

# December 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Sundays</b> Joe Macera			 <b>Wednesdays</b> Debbie Bliss		<b>1</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>2</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>3</b> Two - Step Lessons	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>9</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>10</b> Two - Step Lessons	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>16</b> Line Dance Lessons <b>Christmas Party</b>
<b>17</b> Two - Step Lessons	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Line Dance Lessons Cat Country Dance Party	<b>23</b> Line Dance Lessons
<b>24</b> Two - Step Lessons		<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Line Dance Lessons	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Two - Step Lessons	Sunday - Two Step Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Macera Wednesday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Debbie Bliss Friday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Gail McKenna Cat Country Dance Party Night Every Friday Saturday - Line Dance Lessons at 7:00 with Joe Shutt				 <b>Fridays</b> Gail McKenna	 <b>Saturdays</b> Joe Shutt



Side - Bar  
Comments

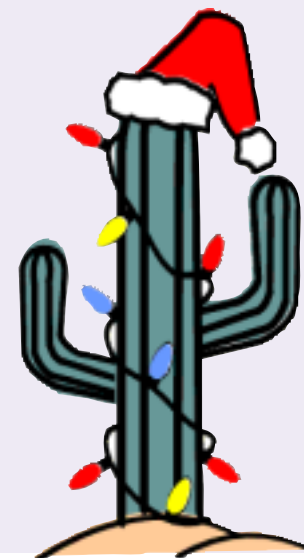
**Club Hours**  
Wednesday 7 PM - 1 AM  
Friday 7 PM - 1 AM  
Saturday 7 PM - 1 AM  
Sunday 7 PM - 12 PM

**MARDI GRAS**

1500 Oaklawn Ave.  
Cranston, RI  
(401) 463-3080

Fridays  
Free Line Dance Lessons  
with Gail

This newsletter can be  
viewed on line at  
[www.mikeponte.com/mardigras](http://www.mikeponte.com/mardigras)



Diamond Rodeo Newsletter - Editor, Layout & Photos: Michael Ponte  
Coeditor: Joe Macera  
Writer, Columnist: Esther Scittarelli  
**December 2000**

[interview](#) | [links](#)  
[bio](#) | [graph](#) | [y reviews](#)



**Joe Desio & Kim Lawrence**

**APPRECIATE?! WE DO!!!!**

No! Not for one moment are his talents taken for granted! Nor have we the people forgotten the fact that he's the best doggone DJ the Diamond's had the pleasure to employ! As this one man continues to have our ultimate respect and admiration for his expertise at a job well done and then some! Yeah! This one is a class act..hard to follow. Still notorious for having hosted our most successful Friday night dance parties-sparked by his unmatched, dynamic style and enthusiasm. Yes, we do value his gusto, spirit, impeccable timing, his genuine professionalism. As this man continues to deliver his DJ'ing all and his entertaining self! Deserving of much more than one hoot, more than one standing ovation. While we continue to applaud his presence and efforts here at the Diamond, indeed, talent like this ultimately aspires to conquering new and additional horizons! So for those of us not already in the know ..it gives great

pleasure to publicly announce with a notable plug (so to speak) Joe D's newly established business sideline. (yeah, you've guessed it) DERJESS ENTERTAINMENT! SO.. spread the word - the name, if you will, for future reference!! Our DJ, Joe Desio can be available and at your service for private parties of varied selections at your request. Certainly he would rise to your festive occasion with great pleasure as well as outstanding professionalism as disc jockeying is his innate talent - his forte - done with great excellence! Oh and P.S.! You might want to take a peek at his web site for detailed specifics.

[www.derjessentertainment.com](http://www.derjessentertainment.com)  
Got that! ?  
..written by  
E s t h e r  
Scittarelli



There comes a time in a person's life when they know it's time to move on. I feel that time for me has arrived. But before I go, I'd like to share some thoughts with you. You, meaning all of the people that have come into my life here at Diamond Rodeo. Friends I've made, acquaintances, people whose names I never got to know. No matter who you are, I want to thank you for the experiences we've shared here in the past year. Some of You

I got to know pretty well, others I didn't know so well, and even some of you are nameless faces to me, but faces I feel I've known so long because of the friendliness and the congenial, "Hi, how ya doing?". I've looked forward to going, to Diamond Rodeo because I always feel welcome. Sort of like that Other



