

## *¡Buenos Dias Tangueros!*

### *A Great Time for Generous People; Wine! Chocolate! & Tango!*



After a warm welcome to all the friends and guests of **El Centro de las Americas**, Emcee Kevin Oliver opened last evening's fund raising event with the auction of a chocolate chip cookie valued at \$1.25. The winning bid = \$45.00 AND, attendees had only their first glass of wine! The generosity of the more than 200 present was demonstrated with each auction item Kevin presented throughout the evening.

Generosity was not just demonstrated by those people bidding on auction items. The room was bustling with the many volunteers who all contributed to the success of the evening. I am especially proud of the volunteers from the **Tango Club** and want to thank them all personally for their participation! Dr. Inger Bull (to the right) works with the foreign students at Nebraska Wesleyan University during the day. However last night, she became one of the many wine stewards for the evening.



I received many "**Thank You's**" from the Board members, staff and guests. The **Tango Club's** presents was truly appreciated! Following the event, Kevin shared with me that without the **Tango Club**, there couldn't be a **Wine! Chocolate! & Tango!** That says a lot for how important our two organizations are for each other!

### *Tango? Of Course There Was Tango!*

While fund raising was the purpose of the evening for El Centro, Tango was our reason for being there. And, we were there in fine fashion, from midday to the morning hours!



Korey Ireland arrived shortly after twelve noon and was put to work immediately getting only a few moments of rest as he rode back and forth to a private studio for a couple of private lessons and an opportunity to practice the spotlight dance he did later in the evening with Sandra Halpern. For him, it was a non-stop day with private lessons, group workshops and special spotlight dances during the event. And yet, at 11:30 in the evening Korey was still as charming and gracious as ever as he invited a couple of El Centro's young volunteers to experience their first Tango. Having Korey in Lincoln is always a special treat and yesterday reinforced that notion once again.



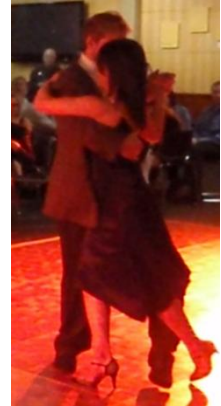
Yesterday, "long days" were the norm. Maribel Cruz, caught here "hamming it up" with dance partner Bob, arrived in the early afternoon to assist with numerous arrangements for the event (she is on El Centro's Board of Directors as the Treasurer). Having been actively involved in the planning of the event, the soliciting of donated auction items and agreeing to represent the **Tango Club** as one of our spotlight dancers, she also donated her time to help me teach the free beginner's class yesterday afternoon. Actually, even though the event is over her work is not done as she had donated three private tango lessons as an auction item. It is amazing how much better private lessons sell at auction when the (potential) "end result" has been demonstrated by a teacher in a bejeweled black dress and fishnet stockings. (Bob looked good too.)

## *Tango? Of Course There Was Tango! (cont.)*



Gustavo & Viviana Larson were the first spotlight dancers of the evening. As the audience enjoyed the 2007 *Urban Torrontes* white wine from Argentina and the White Lime Mint-Sweet White Chocolate ganache prepared by **Zola Chocolates**, Gustavo & Viviana (also from Argentina) danced to *Melancolico*, by Sexteto Mayor. The chocolate was described as "...a surprising and refreshing way to wake up your palette," then the audience saw the "surprising and refreshing way" that tango wakes up a lot more than just your palette!

Bob Williams and Maribel Cruz took the floor for the second spotlight dance. Ken Meiers of **Meier's Cork 'n Bottle** described the second wine, Santa Julia's 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Organica (from Argentina) as "*Deep Ruby in color with Black Cherry and Currant flavors coupled with ripe plum and spices.*" That wine paired with the Dulce Ce Leche – Milk Chocolate ganache, "a sweetness no one can resist," got those palettes going again. In the meantime dancing to *A Media Luz*, Bob, the ever present "plum" of this dancing couple, served as the perfect balance for his "sweet & spicy" Maribel!



