

Dance Arts Now!

The official NHSDA Newsletter for Middle and High School Students
Spring 2017

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Welcome to our latest edition, filled with colorful pages dedicated to the power of dance as an art form.

Within our international realm, NDEO recently presented the *Women in Dance Leadership Award* to Julie Kent, Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet and prima ballerina of the American Ballet Theatre...

As inspiration to our NHSDA members, Ms. Kent sends this message of love and mentorship in dance:



Photo#1 of Julie Kent (r) with Hanna Bass Photo# 2 of Julie Kent (r) with Erica Lall. Photographer: Rosalie O'Connor

A photograph of two ballerinas in a dance studio. The ballerina on the left is in a black leotard, performing a high arabesque with her right leg extended horizontally and her arms reaching upwards. The ballerina on the right is in a white long-sleeved top and a pink tutu, also in a similar pose. They are positioned in front of large windows that look out onto a city street with historic buildings. A white radiator is visible in the background between the two dancers.

"Everything a leader brings to an organization is a reflection of the life that they've lived and in taking on this new role, I see an opportunity to share my experiences and the lessons I've learned from so many mentors throughout my career. I'm especially looking forward to working with the dancers and sharing everything I love so much about ballet and the humanity that is so integral to the process." ~ Julie Kent

Haiku Poem
Prima Ballerina

By: Micahaela Perez-Bayanin
Advisor: Victoria Billington
Point Performing Arts Junior Chapter

Poised, skilled, exquisite
A beauty in pink pointe shoes
Perfect Pirouettes



Pointe Shoes

Poet: Amanda Ramirez
Advisors: Martha Satinoff and
Hollond Schiller
Bak Middle School of the Arts

Photographer: Jennifer Kauffman
Photo Title: "Then and Now"
Advisor: Rachel Miranda
Ridge High School

Note: Both Amanda and Jennifer have now graduated, but their early contributions remain classic.

*I twirl and spin like a top in the wind,
in these glorious pointe shoes I'm dancing with
the air whips my bangs,
as I turn once, twice and thrice!
This is the thrill of my life.*

*Yet as glorious as they are, there is duty to fulfill
from a one hour fitting, to stitching on ribbons
Burning edges, so the ribbon won't fray,
powdering them with Rosin to avoid slipping and falling
Once done out the door I go!*

*I wouldn't mind dancing hours a day,
in New York City or at the Miami City Ballet
My warm ups become my clothes
As I stroll the city in neon pink shoes wearing black
overalls,
soon they'll become the next fashion muse.*

*When rehearsals end so does the day
Sore from head to toe from variations with no end
Yet the next day proves to be the same
I skip and hop...to the trolley, to the subway
I move with brisk quickening steps.
My arms, with flowing grace, as
I make my way to rehearsal...*



NEWS



NHSDA Dance A Difference Week

March 5-11, 2017

NDEO invites all NHSDA chapters to celebrate the first annual "Dance A Difference Week," dedicated to dance-based service in our communities!

- ✚ Share the joy of dance through performance and workshops at a local school, a daycare, retirement home, or hospital
- ✚ Teach a class to members of the community
- ✚ Fundraise for, donate to, a local charity, a national dance organization, or any group that needs the help
- ✚ Complete a chapter service project ~ Serve at a soup kitchen, make
 - blankets, or assemble hygiene kits for shelters, or find any local
 - organization that needs volunteers
- ✚ Share your experience on social media with hashtags #NHSDA and #DanceADifferenceWeek

Inspire chapters to join in and give back to their communities... Take a leadership role in developing *Dance A Difference Week* activities and earn NHSDA points!

Questions? Contact NHSDA Director Tiana Chambers at tchambers@ndeo.org and visit nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community



Donate4Dance

News Flash!

Holly Stefanick Receives the President's Volunteer Service Award

Advisor: Katie Huy
Frederick YMCA

Congratulations to Holly Stefanick for achieving the President's Volunteer Service Award, signed by Past President Barack Obama. Holly, a sophomore, runs her own charity called Donate4Dance Mission. Its purpose: "to share the love of dance by collecting gently used dance apparel and shoes and providing them to other performing arts programs." Here in her own words she shares her journey to create this community service to dancers.

Hi, my name is Holly Stefanick. I have been dancing for thirteen years and started Donate4Dance Mission after realizing how there are plenty of children who would love to dance, but cannot afford basic supplies. Dance is a huge part of my life and it is something that I am passionate about, so I developed my charity to give other kids the same opportunities.

My mission offers gently used dance attire to performing arts schools/programs where the students might not otherwise afford them. Established in early spring of last year, I have since collected and shipped hundreds of supplies throughout Maryland, New York, Louisiana, Detroit, and Chicago.

