affected by the crisis? Unemployment, inflation, and the increasing number of people living under the poverty level (at least half the population) will no doubt affect any country's social environment. But in the tango scene and the milongas, the effects are not that obvious. Someone coming here for the first time would never know the difference. Yes, the tango magazines are thinner and harder to come by. Some locals will choose a night or two to go out (probably on the weekend) as opposed to going out every night. But, really, the only locals who ever went out every night anyway were newer dancers in their fanatic stage or people who got free admission. The latter people still get free admission, and you'll still see them in the milongas.

There are plenty of milongas, and the ones I have attended recently have been very crowded. Some milongas have closed; others have opened—nothing radically

different from my experience during the past five years I've lived here. For me, one of the most distressing effects of the economic decline on tango is that many of the best dancers have disappeared from the scene because they have been forced to look for opportunity abroad. But, I find that the level and variety of dancing here is still higher here than in most U.S. cities.

Regardless of how many people are in the milongas and what the level of dancing is, Buenos Aires will always remain the heart and soul of the tango. What one experiences here is unparalleled to the tango experience anywhere else in the world. Economic crisis is part of it, and I encourage foreigners to come here and talk to the local people—ask them what is going on and how it is affecting them. In tango's history, Argentina has gone through both good and bad times—and all of it has been reflected in tango's lyrics, music and dance.

Brooke Burdett
August 2002,
Buenos Aires

Tango - L

Summarized by
Phoebe J. Grant

This is the first of what will be a regular column in Tango Noticias. Here I review a recent dialogue on Tango-L, an internet-based international forum for discussion of topics related to Argentine tango. The repetition in Tango Noticias of comments posted to Tango-L does not in any way constitute the endorsement of such by the editors.

Timely to the Chicago tango community, there were over 55 messages exchanged between Dec. 18, 2002 and Jan. 9, 2003 regarding “**Community Development / Growth**”. The discussion was initiated by Tom Stermitz of Denver in the interest of a New Year’s challenge to tango teachers for growing their communities: “*Over the next year, change what you are doing to produce just 12 students (1 per month) who can dance nicely and have really joined the community.*” He then acknowledged how difficult this will be, requiring both marketing to attract new students – particularly the typically much needed leaders – and improving retention rates for newcomers as well as established members. Several respondents stated that tango has the highest attrition rate amongst the social dances. Tom sug-

gested that teachers may need to adjust their methodology in order to enable leaders to learn more easily. He also posited that our milongas need to feel like “parties” so the social environment of our dances will be inviting in addition to the community welcoming new faces and feet. Perhaps Stephen Brown of Dallas best phrased this sentiment: “*The broader tango community ... has a role in retaining newbies ... For a tango community to grow, it must have a sense of openness, a willingness to accept newcomers and not just visitors who already have great dance skills.*”

Others from around the country and world began to offer their opinions on one or more of these 3 central themes: **marketing, teaching and retention**. A fourth theme developed – “The Next Generation” – which related more to the evolution of tango music. This will be set aside from the central themes.

Marketing

Target toward likely tango dancers, i.e., other dance venues; this may mean that there will have to be a variety of music – including a variety of tango styles — at milongas.

Attract more men – every community needs more leaders.

Realistic expectations –

don’t promise romance or quick perfection. Make sure your information is accurate.

Teaching

Follow thru on what you’ve promised.

Emphasize skills for comfortable leading and following to succeed at social dancing — thus, line of dance, etiquette (including how to make and also gracefully decline an offer to dance) would be foci of instruction vs. teaching complicated sequences of steps. In a couple of communities, the instructors have agreed on the essential things that they all will

teach in their beginning classes, including the appropriate embrace.

Facilitate students’ ability to make a serious effort at learning, i.e., don’t try to lock them in to one instructor vs. another.

“Enforce partner rotation to ensure that leaders dance with a broad cross section of followers and, hence, learn to lead clearly,” Andrew Allison – an instructor of Tai Chi — advocates for the additional goal of developing and retaining prospective leaders. He believes instructors should concentrate on teaching how to lead rather than teaching how to do steps. The side benefit of this is that followers also will learn to follow better and anticipate less! A few others noted that the teaching of leading can best be accomplished the historically correct way – with a class for men leading men! This went along with Astrid’s suggestion to return to the old days, “*when the men trained with each other, before the new leaders were let loose on the women and women learned from men who could already dance.*”

Picking up on Andrew’s position, several others – leaders and followers – noted the benefits to their tango dancing of various forms of martial arts.