Brant & Katie Robinson were billed as the third couple to dance, however, due to illness they had to cancel. We love you both and you were missed, but "*the show must go on!*"



Stepping up next were Sandra Halpern and Korey Ireland. The third wine was Navarro Correas' 2006 Malbec, another Argentine wine (you just got to love Argentina!!!). Ken described it as "...soft tannins and a long lingering finish." The Sweat Heat – Semisweet chocolate ganache infused with Saigon cinnamon, Hungarian paprika and cayenne pepper had the warning; "...a bit of heat with each bite." You know what I'm going to say here! You bet, as Korey and Sandra danced to *Mi Refuggio* they warmed up the dance floor and gave the audience the perfect "...soft – long lingering finish" that more than matched the tastes they were enjoying!

With Katie and Brant out, there was still one more round of **Wine! Chocolate! & Tango!** to go, and thanks to our more than generous spotlight dancers, they all agreed to dance a finale to the song selected by the Robinsons, Hugo Diaz's *Malena*. It was perfect in every way and dummy me, I didn't think to tell the audience that this is the true *Argentine Tango* – total, on the spot, improvisation! The couples were beautiful and the audience was mesmerized! I cannot thank you dancers enough for capping the spotlights so beautifully!



I almost forgot, the wine, it was Santa Rita's 2007 Carmenere. Paired with it was a truffle of "Peruvian Coffee." This combination, like the dancers were the perfect finale for the taste tantalizing treats!

A cortina of Tangos was played between each "round" of **Wine! Chocolate! & Tango!** Our experience from last year had warned us that wouldn't be enough! So the dance floor was opened until midnight with non-stop tangos for those "dance thirsty" tangueros! It was, at least for last weekend, *The Biggest Tango Event between Chicago and Denver*, and there is promise for a repeat in 2010!

I believe all who attended will agree that as soon as the 2010 date is selected you need to plan your year around **Wine! Chocolate! & Tango!** Besides all of the dancing, fun and delectable tastes, this is the absolute best way to show our appreciation and support for **El Centro de las Americas**, an organization which has helped the **Tango Club** in so many ways. I expect to see all of you there next year!

## *Make Your Plans for May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>*

For several years there has been “Tango in the Streets” of the **Old Market** in **Omaha** raising money for the **United Nations’ Refuge Fund**. **Marty Hebert** has been coordinating this event for the past few years and has it scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Friday and Saturday during the day, classes, mostly for beginners, prepare volunteers who will dance Argentine Tango in the streets for donated money. We have danced in pleasant weather and rainy weather (it’s that thing about the “show must go on” again), and we always have a tremendous amount of fun for this very worthwhile cause. This year Marty has arranged for us to escape to Rick’s Boatyard for dinner after the dancing in the Streets. Following dinner will be a milonga at the restaurant! This whole event just gets better each year! Attached with this newsletter is the 2009 flyer for the event. Please print off as many as you like and post them everywhere that you can. Then be sure to be present yourself for what promises to be even a better experience than last year!

## *Ron Shepard Commits to More Milongas!*

“**Reliable sources**” tell this reporter that Ron Shepard and the **Just Dance Studio** will continue having monthly milongas, the first Saturday of each month at the studio from 7:30 ‘til 10 PM. The next milonga is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. This month Kristoffer Shaw was on hand at 7 PM to teach a beginners’ class. “**Sources close to Ron**” indicate that he intends to rotate this responsibility each month among the many Tango instructors teaching in the Omaha area. At recent milongas, coffee and water were furnished by the Studio along with some light snacks. For confirmation of the next milonga, this reporter suggests you contact the Studio at 402-596-1117.

Thank you Ron!

## *To “Stone Soup?” Or, “Not to Stone Soup?”*

It’s really not a question, or maybe it is. I received an email from Korey Ireland this week as did everyone who has attended **Stone Soup** in the past. Rather than paraphrase it, I’ve included it below. It seems that there may still be a possibility of **Stone Soup** happening in Kansas City. I’ve encouraged many of you to attend this year and can only assume that you were as disappointed as I, to think that might not be a possibility. Well, here is your chance to be heard. Apparently, we are not alone, so please read Korey’s email, then let him know what you think. Planning festivals is a very difficult task, and to plan one as unique as **Stone Soup** doubles, perhaps triples the challenge. I for one will do what I can to encourage and help Korey in this process to ensure that we keep a vital festival alive and well here in the Midwest.