**Harry Pratt**

place on television where it feels like everyone knows your name. I regret that I have to leave, but business is bringing me back to Nashville. I know I won't find another Diamond Rodeo, because, it is all of you that make this place what it is. But if I find a place where I feel half as welcome as I do here, that will be more than enough. I'll miss all of you. I won't say good bye because one never knows. One day our paths may cross again. If you're ever in Nashville, look me up and we can dance. Unless you're a guy, then we can still dance, but with other people. To the very special woman I was blessed with getting to know in this past year .....I'll never forget the special times we shared together. As short



as the time was, it will remain forever in my heart. Thank You for the smiles we shared, My only regret is that our time together couldn't have been longer. I wish You happiness, love, and serenity. I know one day You will find them or they will find You.

Because You truly deserve them. I leave one gift for You, it is a gift that will last a life time. The Love of a true friend that will last forever. So no matter where our lives may take us, there will always be someone who loves you. So to all, I hope our paths may cross again; but if they don't, then like the song says "if you get the chance, I hope You'll dance".

Harry Pratt

**The Island of Dreams**

I once stayed on an island where the flowers were truly beautiful, the grass was really green and life went on in harmony. The sun lit the sky in the morning with the haze, the mist and fog and through that, I saw many colors. Colors that can't be seen anywhere else but this island or I should say that island, because although I am gone from there, I am still there all the time. It is an island of paradise where life goes on without worry. No hurt, no pain, no sadness. It is (or was) the island of islands. The place of places. It is a place where life finally comes together. There is no good or bad. It is a place where everything is as it should be. It is a place where people come together with nature and neither one hurts each other. I have been to places where that is common. Pain and hurt and sorrow and unhappiness is unnecessary on this island. The only thing here is beauty and splendor and warmth and life as it should be - happy. It is the island of dreams, without dreams life could not go

on. This island can exist and does exist if only you live to make your dreams come true.

Harry Pratt 07/04/89

**So you want to know these people**

Yeah, yeah, so you come into Mustangs' all the time, and all you see are the same people. And every time you come in, you say to yourself, "geesh! Why do these broads always kiss that big guy" ..or "hey! That guy over in the corner doesn't have any HAIR under that hat!" or " man, isn't that



**Paul Cahoon**

DJ ever gonna get a clue?" Let see, its Sunday night, so that means Joe's teaching two stepping again. He always gets the cute ones too! I wish I could, well maybe if I come more often. I've been telling myself these things for nine years now.

You can call me a regular. Like Joe, Richard, Esther, Lynn, Rocco, and a couple of dozen other people. Why do we come here? Who the hell knows, sometimes it's fun, sometimes not, but. we're here. It's like . . . home. And all us regulars are like family. Sometimes we talk to each other, sometimes we don't. Heck I don't know everyones' name yet! But we still talk. Occasionally someone new will come in , ask a couple of questions, next thing you know there's a new regular! Go figure!!

I guess to a degree, you may be right when you say this isn't any different from any other place. And all the guys

only come in here because they're dogs in heat, and all the girls are out to be sniffed, but that's true of most places except this one.

Notice I called the place Mustang's? Most regulars still do too. Doesn't matter what's on the sign outside. You can easily spot a regular. They're the ones smiling most of the time, because they feel at home. They're the ones to look for when you're having trouble on the dance floor with a particular step or two. Heck, they'll. even take you out on the patio for a private lesson!!! They'll make you feel at home, too.

Why, I remember this one guy who helped this girl learn to dance and she married em!! Now that's grateful!

Mustang's had that effect on a lot of people. Even had weddings here! Right on the old hardwood! I'll bet if you lift your eyes and look over towards the- door right now, you'll see 4 people playing Uno. And if you close your eyes and let the music take hold, and ,just imagine, you'll be able to see two dozen or so couples dancing a country waltz in perfect rhythm. You'll see them glide, all in perfect sync. You'll see them two-steppin all in unison, doing the same precision moves as the couple in front of them. All choreographed by the tips of the fingers. I'll even bet, if you go up to them afterward, and ask them to show you how they did a certain move, they'd show you.