Make a point of introducing your students to others



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in the community, perhaps even inviting more experienced dancers to assist at your classes/practicass.

For beginning students, rely on music with simple and clear rhythms such as Canaro and Calò from the '30s. Then, move on to Pugliese, D'Arienzo and DiSarli as the students advance.

Encourage students to listen to tango music when they're not at a tango event. Furthermore, Brian Dunn of Colorado advised instructors to offer musicality classes on a regular basis – include one within any package of classes.

Retention

Have the music at milongas/practicass suitable to early learners during the time when they are prevalent, i.e., if there's a beginning class preceding a milonga, encourage the students to stay by avoiding more complicated rhythms.

Additionally, to foster excitement amongst the "regulars", try to have live music more often. At a minimum, encourage the milonga organizers to vary their selection of orchestras. Also, the DJ is cautioned to be sensitive to the mood of the evening – you may have to change your play list if the dance floor fills up more with one orchestra or style than another.

Existing dancers should

be more expansive in their selection of dance partners (this applies to followers as well as leaders). In fact, Marisa Holmes added to the initial New Year's challenge with: *"(A)t each milonga you attend this year, ... dance with one person you have never danced with before. ... (And), ask early – people who are not getting dances go home before you are tired. ... If you have danced at least once with everyone at the milonga, ask the person you have danced with least. ... And, ladies, that does mean that you will sometimes have to ask for a dance."*

However, if you want to continue to limit yourself to one or a few partners, at least be friendly toward the newbies. Many stated that they would welcome advice on their dancing from those more talented; at least they'd feel noticed. On the other hand, others felt unsolicited "training" is not appropriate at milongas, only at classes and practicass.

Resolve conflicts quickly and amicably, or *"agree to disagree and get on with the dancing"*, says Robert Hauk. Above everything else, don't involve third parties, particularly newcomers, in disputes that don't involve them – don't polarize dancers before they've had a chance to enjoy themselves. Jai Jeffries,

on the other hand, took the following position: *"...some degree of debate and factionalism is probably healthy. Expect to find ardent points of view regarding beauty and standards in the context of any expressive art that is sophisticated, deep, and worthwhile. ... I think it simply reflects the convictions of people for whom the dance is ... important! ... (B)e very devoted to developing one's own feelings and voice with the dance while not being very susceptible to the surrounding fray."*

Guard against unwanted/unwarranted advances. Ed Loomis of Sacramento proposes, *"After 40 years of feminism, it is no longer safe or politically correct for men to intervene and protect a woman. ... That leaves it up to the women in the community to devise a strategy for dealing with the male factor. Shunning him en masse and refusing to dance with him is effective in a small, tightly knit community. It is common to see the men who have made themselves unpopular with the local ladies, for whatever reason, waiting to pounce on any new face that walks in the door. This has the effect of turning our worst examples into ambassadors for our community."* In the end, if the individual at issue doesn't get the message, the community may have to make a concerted effort to protect its

own interests. At a minimum, if and when such behavior is brought to the attention of the event's organizer(s), the organizer(s) should inform the individual that (s)he won't be welcome at future events if the behavior continues.

Organization

Several communities have organized to coordinate their marketing, teaching and retention efforts across instructors and organizers. Stephen Brown went so far as to suggest working together to develop a *"community business plan."* In any event, perhaps we all should strive to remember and achieve what Eero Olli of Bergen, Norway proffers: *"Tango is a social dance. Put some effort in the community. Arrange a party. Have fun. Make sure that everyone else is having fun, too. Be generous, and it will all come back to you."*

If you want to subscribe to Tango-L yourself, send an e-mail from the server on which you want to receive the messages to LIST-SERV@MITVMA.MIT.EDU with "subscribe Tango-L (your first name last name)" in the subject and text. You will receive a confirmation to which you need to respond and then you too will be inundated with comments and news about Argentine tango all over the world.

January

31st Close Embrace Workshop with Carlos & Michelle

Recuerdo, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago

In their first workshop in a long time, Carlos and Michelle will present a workshop focusing on the technique for close embrace dancing. Both the lead and follow will be emphasized. Knowledge of fundamental skills is important. After the workshop the class will go tango at the *Nuestro Tango* milonga.

Cost is \$15. Add time 7:00 - 8:45 pm. Contact 773.501.0510 for details.

February

1st – 2nd Antonio “Junior” Cervila Workshops

Windy City Tango brings Antonio “Junior” Cervila – the “Assassin” in Carlos Saura’s movie, “*Tango*,” and currently Mora Godoy’s partner in “*Tanguera*” – to Chicago. Junior speaks excellent English and his classes are fun and easy to understand.

