

ALL STAR *Dance* *Family Reunion*

Meet Jim & Jenell Maranto



The Directors of All Star Dance Camp, Jim and Jenell Maranto, are renowned for their excellence and artistry in dance. They are recognized by many to be the most knowledgeable professionals in the business with their teaching skills rivaled by none.

Jim and Jenell met in Phoenix in 1983 when Jim, a stockbroker, moved from Chicago and Jenell from Reno. Jenell, already an accomplished professional, taught Jim social dance for about a year. During that year, Jenell's enthusiasm for dance and competition soon rubbed off on Jim. They began their competition journey in November 1984. Jenell's background in Tap, Jazz and Ballet, combined with Jim's discipline learned in high school and college athletics, made a winning combination.

They opened their school, The Academy of Ballroom Dance, in Phoenix in 1987. Together, they won the U.S. Professional Rising Star American Smooth title and every major International Rising Star Standard title in the United States. The highlight of their competitive career was winning two U.S. Open Professional American Smooth Championships in 1993 and 1994.

After winning their second national championship, Jim and Jenell retired from competition and devoted their lives to teaching people to dance. They teach and train dancers from newcomers to seasoned professionals. They are often called upon to present lectures and judge competitions all over the United States. One reason they stay a cut above others in the business is that they never stop taking lessons themselves. "We approach every lesson we take as beginners," Jenell said, "because if we ever think we know it all we cease to be able to learn."

During the many years we have been privileged to learn from the Marantos, we have consistently noticed the respect they show all students. When asked about this, Jim said, "We know our students have areas of expertise where they know more than we do. Our students are professionals in their own fields. We happen to be experts in dance. We always operate from a position of mutual respect."

We are so fortunate that we have the best of the best!

If you have any questions, please e-mail Rubye Del Harden, our Camp Director at rubyedel@gmail.com. She loves to answer camp questions!