Even if what you thought you saw wasn't exactly what they DID, it wouldn't matter. Because to you, it would only be what you 'saw'. That's part of the magic. And its part of the fun. Yep, we regulars can show you greenhorns a lot. Paul Cahoon

*Paul Cahoon is a retired businessman. He is also a regular.*

Joanne E. Larsson and James E. Newcomb III are please to announce their marriage on the eighteenth of October, Two Thousand, at the Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort and Spa in Nassau, Bahamas.



**Joanne & James Newcomb**

That's right, less than one year of dating, we tied the knot. We started dating a few months after a mutual friend introduced us. After dating only a few weeks, it became obvious that the chemistry between us was there. It's amazing how every day we both think the same thing at the same time. It's just a matter of who says it first and then the other starts laughing because we already know what's going to be said.

After six months, we were engaged and with no surprise to our families. While preparing for our vacation to the Bahamas, all the necessary paperwork to get married was included. Upon arrival to the Sandals resort, the appropriate people were contacted to make our wedding arrangements. The ceremony took place at the end of a dock over looking the blue waters of the Caribbean. When we came home from our "honeymoon", again our families were not surprised.

We have many common interests, one of them being that we both enjoy country

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**CHRISTMAS POTLUCK SUPPER**

We made a list and checked it twice... You're invited cause you're so nice!

**Saturday, December 16th 7 P.M. til Closing at The Diamond Rodeo**

Food Coordinator is Peter DiBiase 401-821-5873  
See Peter by December 9th please



**Michael & Susan Ponte**

Susan and I would like to wish everyone the best of season's greetings. Sue and I first met on the dance floor too. The place was Desperado's and the year was 1993. Sue had a home in Cranston and my home was in Dartmouth Mass. We dated for several years and decided to get married in September of 1999. Sue still works in Warwick at the fine jewelry dept. of

Filene's. I continue to work for Nstar Electric in New Bedford. Nstar is the results of the merger of Boston Edison and Com/Electric. We purchased a home in Rehoboth last year, as it is the half way point to our jobs. As you know I have been editing and publishing the club's newsletter since May of this year. I guess you could say we are regulars. Michael Ponte - Editor

**ATTENTION MUSICIANS !!!**  
For sale: 5 piece CB700 drum set, 4 cymbals w/ stands plus all other hardware. Black w/chrome trim. Great condition. Over \$1,500 invested. \$800 obo Also, black Yamaha bass guitar. Needs strings. \$150 w/stand. Call Joe (401)232-0974

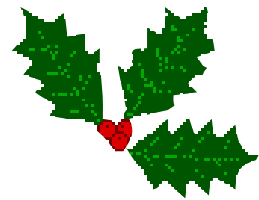
**LOU VALENTINO**  
DANCE LESSONS  
2 Step - East Coast  
Waltz - West Coast  
And More...  
Call For More Information  
401-231-4794

**DERJESS ENTERTAINMENT LLC**  
Disc Jockey  
Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays  
Corporate Parties, Holiday Parties,  
Banquets, Reunions, Nightclubs  
(401) 474-4938  
Cranston, R.I. 02920  
DJ Joe D  
entertainmentdj@yahoo.com

1611 Warwick Ave.  
Warwick, RI 02889  
**PFS INVESTMENTS**  
**AL FOSTER**  
736-0311  
**IRA,s TAX SHELTERS**  
**HOW'S YOUR IRA DOING?**

Structural / Mechanical  
Termite - FHA - VA Certified  
203 (K) Consultant  
**Alto Building Inspections**  
Principal Inspector  
R.J. Marchand  
Tel : (401) 823-1391  
Fax : (401) 823-9163  
Beeper: (401) 954-3811





dancing. Last January we started taking two step lessons and now we are learning the West Coast swing. A few people have been trying to convince us to enter dance competition. We went to the competition in August to see Lou and Ericka and discovered a new and exciting world of dancing. We'll see what 2001 brings.

Once again, The Diamond Rodeo has united another couple to live happily ever after.

