

# 84 YEARS ON!

## THE CHICAGO HARVEST MOON BALL 2011

### Report by K. Todd

It was my pleasure to attend the 2011 Chicago Harvest Moon Ball, held at the Intercontinental Hotel near O'Hare Airport, October 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. This was the first organizational effort by the new owners of the event, Peter Minkov & Yulia Kornilova and Keith Clifton.

However, while this may have been the first of the Harvest Moon Balls with the new team at the helm, this is competition that has been eighty-four years in the making. In 1927 the Daily News in New York sponsored a dance competition to

be known as the Harvest Moon Festival held in Central Park. The event attracted 70,000 people and the crowd was too hard to control. The mayor shut down future events in the park, but in 1935 the Harvest Moon was rekindled, this time in Madison Square Gardens. 22,000 tickets were sold in two days. Ten years later the Chicago Harvest Moon Ball was begun in the Chicago Stadium and continued there until 1962. The Ball regularly attracted an audience of over 25,000 people and the biggest name stars of the day, including Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin were featured performers. Five hundred



Polly Dodd

I must thank a former Harvest Moon Ball All Around Champion, Mr. Vito Bertucci, for this information on the Harvest Moon Ball. Mr. Bertucci was a judge this year.

Peter, Yulia & Keith are new to the "organizer business" but the competition ran very smoothly indeed and I believe they are dedicated to making their event a major stop on the US circuit. The Intercontinental Hotel is a superb venue. Many of us who attend a multitude of dance

*contd. pg. 31*

*Photo by Dance Beat*



Alec Mazo & Edita Sliwyska



*Photos by Park West*



Peter, Yulia, and Keith

*Photo by Park West*

dancers would show up for the elimination rounds held over two days before the night of the Ball. Only thirty would be selected for the final night when the couples would compete in several styles that included waltz, cha cha, foxtrot, tango and jitterbug. The most coveted title was the All Around Champions. When the festival came to an end in 1962, Ron & Polly Dodd received permission to keep the name alive and ran the event as the Harvest Moon Dance Championship. Polly was present at the 2011 Harvest Moon Ball to present the Amateur Foxtrot Scholarship dedicated in her name. After the Dodds, Jay & Nellie Jarquin kept the Harvest Moon Ball alive and this honor has now passed to the current owners.



Alec Mazo & Edita Sliwyska

*Photo by Park West*

### Star Dance Shop

<http://www.stardanceshop.com>



Tail suit & Tuxedo suit combo for \$900



Vest/Pants \$600



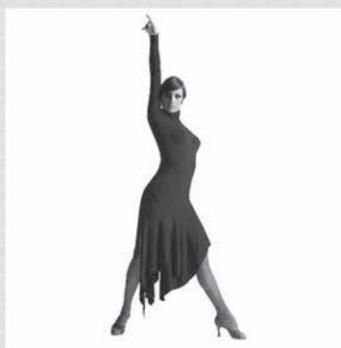
Custom made standard & latin shirt & pants



Tomas Shoes



Standard and latin costumes and practise wear



JT Shoes

Shop online for brand name dance shoes



Check our website and visit our booth at a dance competition.

Website: <http://www.stardanceshop.com>

Email: [info@stardanceshop.com](mailto:info@stardanceshop.com)

Phone: 425-361-3235 Fax: 425-672-4696

Open a studio account with us and save \$\$\$\$