Saturday, February 1st at *Dance Connection*, 3117 N. Clybourn:

12:00 – 1:15 pm

Vals – Rhythm and use of Turns (*Intermediate*)

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Milonga – “Let’s dance a playful milonga” (*Intermediate*)

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Tango – Combining giros and sacadas (*Intermediate / Advanced*)

Sunday, February 2nd at the *Latvian Community Center*, 4146 N. Elston

12:00 – 1:15 pm

Tango – Combination of movements (*Intermediate*)

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Milonga – Combination of movements (*Intermediate / Advanced*)

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Tango – Junior’s favorite movements (*Intermediate / Advanced*).

The price for the workshops: 1 workshop = \$25; 2 workshops = \$47; Any 3 workshops = \$70; etc.; All 6 workshops = \$135 if paid in advance.

All workshops assume at least a fundamental understanding of the style or technique being taught. WCT reserves the right to cancel workshops without adequate enrollment, so contact Phoebe J. Grant at (312) 342-4335 / WindyCityTango@yahoo.com to pre-register. Private lessons will be available at \$90/hour; 4 or more individuals may schedule a small group class at \$40/person/hour; if studio space is required for private lessons, the cost will be paid by the student(s). See *WindyCity Tango* ad on page 12 for further details.

18th – 26th Brooke Burdett and Javier Rochwarger Workshops

Gallery on Lake, 942 W. Lake Street, Chicago

Brooke is back with a new partner. If you’ve enjoyed Brooke in the past, don’t miss out on her workshops:

Sunday, February 23rd

5:00 - 6:30pm Ganchos: The Step That Got Us Hooked on Tango

7:00 - 8:30pm Barridas: Finding the Connection With Your Feet

8:30 - 10:00pm PRACTICA with Brooke and Javier, and Douglas and Erica

Monday, January 24

7:30 - 9:00pm Tango Vals

Tuesday, January 25

7:30 - 9:00pm Follower’s Technique
See www.tangoparatodos.com for pricing and registration information or call Erica at 773.505.1577.

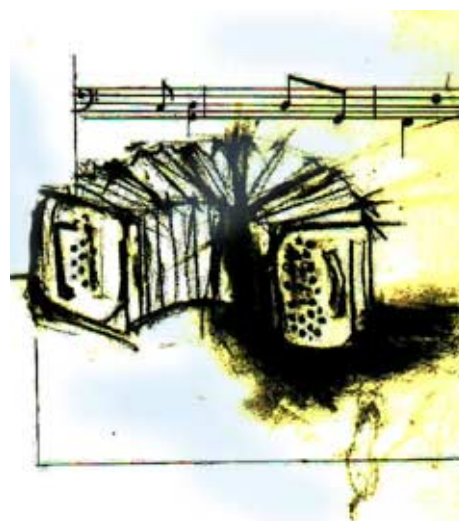
March

21st – Symphony Night “Tango Buenos Aires”

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

To reserve a ticket, you may pay by cash or by check made payable to Beth Braun; give to Beth, Jan Carpenter, or Erica Sutton. Deadline for ticket purchase is February 21st. The performance is almost sold out.

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



Chicago Milongas

Tuesdays

Club 720, 720 North Wells 3rd Floor, Chicago

8:00 pm – midnight; \$5 cover, cash bar

Complimentary lessons 8:00-9:00 pm on the mezzanine with rotating guest instructors. Either Séan Erwin & Yanira Collado or Leroy Hearon & Phoebe J. Grant will teach during February. Visit www.Club720.com for more information.

Thursdays - resumes December 26

Erie Café Milonga Loca, 536 W. Erie, Chicago

8:30 pm – midnight No charge, valet parking

Beginners' lesson: \$5, 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Contact Bill Duvall at williamduval@ameritech.net

First & Third Fridays February 7th and 21th

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

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

7th – “**Chinese New Year**” – February begins the year of the sheep and is more than a good enough reason to finally have a Chinese milonga! If you like Chinese food and you want to learn about your sign in the Chinese horoscope, be sure to join us.

21st – “**A Night at the Casbah**!” – We enjoyed this so much last year that we invite you to again indulge in the exotic quality of an Arabian Night of tango. Find your harem pants, your scarves and veils and a jewel for your belly button.

