

## Dances Canceled

Friday October 31  
Saturday November 1  
Everyone at Paradise!

Free Dance Admission, Free Food,  
Free Prizes.....Just for coming to  
vote on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> at  
our first election. Details Inside.....

# Innovations

## November 2003 Newsletter



**Ronnie and Lauren**.....(don't let these innocent smiles fool 'ya...)

**DanceSational Workshop,**  
**Intermediate West Coast Swing**  
**Sunday, Nov. 23, 2003 3:30 – 4:45PM**  
Don't blink or you'll miss something in this action packed WCS Workshop. Come and learn some great new moves to make your dancing more fun and exciting. These two professionals are incredible as well as unforgettable.

The workshop cost, which includes admission to a dance party to follow at 5:00 p.m., is \$10 for annual members and \$20 for others. Admission to just the dance is \$5 for annual members, sister club members and college students with I.D and \$7 for others.

**U.S. Open Swing** and **Country Dance Wold Champion Lauren Baldovi** will be in San Diego while she and **Ronnie DeBenedetta** work on their U.S. Open routine. Don't miss this opportunity to take private lessons with Lauren. Contact her at [laureen@newyorkcity.com](mailto:laureen@newyorkcity.com)

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**Free Classes** This Month prior to the Innovation's Dance Parties:

**Friday Nights:** 7:15 – 8:00 – Country Western 2-Step – Bill Stalzer

**Sunday Nights:** 4:15 - 5:00 – West Coast Swing - Alex Seguritan and Misty Frank

If you know of an instructor that would like to teach a free class on Fridays and/or Sundays please see Wayne Peleti.

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A Big Huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Innovation's Anniversary Party and Workshops. It was a great success thanks to all of you. If you missed, it.....be sure to put it on your calendar for 2004. Read Wayne's article inside on pg. 2

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It's Holiday Time Again. See Details Inside About Our **Christmas Party Saturday Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** .....Free Workshop that evening for Innovation's Annual Members.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY INNOVATIONS!

By Wayne Peleti

In case you missed it, Innovations celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a terrific day. During the day, four great workshops were held at Starlight Dance Studio, complete with a hearty lunch. In the evening, a delicious Italian Buffet Dinner, an entertaining show hosted by Master of Ceremonies Ronnie DeBenedetta, and a ton of dancing and laughter all served up in the Grand Ballroom at the Mission Valley Marriott Hotel.

The day started early for approximately 100 local and visiting dancers attending an entertaining and fun WCS workshop with Parker Dearborn and Brandi Northrup. Brandi was a real trooper teaching in a “walking” cast. Cast notwithstanding, Parker and Brandi taught an excellent workshop, as usual.

Up next Michael Kiehm, assisted by his lovely lady Dawn, taught an elegant NightClub 2-Step routine. The class, prepped by Parker, waited for Michael to say “rotate” so everyone could spin it place. Unfortunately, Michael said “change partners”. Oh well, it was still fun watching Michael’s reaction to the whole room spinning in place.

Next came a break for lunch. Special thanks to Barbara, Leslie, Deena, Dave, and the other testers who sampled the Buffet (liberally) before the lunch break as part of “quality control”. Our Chef’s, Martha, Jamie, Julie, Kurt, and Wayne all passed with flying colors. And hospitality Director Carolyn Washington and her many helpers got an outstanding mark for preparation and presentation.

After Lunch attendees were whisked away to the beautiful world of waltz. US Ballroom Champion Carrie Kloss gave a technical description of some of the fundamental moves and how they should be danced. After stringing them together in an elegant but simple series she described some simple variations used in the art of floor craft. In other words, how to avoid collisions and still maintain good dance form, something we all could use.

The day was rounded out with a very challenging but extremely fun Country Western 2-step workshop. The instructors, 2 time Masters World Champions Ronnie DeBenedetta and Stephanie McPherson, always put on an exceptional workshop. Ronnie, who was also Master of Ceremonies during the evening portion of the event, always presents the material in a comprehensive and entertaining way. Stephanie, in addition to showing students the combination of beauty, power, and grace by sheer example, always adds useful insights to the many things followers can do to enhance their performance.

After the workshops, with the help of many volunteers, the studio was cleaned and closed in short order and everyone had a couple of hours to rest and prepare for the evening's festivities.

When the doors opened at 6:30 attendees were treated to an elegant ballroom made more beautiful by the very special table centerpieces designed by Jamie Lewis and created with the help of Chris, Julie and Jay.

At 7:00 a sumptuous and tasty buffet greeted what, based on the plates I saw, must have been a hungry crowd. Just after 8 the music kicked up a notch or two and the floor filled with whirling, twirling dancers. It was quite a sight. The ladies all looked so pretty and even some of the guys cleaned up nicely. Check out the photo albums on our website or at the sign in desk at the club dances if you don't believe me.

Around 8:50 (a little late but we were having fun dancing) our Master of Ceremonies Ronnie took over and began the show. What an awesome job Ronnie and his two assistants, Martha and Carol, did running the show. And what an awesome job all the performers did entertaining the crowd. A special thanks to Luis Leon for the very entertaining slide show he put together and displayed to a delighted crowd.