Thank you Korey for giving us this opportunity to add our “two cents.”

*Hello Soup-mates,  
I’m writing to connect. To get a pulse.*

*Plans for this year’s event are swirling into lots of unexpected potentials and I want to hear from those of you who have been a part of the Stone Soup Story.*

*-There is a plan to hold the event in Portland, where its will transform a bit to fit in the local economy/community. Early evening milongas would happen elsewhere in town while community building / mixing endeavors would fill the soup space. The prices, as announced previously would be a bit higher then last year and the event would be limited to about 80 students.*

*-There is a different plan to hold the event in Eugene, OR at the tango center there, which is an amazing facility for Stone Soup. This event could be a bit larger and a bit cheaper, and seems to be very in sync with Stone Soup of year’s past.*

*-There is a third potential to regroup, delay till June, perhaps hold the event in Kansas City, similar to last year.*

So now you know as much as I do about the state of Stone Soup, let me hear from you. Your opinions, your plans, your suggestions...as always, I aspire for this to "our" event and in this moment, I'd like to benefit from your perspectives. Stand up and be counted!

Abrazos,  
Korey

To help Korey decide, please email him at [korey@ko-arts.com](mailto:korey@ko-arts.com)

## *On the Scene in Kansas City with Kathy McGeeney*

### **NEWS:**

Throw off those winter blues! Janey Smith is having a Spring Fling milonga on Friday, March 20 at Stuart Hall condos, 2121 Central from 8pm to midnight. DJ Oleh Kovalchuke. Admission \$10.

Check the kctango yahoo group for information on regular and special tango events. The information there is the most up-to-date, and you can have email reminders sent to you.

### **NOTES:**

I came across this a few years ago, written by David Allen, and thought it was so good that I saved it.

*"Due to comments I received dancing in Portland from numerous different tangueras and some conversations with some tangueros I decided I wanted to share why I dance tango and why I believe it is the greatest dance ever created. As a caveat I am in no way purporting myself to be some great tango dancer who knows it all. These are my feelings about why I dance. I have been dancing close to 6 years and go to various tango festivals around the US and Buenos Aires frequently.*

*The most numerous tanguera comment I received, "It is so refreshing to dance with a leader who dances on and to the music and who I feel is taking care of me on the dance floor". The quote is not an exact quote, I combined the two comments I received numerous times. After a few of these comments I began observing more closely when I was not dancing and I was surprised at the percentage of leaders who obviously were dancing the steps they knew oblivious to the music and what the dance floor was giving them. When I had been dancing for about 7 months I had the pleasure of meeting and taking lessons from Cacho Dante [a famous dancer in Buenos Aires]. In a milonga, as I watched ladies leave his embrace and dance with almost glazed over eyes, I decided to ask them why they enjoyed the dance with Cacho and why they were lining up for more. These are the three reasons I received. When in his embrace they felt totally taken care of and safe. They felt like they were the only woman on the dance floor and thirdly what he asked them to do in the dance was crystal clear. Then and there I decided those were my goals in tango and Cacho became my "hero". I quickly learned tango is about QUALITY not quantity. Therefore, in all my lessons, practicing, privates I began working on posture, lead, technique, relaxation, etc. All my feed back from followers I dance with tells me I was right to listen to what they told me. For the past 6 months I have been working on how my feet contact the floor. Its getting there and still not yet. The more relaxed my feet and toes into the floor the clearer my lead. Still in my infancy in this dance, only 6 years, I know the simpler and clearer the better for the follower and they do keep coming back to dance with me.*

*I was having a conversation with a few leaders who had asked my why I enjoyed dancing tango and the ladies seemed to enjoy dancing with me. I began explaining the connection, the sharing of energies, heart to heart, in other words, the silent conversation between two people. As I was looking at the guys I realized very quickly that a number of them had no clue what I was talking about. I played with that with other leaders for the rest of the weekend and was surprised again at how many truthfully had no clue of what I call the "sweetness" of tango. It is the real reason I keep dancing tango and why I have such an addiction to*