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

Last Friday of the Month – January 31st and February 28th

Milonga Nuestro Tango

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

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

Contact Valentina Cisar 773-763-8729, Carmen Pinto

773.279.9414, or Phoebe Grant 312.342.4335

www.WindyCityTango@yahoo.com. January 31st – View a showcase performance by Antonio “Junior” Cervalis.

Saturdays or Sundays – February 2nd, 8th, 14th, 22nd

Recuerdo, 6137 N. Northwest Hwy, Chicago

9:00 pm – midnight \$15

Don't miss the special Valentine's evening on the 14th. With a special price of \$25, enjoy an Argentine dinner. Bring your sweetheart! Reservations required. Contact Carlos Favre or Michelle Costello at 773.301.0510 or www.recuerdotangoclub.com

Chicago Practicas

Thursdays – 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Dance Connection, 3117 N. Clybourn, Chicago

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

February 6th: Special Follower's Technique Workshop

Cost \$10. Contact Séan Erwin, drtango@hotmail.com, or 773.274.9564 for details.

Fridays 7:30 – 11:00 pm

Lake Shore Athletic Club, Main Aerobic Room

1320 W. Fullerton, Chicago - Cost \$12

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

Fridays 8:30 – 10:30 pm

Gloria & Eduardo Arquimbau School of Authentic Argentine Tango

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

Contact Elena Robles at *Tango Sentido Production, Inc.* www.tangoinchicago.com or 773.550.2646

Sundays 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Gallery on Lake

942 W. Lake, Chicago - Cost \$5

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

Contact Erica Sutton 773.505.1577 or www.tangoparatodos.com

Sundays 6:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Contact Elena Robles at *Tango Sentido Production, Inc.* www.tangoinchicago.com or 773.550.2646.

Chicago Classes

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

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

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Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

Coming to a milonga and being received at the entrance by the hostess with a hug and a kiss lets us know immediately that we were welcome. That's what happened to George and I when we went to the opening of *Recuerdo Club*. The atmosphere was affectionate and relaxed; the music was fantastic. They played a collection of gorgeous tangos, all danceable, all inviting you to the floor. We know that running a milonga is a difficult business, so we are very grateful to Michelle, Carlos, Lydia and Tony for taking over the place in order to continue offering us all a milonga on Saturday nights. They certainly can count on my support!

Ana Savitzky.

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WindyCityTango, Unlimited

Upcoming (sponsored or endorsed) Events



Fri., Jan. 31 thru
Mon., Feb. 2, 2003

Antonio "Junior" Cervila

Sponsored by:
Leroy Hearon, Jr. &
Phoebe J. Grant
See ad on pg. 12

March 16 thru 23

C.I.T.A.

Congreso Internacional de Tango Argentino

Travel to Buenos Aires with WCT

Featuring:

Fabián Salas y Carolina del Rivero, Cecilia González, Julio Balmaceda y Corina de la Rosa, Mariano "Chicho" Frúmboli y Lucía Mazer, Facundo y Kely Posadas, Nito y Elba Garcia, Fernando Galera y Vilma Vega, Eduardo Cappussi y Mariana Flores, Sergio Nataro y Alajandra Arrué, Eduardo Saucedo y Marisa Quiroga, Chiche y Marta, Milena Plebs y Ezequiel Farfaro, Roberto Herrera y Natacha Poberaj, Sebastian Arce y Mariana Montes, and, possibly, Carlos Gavito

Additional 10% discount if at least 10 Chicagoans attend

Also coming to Chicago in 2003 with WCT

Carlos y Maria Rivarola

Carolina Zokalski y Diego DiFalco

Marcelo Martins e Vanessa Galvao

Another Brazilian discovery by Julie Koidin

"El Pulpo" y Luiza

Paulo Araujo returns in May

Cecilia Gonzalez returns in the Autumn

Winner(s) of a FREE future WCT event from attendance at the Nito y Elba Garcia workshops is/are:

**Miguel Cabrera, Geary Gaspard
& Donita Slaska**

Random drawing for 1 certificate per each 50 attendees

contact Phoebe J. Grant

WindyCityTango@yahoo.com (312) 342-4335

Tango with Sean and Yanira

Tango with Séan & Yanira

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

Private Instruction and Ongoing,
Semi-Private Group Classes

For details contact
drtango@hotmail.com or 773.274.9564

Practica at Dance Connection

with Séan and Yanira

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

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

**SPECIAL FOLLOWER'S
TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP
WITH YANIRA ON FEBRUARY 9TH**

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

New Classes Beginning

with Séan & Yanira

Beginning February 24th on Mondays
a tango basics class from 7:30 to 8:30

at *Dance Connection*, 3117 N. Clybourne.
Cost \$10

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

Photo by Studio Mari

Regional Supplement to Tango Noticias

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

Champaign-Urbana, IL

Contacts:

Leonardo: Tangoleon@aol.com; 217.328.1311

Joe Grohens: grohens@uiuc.edu; 217.328.1008

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

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

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

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

Milwaukee, WI

Contacts:

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

Milongas: *La Conexión*; every 2nd and 4th – Friday: Milonga 9:00 p-1:00 a.; Feb. 14th and 28th at *Milwaukee Elks Lodge* (5555 W. Good Hope Rd.); Free beginner class 8:00-9:00 p; Milonga 9:00 p-1:00 a.; Admission \$15 (\$8 w/ student ID, \$21 includes Fish Fry

Dinner) includes 1 free drink; light buffet provided.

Classes: contact Marek to pre-register or to schedule privates.

Sundays:

Intermediate/Advanced 2:30-4:00 p; Advanced Basic 4:00-5:30 p; Basic 5:30-7:00 p; \$40 for 4 classes or \$15/person/class drop-in rate.

Thursdays at *Kinetic Dance Studio* (3068 S. 13th St. at Oklahoma): Technique – 6:30-7:30 p; Practica – 7:30-9:00 p; \$10/person/drop-in rate.

Workshop: Nina's Women's Technique Class – Sat., Feb. 1st at *Kinetic Dance Studio*, 1:00-3:00 p

Madison, WI

Contacts:

Steven Fosdal: steve@fosdal.net; 608.288.8339

Anna Snider: asnider@nutrapark.com; 608.836.7716

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

Practicas: *Pasión del Tango* at Union South (227 N. Randall St.; Univ. of Wis. campus at the corner of Randall and Johnson; Tuesdays 7:00-10:30 p; Free. **Milonga:** Fri., Feb. 21st at Lutheran Campus Center (325 N. Mills St.); 8:00-11:30 p.

Joint Tango/Ballroom Dance: Sat., Feb. 22 with Univ. of Wis. Ballroom Dance Assoc. at

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Lake Street Milonga

942 W. Lake (at Peoria), Chicago
\$10 - light refreshments; BYOB
9:00 pm – 1:00 am

Due to a new job and an increasingly busy teaching schedule, our friend Erica Sutton steps away as co-host of the milonga. Erica, thank you for the last two years!! We had a blast working with you and will miss you greatly. We look forward to having you as our guest at future milongas.

7th - “Chinese New Year” - February 1st begins the year of the sheep and is more than a good enough reason to finally have a Chinese milonga! If you like Chinese food and you want to learn about your sign in the Chinese horoscope, be sure to join us.

21st - “A Night at the Casbah!” - We enjoyed this so much last year that we invite you to again indulge in the exotic quality of an Arabian Night of tango. Find your harem pants, your scarves and veils and a jewel for your belly-button

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

Gordon Commons (717 W. Johnson St.); Beginner lesson 6:00-7:00 p, Intermediate lesson 7:00-8:00 p, dancing until midnight.

Workshops: Brooke Burdett at Lutheran Campus Center – Fri., Feb. 21st, 6:00-7:30 p; Sat., Feb. 22, 1:00-2:30 p and 2:45-4:15 p.

Twin Cities, MN

Contacts:

Tango Society of Minnesota - Mntango.org
Steve Lee: 612.729.5306
tango@winternet.com
www.geocities.com/twincities-tango

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

Milongas:

Tango Society of Minnesota: 2nd Saturday/monthly at *Dancesport Dance Studio* in Hopkins; lesson 8:00-9:00 p; dancing 9:00 p-1:00 a; Admission: \$5 for members or \$8 for others. *Steve Lee's Tango Plus*; Friday after 2nd Saturday of each month; 9:00 p-1:00 a; lesson 9:00-9:30 p; Admission: \$5. *Michael 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.

Practicas:

Rebecca Trost's Tango Practicas; Tuesdays 9:00-10:30 p; \$2.
Four Season's Dance Studio (1637 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis); Mondays 9:00-10:30 p; \$4; 612.342.0902.
Lake Harriet Dance Studio (6438 Lyndale Ave., Richfield) Structured *practica* w/ Steve Lee 9:00-10:30 p; \$4 unstructured, \$5 structured.

