

A Price Above Rubies

By Elita S. Clayman

I saw a line somewhere in one of the many magazines I subscribe to that said something was "a price above rubies." Funny thing is that I love rubies and emeralds and amethysts and even diamonds. I love jewelry and what a piece of jewelry signifies to the recipient. However, that line can apply to our ballroom dancing activities that so many of us link our lives to.

Yesterday, I went to a ballroom Sunday tea dance at the Promenade dance facility here in Baltimore, Maryland. It could be any dance hall in any city. It was filled with the regular

Sunday crowd of mostly senior citizens and a few not just yet seniors. The ladies were all dressed in their dancing best and the gentlemen in their shirts and sweaters. A few old timers wore sport jackets and neckties. My own dad always sat in his chair in the evening still dressed in his tie or his bow tie. He stayed that way until he went to sleep that night. He was an old timer in those days and he kept his attire on until bedtime. At the Sunday dance, everyone smiled and everyone was happy to be there. My husband and I had not been to that particular dance time for about four months. We took some time off for the summer and because of a few minor aches and pains that seniors endure.

Now, we were back, wondering if we would remember the hundreds of steps we knew in each dance. As they say, you never forget how to type, how to ride a bike or now, even, how to dance. Dance is ingrained in our mind and even seniors do not forget what they learned. True, it may not turn out as a delightful turn or a wonderful foot pattern because you have been away from it for a bit. Yes, we still remember and we still find happiness in executing these patterns.

I hear from dozens of seniors and not yet seniors as to their enduring love for ballroom dance. I have two new dance friends in California by the names of Antonio and Alexia Cardenas who are dancing every day and they practice dancing with a passion. They compete



Antonio and Alexia

locally and against other amateurs and their profession is selling real estate. They practice in their own ballroom in their home. Antonio built this for their activity and their love of being so skilled in dancing. They are not yet seniors at this time. I shall call them my positive and golden dancers whose love of ballroom dancing takes them to nursing homes, to schools, senior centers, scout troop clubs and any place that would enjoy their dancing. They dress up in elaborate dance costumes and are in popular demand from these places. These golden and positive people promote ballroom dancing wherever they go.

I saw a line that said a price above rubies. Surely, people like Antonio and Alexia are jewels above any stone in a gem store. They are gems of a rare quality. They always say buy your gems and know the clarity, the color and the carat. Surely, Antonio and Alexia are the highest twenty four carat team and are an endless price above rubies, diamonds and the rest of gemstones.