*it. People ask me what I mean by an addiction and I usually say if I go more than 3 or 4 days without dancing tango I get the DTs or withdrawal symptoms like on a drug. Joking of course and yet, not really. When I have the dance I am looking for is when the partner I am dancing with gives me more than her body. She talks to me from within through her body. It comes mostly from followers who have become comfortable in the dance so that they can let go and just dance, but not always. Little surprises happen all the time. One of the best dances I have had was with a lady who had only been dancing 3 months. She talked to me like she had been dancing for years. We dance together whenever we see each other and it has only gotten better. The old milongeros will tell you, "90% of tango is what you don't see".*

*What I have learned in my short tango life as a leader (I did also learn to follow, great benefit as a leader). Dance on the music and to the music with feeling. Pugliese, Calo, Biagi, D'Arienzo, Rodriquez have different rhythms. Tangos, vals, milonga are different. Let the music talk to you and dance what it says to you. The leaders number one priority. Give your follower the best dance you can give her. Don't dance above her, dance with her and make her feel like the bell of the ball for the 2.5 to 3 minutes of the dance. If you do tango will become a soul satisfying experience and the followers will seek you out.*

*Many blessings and happy feet.*

*David"*

Thank you Kathy for keeping up to date in Kansas City  
Jerry

## ***This Week's Video:***

There are a lot of ways that I use to select which video to present each week. This week it maybe that I'm lazy or selfish. You see with my Son's wedding coming up in San Francisco, I've been wanting to contact Sean Dockery and/or Charity Lebrón who live in the Bay Area. I meet Sean & Charity at Stone Soup last year and was very impressed with them as instructors. Now that I'm going to the Bay Area next month I figured they would know where the best Tango can be found on the evenings I have free. Lazy? – I'm going to try to con you into thinking that I want you to see the skills and abilities of some of the instructors at Stone Soup so you will be encouraged to email Corey in an effort to keep Stone Soup in the Midwest.

Selfish? - In the video, Sean & Charity demonstrate a milonga at Tangogypsies "West meets East" Labor Day Tango Weekend, 2008- Asheville, NC. Since Shelley's student are studying milonga this month. I'm offering one of the best demonstration videos available for milonga! That should dispel the notion of being selfish!

Enjoy;

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GWQTpP0j0U&feature=related>

I'll let you know what they recommend!

## ***"Dancing in the 9's!"***

April 4<sup>th</sup>, Just Dance Studio, Omaha, evening milonga from 7:30 until 10 Pm.  
April 11, My Son's Wedding San Francisco, (still checking to see if you are paying attention.)  
April 17-19, Chicago Mini Festival, Chicago, IL  
May 1&2, UN Refugee fund raising dance & milonga – Old Market & Rick's Boatyard, Omaha  
May 21-24, Denver Tango Festival, Denver, CO,  
June 13<sup>th</sup>, Summer milonga on the veranda at the Frank House, Kearney.  
July 1-6, Tango Week Chicago, IL,

## ***Tango Steps:***

**Tango Step #1: Sunday** - Kristoffer Shaw will be teaching Argentine Tango in **Bennington** at the **Keno Cabana**. A practica at 6 PM precedes the class at 7. Please call Kristoffer (402-960-4657) for complete information.

**Tango Step #2: Monday** 1 PM to 3 PM - *Buenos Tangos* broadcast on **KZUM** 89.3 FM and <http://www.kzum.org/> in **Lincoln**, "*Music of Argentina, past and present*" hosted by Don Chicho.

**Tango Step #3: Monday 8 PM** Advanced Argentine Tango (304) taught at the **DelRay Ballroom** in **Lincoln**. To register and/or get more complete information please contact the DelRay at 402-435-3726. Argentine Tango music will be playing in the Lounge from 7 to 10 PM.

**Tango Step #4: Monday** - Evening Practica hosted by Mel & Susan Sandoval in **Elm Creek** 15 miles west of Kearney. *Their home is located 4 blocks north off of Hwy 30 on Tyler. It is on the southeast corner of Tyler and Elm St. If anyone is driving through or visiting close by and would like to stop in for an hour or two of practice or learn new steps (Saturday-Tuesday) we would enjoy your company. Call 308-440-9253. If there is no answer, please leave a message! We will return your call*

**Tango Step #5: Tuesdays** 6 PM to 7 PM - Ron Shepard will be teaching a beginners class in Argentine Tango at the **Just Dance Studio** in **Omaha**. For more information call the Studio at 402-596-1117 or check out their website at [www.justdancestudio.com](http://www.justdancestudio.com).