Classes: please see the following websites for details:

www.mntango.org/tsoncal
<http://i.am.tctango>
Visiting Teachers:
Florencia Taccetti – ongoing at *Four Seasons Dance Studio*; contact at 612.379.4565 or ftaccetti@yahoo.com
For a weekly update of *Twin Cities tango activities*, go to <http://mntango.org/mailmn/listinfo/> and subscribe to 'TSOM-announce.'

Ames, IA

Contacts:

Valerie Williams: v@vjw.biz; 515.232.7374;
Tango Salon: *Café Diem*, 323 Main Street, Ames; Sun., Feb. 2nd – 4:00-7:00 p featuring Introduction / Technique, Figures, Intermediate / Advanced Steps and open dancing; \$5 includes class(es); ; contact Valerie Williams at above e-mail/phone.
Classes: After Feb. 2nd, Tango Salon and Classes will not occur until April.

Detroit, MI

Contacts:

Amy & Ray:
MotorCityMilongueros.com; 313.561.3236
Lori Burton:
Argentinatangodetroit.com; 586.726.2370
Amy & Ray:
MotorCityMilongueros.com;
AmyandRay@comcast.net
Milongas:

Milonga de la Motor City Milongueros: Tuesdays at Father O'Kelly Knights of Columbus Hall (23663 Park, Dearborn), 7:00-10:00 p; -contact them at above e-mail/phone for details.
La Practica: Thursdays at the *Pittsfield Grange*; 7:00-10:00 p; Admission: \$10 (\$5 w/ student ID)
Special Events:

Noche Latinas – March 1st and May 9th at Giovanni Caboto Club (21275 Parent, Windsor, Ontario).
Latin & Argentine Tango Club 10th Anniversary Celebration – October 17th at Giovanni Caboto Club (21275 Parent, Windsor, Ontario).

Lori Burton:

Argentinatangodetroit.com or Lori@Argentinatangodetroit.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 until after Labor Day.
Classes: Argentine Tango Detroit: every day of the week, 7758 Auburn, Utica; see website for details.

Kansas City, MO

Contacts:

Korey Ireland; korey@kodair.com or 816.931.9545;
<http://www.kodair.com/tango>
Milongas: Wednesdays at *Fedora on the Plaza*; 210 W. 47th; Lesson w/ Mitch Weiner 7:00-8:00 p; Live music by *Tango Lorca* 8:00-11:00 p; Free. "La Ceremonia", Sundays at *Westport Presbyterian Church* (201 Westport Rd.); Intermediate "cool move of the week" class 7:30-8:30 p; Milonga 8:30-10:30 p; live music by *Tango Lorca*; \$5/person including pre-milonga class. Monthly Saturday night on Dec. 14; hosted by Toi Shaw at the *Swing Club*, 6101 Martway, Mission; dancing 8:00-11:00 p.
Practicas: Sundays 5:00-7:00 p at *The Hurricane* (Westport and Broadway)
Classes: Tuesdays at

Woodside Health Club (200 W. 47th Place); Beginning & Technique 7:00-8:30 p; Intermediate/Milonga 8:30-10:00 p; \$5/person/class (no classes until 14th; practica only on 7th).
Roxanne McKenny classes; Tuesdays (Body Parts Technique series = improve your dance); Thursdays (Legoland = get out of the rut); Fridays (Tango Basics = building community); Weekends (variety of topics to freshen your repertoire); contact Korey Ireland at above e-mail/phone.

Mt. Vernon, MO

Contacts:

Karen Whitesell: 417.471.1001; Fax 417.471.1002; www.the-learningdepot.com/murrays-1/
Classes: Wednesdays at *Murray's Vintage Venue* (202 S Hickory, Mt. Vernon); 7:00-9:00 p; All Levels; \$5/person/class.

St. Louis, MO

Contacts:

Carter Maier: tngomn@hotmail.com
Estella & Randy: tangoartists@tangorosa.com
Lourdes Ylagan: Lylagan@path.wustl.edu
Milongas:
Club Viva; second Tuesday of every month; contact Roxanne. *Souard Coffee Garden*; 910 Geyer Ave.; call 314.241.1464
Monthly Milonga; at Focal Point; Admission: \$10; Call Estella & Randy
Practicas: First two Mondays at *Focal Point* in Maplewood, MO; 8:00-10:00 p; Admission: \$5; call 314.849.3007.
Classes:
Estella & Randy: call for classes or see schedule at www.tangorosa.com
Roxanne: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced

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Visit Our Website
at
www.tangonoticias.com

Tulsa, OK

Contact:
Bob & Gretchen Manhart;
OKTANGO@prodigy.net
Milongas: Contact for details.
Classes: Every other Saturday
6-8 p. \$8/person or \$15/couple.

