

So you want to be an angel – a dance angel that is!

By Penny Green

We always appreciate having “angels” help out at our classes, but sometimes as angels we sometimes need to be reminded that

- there is only one instructor at the class; so let him/her do the teaching
- no one can talk and listen at the same time; so when the instructor is talking, everyone should be silent
- no one can listen to more than one person at a time; the students should only be listening to the instructor
- the instructor should be allowed to finish explaining a move before the dancers execute it. The dancers should quietly remain in place while the instructor is explaining a movement; when the explanation is completed, the caller will call the movement and the dancers can then execute it.
- just because you have been dancing for many years, it doesn't mean you know the CALLERLAB definition of all the calls. Definitions have changed over the years and experienced dancers are notorious for taking shortcuts; so don't attempt to teach the new dancers the way you execute a move.
- just as the students are instructed to be gentle with arm and hand holds and twirls, angels should remember the same thing; don't jerk and pull the new dancers around.
- don't be a show off with your twirls, jumps, bumps and kicks; this only confuses the new dancers. These kinds of extra moves sometimes turn the new dancer around and they don't know what position they are in or what direction to go in. The new dancers already have a lot to learn and don't need the extra burden of learning all these extra steps that experienced dancers have decided to add to the activity. Basically, DON'T TWIRL, JUMP, BUMP OR KICK DURING CLASS!
- these new dancers need to be welcomed just like any experienced dancers visiting your dance. Invite the new dancers to sit with you and get to know them. If you don't make them feel welcome, why would they have any interest in joining your club?

I hope you will see the benefit of discussing these reminders at your classes. We all know these things but sometimes we need to be reminded about them.

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