**Tango Step #6: Wednesday** 7:00 PM - **Tango Sharing** at **Barry's Bar & Grille Lincoln**. Until Sandra Halpern schedules the next session of her classes, we will continue to share what we have learn from festivals we've attended around the country (at least what we remember) throughout the evening at Barry's. Please join us and share your Tango experience as well. We will be providing Tango music for practice until the last partner goes home. Everyone is welcome - *no experience necessary!*

**Tango Step #7: Thursday** 7:30 PM Beginning Argentine Tango lesson taught by **Katy & Brant Robinson** in their home in **Omaha** a 4936 N Happy Hollow Blvd. Please email Katy at [katy@omahatango.com](mailto:katy@omahatango.com) or call and leave a message at 402-504-1289 to register for the classes.

**Tango Step #8: Friday**-Argentine Tango dancing every week at **Sur Tango**, 1228 P Street, **Lincoln**, starts about 7:00 PM.

**Tango Step #9: Saturday**- Argentine Tango dancing at Westport Presbyterian church, 201 Westport Rd. **Kansas City!** Dancing from 8:30 to 11:30 pm to a mix of traditional, techno/nuevo and alternative music. Admission \$5.

## ***Tango Blog:***

*Internet Tango* - Ozlum continues to keep the blog site up to date. She is adding links to other Tango websites. If you are traveling, it is a great way to learn what Tango is available in the communities you visit. Don't forget to leave a comment or two when you visit the site. The site is

<http://nelincolntango.blogspot.com/>

## ***Tango Festivals & Workshops around the Country:***

*from the website*

<http://www.tangozone.net/events.htm>

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT / WEB ADDRESS</u>
Mar 26-29, 2009	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Tango Festival 2009	<a href="http://www.atlantatangofestival.com">http://www.atlantatangofestival.com</a>
Mar 27-29, 2009	Austin, TX	Austin Spring Tango Festival	<a href="http://www.tangoteacherexchange.com/">http://www.tangoteacherexchange.com/</a>
Apr 10-12, 2009	New Haven, CT	Yale Tango Festival	<a href="http://www.yaletangofest.com/">http://www.yaletangofest.com/</a>
Apr 17-19, 2009	Chicago, IL	Chicago Mini Tango Festival	<a href="http://www.chicagotangofestival.com/">http://www.chicagotangofestival.com/</a>
May 01-03, 2009	Asheville, NC	<u>5th Annual Regional Tango Weekend</u>	<a href="http://www.tangogypsies.com">http://www.tangogypsies.com</a>
May 01-03, 2009	Kansas City, MO ??	Stone Soup 2009	TBA - not confirmed
May 14-17, 2009	Montreal, Canada	Neo-Tango Festival 2009	<a href="http://tangofabrika.com/">http://tangofabrika.com/</a>
May ??, 2009	Minneapolis, MN	Heartland Tango Festival	<a href="http://www.heartlandtango.com/">http://www.heartlandtango.com/</a>
May ??, 2009	Denver, CO	Denver Festival	<a href="http://www.tango.org/">http://www.tango.org/</a>
Jun 11-14, 2009	Toronto, Canada	Toronto Tango Festival	<a href="http://www.torontotangofestival.com/">http://www.torontotangofestival.com/</a>
Jun 18-21, 2009	San Francisco, CA	SFTX IV 2009	<a href="http://www.sftx.info">http://www.sftx.info</a>
July 1-6, 2009	Chicago, IL	Chicago Tango Week	<a href="http://www.chicagotangoweek.com/">http://www.chicagotangoweek.com/</a>
July 23-27, 2009	Seattle, WA	Seattle Summer Magic	<a href="http://seattletangomagic.com/">http://seattletangomagic.com/</a>

## ***Comments and Suggestions***

I am always interested in your comments and suggestions. Please reply to this email with news of coming Tango events, classes, or any information you have regarding Tango. If you hear of an event, I will appreciate it if you can provide me with a contact person or company so that I can secure permission to publish information regarding their event.

Jerry

P.S. If you wish to be removed from our Tango email list, we will miss you, but will honor your request if you simply reply to this email and let me know.