

July 20th 2009

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road - unless you fall to make the turn."

Unknown author



I have been hearing a lot of students use the word "wrong" lately after they learn something new. As in, "I think I am doing it wrong", or "I have been doing it wrong all this time?" or "I will never get it right!" I would like to challenge this thinking of dance as being right and wrong. In many respects dance is an art to be changed and created by the dancer and observed and judged by the observer. In this way, "right" and "wrong" do not exist, only beautiful and ugly. To that, I say "to each their own". However, some aspects of dance must be structured in a way that they can be passed from one to another and maintain what the original creator of that dance had in mind. And there we have, dance studios, the best of these being Social Graces in Berryville, VA. As a student, when you learn something new, you will not learn all aspects at the same time. Even if you could, you would not have the ability to control very movement in your body and how it relates to another. Instead, you learn in layers and we teach in layers. First layer this, and second layer that, the second layer does not negate the first. It only enhances it, and as your abilities develop, crude ways of relating to the dance will be replaced by more specific and sometimes different ways. But could you have achieved the latter if not completing the former. In short, give yourself the leeway to learn what's first and understanding that when you evolve into something more, your prior self was not "wrong", just developing. This applies to those on the waltz team as well. Learn in layers and be patient with yourselves. Most are supplementing their learning with private lessons and helping this process along. Take care not to be too harsh on yourself when you see others doing well.

Thanks for all the feedback on the theme dances. People have been enjoying them. The forth Saturday dance in August will be a Casino theme; we plan to have some table games and lots of fake money for you to play with. All the fake money that is won throughout the night will be donated to charity. If anyone wishes to play the role of a dealer or waitress just let me know.

Don't forget the Pajama theme dance this month on July 25th, some people are worried that Pajama's may not be an appropriate theme as some may go to far. Keep in mind there may be children at the dance, so keep it G rated, however, feel free to get creative and have fun if you wish to dress up.

I have started looking for another Belly dance teacher. I have found one that should be more professional than the last, I am not sure if she will have the time to teach which is why I do not wish to rush into advertising classes. I will e-mail as more information becomes available.

Amy, good job on the upkeep of the flowers, she always checks and maintains the flowers in the front and back of the studio every class that she attends. Next time you see her, tell her thanks for helping out. Then give her some flowers, (not the ones she maintains of course) ☺.

It's that time of year again. Time to get ready for the Bronze test. For all those that are ready, we will be having a test around September 5th. If you would like more information, please talk to your instructor.

If you have any questions or comments, please call the studio at 540-955-4530. or Freddie's cell 540-409-7136

Dancers Oath

I encourage everyone to take the Dancers Oath which is as follows: *"I pledge that I will welcome any new individual to our studio and represent the studio as a place of social grace during group class, dances, in the lobby, and at dance events outside of the studio. This shows that ballroom dance is a hobby that not only teaches me how to dance, but how to socialize in an ever changing community. I realize that I can do this by simply introducing myself to new faces and by inviting them into my world with the most welcoming of gestures, and that is by asking them to dance."*

Intermediate classes are taught with the understanding that those students in attendance have achieved a particular level. Also, remember, you get a **free private lesson** with every student that signs up for group class and puts your name down as the referral. It is time to introduce that friend to the wonderful world of ballroom dance.

Here is a dancing tip: *Take dance class because you like learning dance, not because you like owning it.*

Get newsletters online by joining our e-mail group under registration on our website:

www.berryvilleballroom.com



Social Graces

Freddie Ciampi

Director of Ballroom