After the show the dancing began in earnest. For the next two and a half hours the floor was packed with dancers eager to dance off the calories they had accumulated at dinner. By 11:30 the day's activities began to take their toll and tired but happy people began the trek home. Of course many of the diehards stayed much later and when 1:00 AM rolled around we still had dancers on the floor. We had to eject "the wild bunch" by turning the lights all the way up. It was fun hearing the screams and groans that greeted the sudden brilliance.

Innovations 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Party was a smashing success. I had a wonderful day and eagerly look forward to our next anniversary party. Before ending this article I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event possible. I also want to thank our instructors who made the event a special fun and learning experience. I want to thank our performers (especially Roberta for putting up with me) and our Master of Ceremonies Ronnie DeBenedetta for making the show special. Finally I want to thank all our members, attending and absent, for making not only the event, but also the club, possible.

# Innovations First Elections for Board of Directors

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday November 9th**. Innovations is holding its first election for Board of Directors.

The Board wishes the election process to be a fun experience for our members. In keeping with that goal members are invited to enjoy:

**FREE LUNCH** - PIZZA, SALAD, DESSERT, AND SODA AT THE MEETING!

**FREE DANCE** - ATTEND THE MEETING AND THE DANCE AFTERWARDS IS FREE!

**DOOR PRIZES** - WE'LL BE GIVING AWAY FREE DANCE PASSES, FREE WORKSHOP PASSES AND A FREE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP!

There will be a brief general membership meeting at Starlight Dance Studio beginning at 4:00 PM. The order of business will be:

President's State-of-the-Club address, Treasurer's Report, Membership Report, Election of the Board of Directors. Please note there has been a change in the nominees. Diane Warren has decided not to run for president.

We will be electing a new President (running unopposed is **Luis Leon**), a new secretary (running unopposed is **Joanie Fuller**) and a new membership director (running unopposed is **Martha Peleti**).

The Election process should be very quick. Annual Members will be checked-in on a special attendance roster and given ballots. The ballots should be marked and turned in before balloting officially closes (at 4:30 PM). The Balloting committee will count the votes while food is served. Members will have an opportunity to eat and socialize and winners of the door prizes will be announced. We'll start the dance around 5. The election results will be announced as soon as votes are counted.

## This Years Candidates:

**Luis Leon**



**Joanie Fuller**



**Martha Peleti**



## **Innovation's Christmas Party, Saturday December 6.**

Special Gift To Annual Members is a Free Shag Styling Workshop from 6:30 - 7:45PM with paid (\$5) admission to the dance. Workshop will be taught by Brandi & Shawn. For Annual Members who do not want to attend the workshop, the dance admission will be \$5. Special Holiday Treats will be served.



## **November Birthdays**



4	Heidi Martin	10	Patty Sage
5	Ronnie DeBenedetta	12	Oswaldo Campos
5	Margaret Kerns	12	Jane Hance
5	Julie Rishovd	14	Melanie Montana
7	Richard Stahley	22	Rick Frey
8	Janice Lee	26	Janice Mulder
9	Alice Clary	27	Anne Breese
9	Daphne Higa	28	Darin G. Dwyer
9	Andrew Shipps	28	Katie Ennis
10	Jamie Lewis	29	David Huhn

There will be a list of all members who have birthdays in the current month at the front desk. (If you didn't include your birthday on your application form, just show your drivers license.) If you want to take advantage of your free admission on the day of a workshop and you wish to take the workshop, admission is \$5 for both the workshop and dance. Happy Birthday From Innovations

## **Welcome New Members**

Dawn Anderson  
Jo Anne Bilodeau  
Carissa L. Dunn  
Susan Fries  
Karen Harnish  
Bob Hubbard

Michael John Kielbasa  
Rich Lundin  
Jim Mclaughlin  
Harry S. Miller  
Brian Richards

**We still have a selection of Innovation's T-Shirts and Innovation's Jackets. These would make great holiday gifts for your dance friends if you were wondering "what in the world am I going to get them"**

## **Innovations Dance, Inc.**

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**November 1 - Saturday – Dance Canceled** – Everyone at Paradise

**November 9 - Sunday – Election Day, 4:00** – Lots of Free Stuff for Annual Members. Read Article Inside.....

**November 23 - Sunday – Ronnie DeBenedetta & Laureen Baldovi** – Intermediate West Coast Swing Workshop, 3:30 – 4:45 PM

**December 6 - Saturday – Christmas Party** – Shag Styling for West Coast Swing Workshop **with Brandi Northrup & Shawn Tobias**, free for Annual Member with paid admission to the dance.

**February 7, 2004 - Saturday – Wayne & Sharlot Bott** - Intermediate West Coast Swing Workshop, 6:30 - 7:45 PM

**April 2-4, 2004 – Friday - Sunday – Mario Robau** – Super Mario Weekend! – Lots of Workshops, Dancing, and Food