

## **“Let’s Dance” holds Dance Party & Live Recording Session**

This year’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ever-popular “Let’s Dance” event in DeKalb will be celebrated with a special CD recording released in time for this summer’s big band ballroom dance extravaganza.

Just Make It Happen (JMIH), producers of Let’s Dance, invite the public to be a part of the live “Dance Party” Recording Session Sunday, May 31, 3-6 p.m. JMIH invites ballroom dancers, teachers, clubs and interested citizens to the recording event in the Duke Ellington Ballroom at NIU’s Student Center, 340 Carroll Ave., DeKalb.

John Smith, JMIH president and leader of the Shanani-gans Big Band, host band for all Let’s Dance events, said they are honored to create the by-request CD recording.



**John Smith, JMIH Founder**

“At the 2014 Let’s Dance, guests requested a special recording be produced in honor of this year’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mid-summer event,” said Smith. “An anonymous donor has responded to that suggestion, making this live recording and CD possible.”

Big band ballroom and jazz classics from nearly eight decades will be the basis of the CD, Smith said. The 17-piece Shanani-gans Big Band, featuring two vocal-ists, will recreate music re-quests they have received over the past nine years from guests representing 11 states.

Smith said the resulting CD will allow “new or experi-enced dancers and fans to listen, to practice and learn from its contents. All ages can enjoy the musicians’ talents and musicianship.” The CD release is scheduled during the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Let’s Dance, July 17-19. The feasibility of making a video recording of the event also is being ex-plored.

All ages are invited to the Dance Party recording ses-sion Sunday, May 31. Guests are encouraged to wear cas-ual or formal dress, with leather-soled shoes. The 13,000-square-foot dance floor in the Duke Ellington Ballroom will be complemented by surrounding linen-clothed tables.

The dance party opens at 3 p.m., with the Shanani-gans playing for a warm-up dance. Set One begins at 3:30 p.m., with Grand Ball music for 45 minutes. Following a break at 4:15 p.m., Set Two will run 45 minutes.

Online registration for the May 31 live recording party opens March 1, via [www.justmakeithappen-dekalb.com](http://www.justmakeithappen-dekalb.com) (Let’s Dance Spring 2015 Bonus Event). The discount rate for advance registration is \$15. Cost at the door will be \$30. Participants wishing to mail registration should send checks to JMIH, 337 Knollwood Dr., DeKalb, IL 60115. Out of town guests are encouraged to use NIU’s on-site hotel at the Student Center, (815) 758-1444 [mention Let’s Dance Re-cording], where rooms or suites are available. For a list of nearby hotels, visit JMIH’s website.

*In addition to participating in the making of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CD, net proceeds of the project will be dedicated to establishing JMIH marketing and contin-uation funds. JMIH is a 501(c)3 non-profit entity.*



*A couple dances during the Summer 2014 Let’s Dance Event.*