Fayetteville, AR

Contact:
Elayne Hency at *Elayne's
Dance-The Art of Social Dance*;
elaynesdance@aol.com:
479.521.6683 or 479.263.6683
Practicas & Milongas:
Contact for more details.
Classes: Mondays, monthly
sessions – contact for schedule

Ann Arbor, MI

Contacts:
www.umich.edu/~umtango;
umtango@umich.edu
734.327.0642
Membership/Fees: All events
are free for members and 1st
timers; membership is \$10 for
students, \$15 for non-students
per 4 month semester
Classes/Practicas: every
Wednesday (check website for
location); 8:00-11:00 p-
Milonga: Saturday, 15th at
Pendelton Room, Michigan
Union (530 S. State St.);
Beginners' lesson 8:00-9:00 p;
dancing 9:00 p-1:00a.

Denver and Boulder, CO

Contacts:
www.danceoftheheart.com;
Deb Sclar:
deb@danceoftheheart.com
Milongas:
Boulder - 2nd and last in
Boulder at *Bantaba*; intro. class
8:30-9:30 p. (check w/ Deb for
special topic each time);
milonga 9:30 p-??; \$10 for class
and milonga; \$7 for milonga.
Denver - every Friday at
Marilyn's Mercury Café;
www.mercurycafe.com
Colorado Springs - every
Wednesday at *Rum Bay* (Fat

Alley Jazz upstairs room); 7:00
p-????; www.tangospings.com
Practicas: Boulder -
Mondays: 10:00 p-??? at
Bantaba
Classes:
Boulder - Mondays at
Bantaba; Fundamentals 7:00-
8:30 p; Intermediate 8:30-
10:00 p.

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information appearing in
this section please send
your notices to
central_tango@hotmail.com*

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WindyCityTango, Unlimited presents Antonio "Junior" Cervila introduction to Chicago – January 31 to February 2, 2003 teaching workshops and available for private lessons



Junior has been a lead dancer in many world class tango shows, including a featured role as the "assassin" in Carlos Saura's Academy Award nominated movie "Tango". He now is co-producing and starring in the typically sold-out "Tanguera" with Mora Godoy in Buenos Aires. Because of this, he rarely tours so WindyCityTango has seized the opportunity to introduce him to the Chicago tango community - if only for a brief weekend. Although renowned for his performances, Junior's teaching is very clear and easy to understand (yes, he speaks English fluently, with a wonderful sense of humor). He focuses on proper technique for social, improvisational dancing. You will find his dancing and his instruction both exciting and yet down to earth. Whether your goal is to improve your dance floor navigation, spice up your repertoire and techniques or enhance your performing skills, you won't want to miss Junior's workshops and instructing.

Courtesy Anne Sophie of Le Tango in D.C.

Fri., Jan. 31

Showcase performance at milonga Nuestro Tango

LATVIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
4146 N. Elston Ave. at Hamlin

Sat., Feb. 1

12:00 - 1:15 p.
1:30 - 2:45 p.
3:00 - 4:15 p.

Vals - rhythm and use of turns
Milonga 1 – "Let's dance a playful milonga"
Tango 1 – combining sacadas and giros

Intermediate
Intermediate
Intermediate/Advanced

DANCE CONNECTION
3117 N. Clybourn Ave.

Sun., Feb. 2

12:00 - 1:15 p.
1:30 - 2:45 p.
3:00 - 4:15 p.

Tango 2 – combination of movements
Milonga 2 – combination of movements
Tango – Junior's favorite combinations

Intermediate
Intermediate
Intermediate/Advanced

LATVIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
4146 N. Elston Ave. at Hamlin

Milonga and Workshop locations:

Fri., Jan. 31 and Sun., Feb. 2 - LATVIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 4146 N. Elston Ave. (1_ blocks N of Irving Park Rd. on W side of Elston at Hamlin ; NOTE that if you are driving W on Irving Park Rd., you cannot turn N onto Elston, you need to turn N on Hamlin)

Sat., Feb. 1 – DANCE CONNECTION, 3117 N. Clybourn Ave. (_ block S of Belmont / Western / Clybourn intersection, on E side pf Clybourn; NOTE - if you are driving W on Belmont, you will be under the Western Ave. overpass when you make a "soft" right on to Clybourn)

Workshop pricing: 1 workshop = \$25; 2 workshops = \$47; Any 3 workshops = \$70; etc.; All 6 workshops = \$135 if paid in advance.