Jim & Joanne  
PS Thank you Al Foster



**The Romance Continues...**

As a follow-up to our previous article, Dance Floor Magic (Diamond Rodeo Newsletter, August 2000) we wanted to submit an update. You know, that dance floor really can work some magic on you, if you let it. When I first started line dancing, I never knew that things would go the way they did, although I don't suppose anyone ever does, right? I was just looking to go out, have some fun and perhaps make some new friends. Well, I did go out, I did have fun (a lot of fun), and I did make some new friends.



get out on the floor and try to follow the dances as they came up. That took quite a while, but it was well worth it. I got to a point where Joe Macera felt confident enough in me to ask me to two - step with someone he was teaching, so he could watch her from a distance. That is how Gina and I met one Sunday evening in May (refer to above mentioned newsletter for the rest of that story). The update I referred to is that Gina and I are engaged to be married and have chosen October 27, 2001 for "The Big Day".

I'm not saying that anyone who learns how to line dance is going to meet their future spouse, but you just never know, do you? It's happened to at least two other couples that I know of, and that's only here at the Diamond Rodeo. And hey if nothing else, it's great fun, wonderful exercise, and you're almost sure to meet some interesting people, even if you don't end up marrying them. ENJOY!

Joe Manney



**BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS!**



'TIS THE SEASON! A most welcomed, glorious time of year that lends to the air a certain rapture inspiring our hearts with holiday merry making. Hustle and bustle intensifies as the yule tide draws near. While we're all secretly dreaming of a white Christmas, such undeniable,

finely tuned euphoria seems to captivate each and every heart!

Indeed, the Diamond, too, will be noticeably busy in the mode of exceptional holiday hype and upbeat ambiance rendering to the air the light heartedness of holiday nostalgia. Yes, smiles more radiant and more readily apparent, gestures more openly friendly-now that the holidays are fast approaching and truly upon us. In the midst of it all let us not forget to remember the birth of the Christ Child as the true meaning of Christmas!

Indeed, the spirit of yule tide spins its magic on all who care to listen to its rapture. So let the merriment consume you! Embrace it! Enjoy it! Believe in the magic of Christmas!

..written by Esther Scittarelli



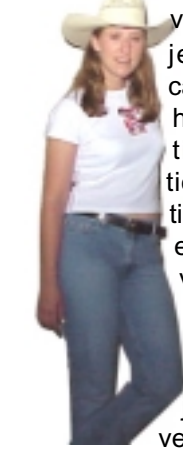
It's far too easy sometimes to forget that the people we meet while we're here have another side to their personalities. There is the person that we meet on the dance floor or with a drink in their hand, and then there is the person who struggles through everyday life just like the rest of us once the music stops playing. And seldom do we find someone who not only lets us see both sides of that personality, but touches us equally with them. However, there is one among us that has done just that. Not only is she always surrounded by a large group of friends while she's in the Diamond Rodeo, but even when she leaves - she is fiercely loyal to those people that she has let close enough to her heart to call them friends. When she's in the club she's fun, sometimes a little wild, and always a joy to be around. But when the lights go down, she's a person who continues to

amaze me on a daily basis. This wonderful person is known to us as Jamie Focht (Kent).

Her intellect is far beyond anything that I would have expected to find in someone so young. And her curiosity continues to make her even more knowledgeable as the days go by. The

variety of subjects that she can sit down and hold a productive conversation about continues to expand every day. She's very passionate about the things that she knows and enjoys - one conversation with her

about NASCAR or Dale Earnhardt Jr. will show you what I mean. But she's also not content with just talking about the things that she already knows. There is a hunger inside of her to learn all that she can, about as many things as she can. If you start a conversation about something that she doesn't understand, she'll be the first to tell you that you're out of her area of expertise. The next thing that she'll do is ask you to continue. I warn you now though - be ready for a lot of questions if you find one of those subjects. For she is not content to just sit there and let you ramble aimlessly about something that she doesn't understand, and you will forever be answering questions. The desire to learn all that she can about the subject at hand is two fold. First, she is interested in obtaining the knowledge that is locked inside of someone else - so that she can better her understanding and perhaps be able to hold up her end of the conversation in the future. Second, she is enjoy-



**Joe Manney & Gina Greenwood**

I started out by taking a few lessons from my sister, Michaela (unfair advantage, I know), but I also utilized the free lessons given here at The Diamond Rodeo until I felt comfortable enough to



ing getting to know who you are. The things that make you who you are and stir a passion within you are just as important to her. And that particular combination makes the conversation worth the effort whether you're discussing country music or politics.