Private lesson pricing: \$90 for any private lesson plus cost of studio space if not at 2721 N. Central Park Ave.; 6 or more individuals may schedule a small group class at \$40/person/hour. Private lessons available through Tuesday, February 4, 2003.

Payment options: check to Phoebe J. Grant (mail to: 2721 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago IL 60647-1123) or by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) over the internet at www.PayPal.com (use Notes section on Send Money page to indicate which workshops and provide phone number and/or e-mail for communication about any changes; payments via PayPal are to WindyCityTango@yahoo.com).

SPECIAL: Paid attendance at each workshop or private will enter you into drawing for a free future WCT workshop!!!
Hosted by Phoebe J. Grant & Leroy Hearon Jr.
Contact Phoebe J. Grant at (312) 342-4335 or WindyCityTango@yahoo.com or visit www.tangoparatodos.com

Artist Corner Studio Mari

Interview by Yanira Collado

This month's cover of *Tango Noticias* has been provided by Marisela Guerra. Yanira sat down with Mari to discuss the way she approaches creating images for tango along with exploring her experience in general with photography and its related arts.

Please check out the new galleries dedicated to images by *StudioMari*, along with other artists, at tanganoticias.com. If you are interested in scheduling a makeover or photo shoot with Mari please contact her at *Studio Mari* – 773.472.6825. Or, for an online portfolio, please visit her website at studiomari-chicago.com. Mention this interview and receive 50% off a 1 roll photoshoot with your sweetheart (offer expires Feb. 14)

Yanira: How long have you been dancing tango?

Mari: Since February of 2001 – it will be a full two years now.

Yanira: What provoked your initial interest in tango?

Mari: Well, it was the middle of the winter and I was bored. So I picked up a *Discovery Center* catalogue. I started with typing classes and then, after a time, I noticed that they also offered tango there; and so I started taking tango.

Yanira: The tango images you showed me seem to express, or rather explore, the more sensual aspects of tango – certainly not a theme unfamiliar to our readers.

Mari: I think the look that you're seeing in my tango photography derives from my fashion background. I want

the shot to look sexy, and I want the people to look and feel sexy too. I photograph couples all the time, and yet even when I'm doing just a very simple portrait of someone, I always want people to look and feel their ultimate best.

Yanira: What do you most especially like about some of your tango shots? Is there anything about tango as a subject which makes it especially interesting to you?

Mari: I like the things I have done with lighting in my tango images. In different images I like how I have contrasted the lighting – in some I did very dramatic lighting and in others I did a very soft lighting. Also, I prefer not to include faces on some of the shots; a lot of my nudes are like this too. I do this for two reasons: first, you concentrate on the form that way and, second, my clients don't tend to be so shy; they can hang their portraits in their homes.

I also play around with my depth of field when I shoot. Usually the first thing people see or look at in a photograph is the face. But if I want to keep the attention on a certain spot in the shot then I keep that in focus and blur everything else out. Also, I might blur out the background if I choose to have a 3D effect.

Yanira: Did the experience of photographing tango change the way you approach tango itself as a dance, insofar as you also dance tango.

Mari: NO! I really don't make such associations. If anything, when I see great dancers I want to shoot them. I feel the same way whenever I see a beautiful man, woman



or child—I see something beautiful, and I want to photograph it.

Yanira: Have you ever photographed some other subject in which you so directly participate as you do with tango? For example, I know you do martial arts – have you ever made it a subject for your photography?

Mari: Most definitely – I do actor's head and body shots along with creating characters (using make-up and hair) for stunt performers I've known from my martial arts school. I started with guys who are strippers, doing their business cards. They have defined, fit bodies, and when I see people who are in great shape I suggest doing a photo shoot. I now have moved on to doing the photos for business cards for all types of professionals, from insurance agents to realtors. I like the idea of preserving – and even documenting –

people even from before their birth. I shoot artsy nudes of pregnant women then follow that up with super close-ups of the newborn.

Yanira: It sounds to me like you like to develop your images from the inside out. You seem to like to begin with make-up and then develop your shot attending to all the particulars of it – even to considering what the subject is wearing, really manipulating every aspect of the photograph. The photo itself is then not the only part of the image you have created – your creative process goes into the makeup, the lighting, the hair, etc.

Mari: I am a hair, make-up and photo artist. I want people to look beautiful. I believe that not only the photograph and the lighting should be beautiful – my client should *feel* beautiful. If they feel good then that's all that matters.