Then there is also her creative side. The last thing I expected to find was that on top of everything else, she is also very artistic and down to earth. If Martha Stewart wrote the book on handmade country décor, then Jamie read it twice! I would not have expected - not in a million years - that she would need an entire small room just to store the cabinets and drawers that she has filled with supplies over the years. Her work is impeccable if not perfect, and always manages to express exactly what her heart was trying to say. It's done with an elegance and grace that ap-



Writer wishes to remain anonymous



## GOOD BALANCE

### DANCE TECHNIQUE AND FOLLOW THROUGH

When most dance instructors refer to lead, they are really referring to lead and follow-through. If you were studying with professional instructors of any sport or physical activity, follow-through would be discussed and emphasized ad nauseam. The lead signals the action to be taken, but proper followthrough is what guides a complete step pattern and is the main element that separates amateurs from professionals.

Example, the golf swing. Anyone can swing a club and hit a ball. However, if you want it to go where you intended, then your follow-through must be perfected. Leading dance patterns requires the same development of lead & follow-through.

Follow-through is accomplished by the leader smoothly following with his hand(s) through to the end of the step pattern. The right wrap to left wrap and back again in two step is an excellent example of a step pattern that looks great if executed properly, but looks lousy if not. When going from a right wrap to a left wrap and back again, both the man's hands must follow-through in a smooth fluid motion to the end of the pattern without using force. Most men new to dancing will jerk the left hand up to get the pattern started then jerk the right hand up, cranking the woman, throwing the woman off balance in the process.

The same thing occurs with new dancers in west coast swing trying to execute a tuck-turn throwout from closed basic. The man will jerk the lady into a tuck with his left hand then jerk the lady

into the outside turn. This is not the way it is done. The lead and follow-through for the tuck is a smooth, fluid motion by the man's left hand while his right hand, on the lady's left shoulder blade, moves slightly back, allowing her to do a slight turn counter-clockwise; then the turn is executed with a smooth, fluid motion, with the man's right hand pulling toward him starting her turn as his left hand smoothly rises over her head allowing her to turn clockwise; his left hand follows over her head down the slot to her final position in the pattern, after which his left hand then returns down to the normal open position stance. No force or cranking is used.



### TO DANCE

*Condensed from an article by David Baechle*

Dancing, like any other sport, is more fun to participate in when you understand the rules. Newcomers to dancing who have not been furnished with a dancing dictionary find that a whole new vocabulary, new etiquette and new ideologies are necessary to fully understand the conversation with friends new-found on the dance floor. Two of these new terms are alignment and the short wall.

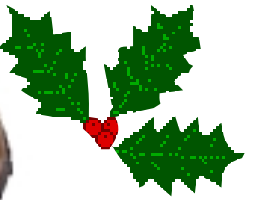
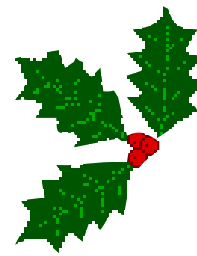
The large dance floor need not intimidate the beginning dancer because it will allow them to utilize their basic steps in a variety of proper and interesting alignments. For example: the quarter turns in Foxtrot are designed to carry the person completely around the dance floor while allowing him to address each new wall, each new line

of dance. The new aspiring dancer needs to understand the importance of the use of the short wall in the dance hall. The short wall in dancing is interesting because it is the underdog of the dance walls, a wall that is usually approximately 20 X 30 feet long and is at the end of a wall twice its length. To ignore the short wall will place your dancing on two long lines, making your performance dull, because you will have limited the choreography to that which travels up and down. Dancers who have a good understanding of the six directional movements in dancing are able to make their dancing more interesting by moving around the dance floor using a variety of groupings and amalgamations.

On a larger floor a dancer finds a great deal more room but may not be ready for it. Treat every wall with the idea of quarter turns, promenades and change steps are fillers that present themselves very well when traveling the full length. When you dance in this fashion, you see more of the floor.

Using the short wall and the long walls together makes for better routines and shows that every inch of the floor is usable. The other issue is the old fashion idea of dancing on the inside circle of the floor if you do not travel (swing, cha cha). Not only is this form expected, but appreciated by those who wish to use the whole floor.

Your efforts to understand the alignments of a particular step and dramatic and creative use of the short wall will have paid off when you realize that you can now maneuver in the busy traffic of a crowded dance floor.



Jennifer Sgambellone & Debbie Grasso