I gather items from individuals or from the many collection bins that I place in studios throughout Frederick, Maryland. The bins fill up with leotards, shoes, costumes, and other dance related supplies that people no longer need or want. Donate4Dance Mission is a 501c (3) charity, which allows me to provide donors with receipts for tax purposes.

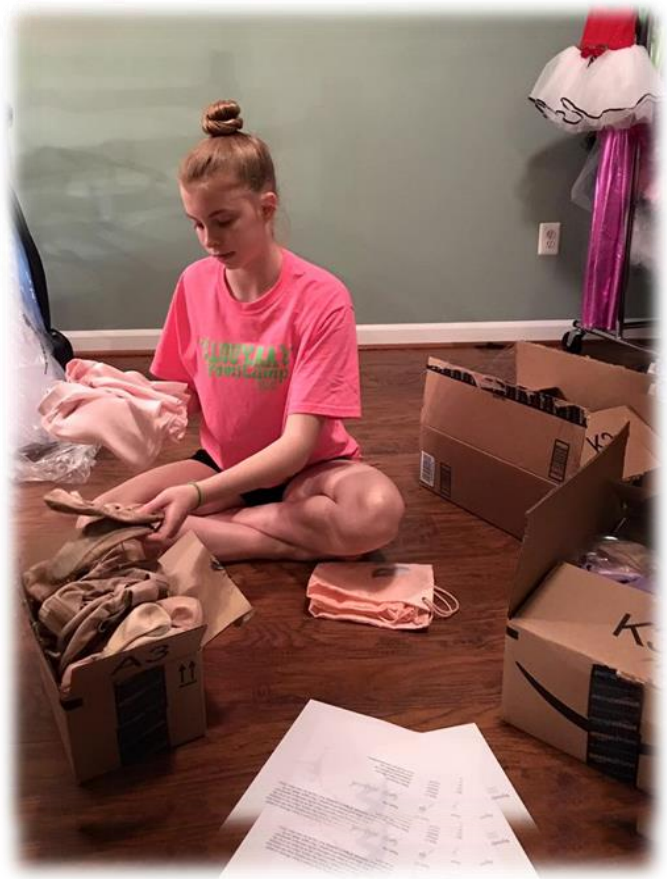
Within the last few months an enthusiastic student reached out to help; she now collects donations at studios near her house, which she then hands to me. She has been so helpful spreading the word about my non-profit and has already collected hundreds of donations.



Thank you!

I am extremely grateful for all of the local families and organizations that support my cause, which in turn enables me to ship donations to those in need and I hope to continue helping even more dancers for years to come!

Additional information about Donate4Dance can be found on Holly's website: www.donate4dance.org or on Facebook www.facebook.com/donate4dance



Testimonials

Collecting these donations of dance wear is a WONDERFUL thing that you are doing! We spoke to families who are just trying to get things back to normal after the flooding [in Baton Rouge], and they are thrilled to have clothes to send their kids back to dance class. Thank you for all of your help!

~ Arts Council in Baton Rouge

We now have three locations with bins and, collectively as a company, we all work together to help promote Holly's mission in our local communities. Most recently Footlights donated over \$2,701 in dance gear directly to the Donate4Dance Mission. We know that while even the smallest donation can make a difference, we try to encourage everyone who can, to help those in need to fulfill these dancer's dreams.

~ Footlights Dance & Theatre Boutique



Service Project Leaps
"Across the Country: New York to California!"
Ridge Dance Collective, Ridge High School

Members of a local Brownie troop in Basking Ridge, New Jersey needed to earn dance badges so NHSDA students answered the call by creating a special workshop for the girls, with the theme "Across the Country: New York to California." In cooperation with the Brownie Troop leader and the dance program director Rachel Miranda, NHSDA members designed the theme and curriculum, plus taught the class.

Caroline Browne, the chapter's current NHSDA President and one of the participating choreographers, noted,

"As an NHSDA member, this service project was an enriching and rewarding experience. We learned how to prepare and teach a dance class.

The students who participated in the class seemed to really enjoy it. Through this event and the others we conduct, we hope to spread our passion of dance to our community."

Each section focused on various parts of the United States, with this imaginative lesson plan:

- ✚ Warming-up in the Bronx Zoo with *Trashin' the Camp*
- ✚ Traveling "down south" for *Cotton Eyed Joe*
- ✚ Moving to California with *Surfin' USA*
- ✚ Registrants choreographing a finale with the guidance of the NHSDA members

Parents and their Brownies were transported to the exciting world of dance with this fun, educational learning experience!

Editorial

The Meaning of Choreography ~

Creativity and Abstraction...

Healing and Celebration

By: Julia Cohen
Ridge High School
Advisor: Rachel Miranda



Julia, a junior, has been dancing for fourteen years, with experience in ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and hip hop. She is a member and choreographer captain for Ridge Dance Collective, and participates in the Ridge Dance Master Class Series and the Ridge Dance classes.

Dance has always been part of who I am: when I was little, twirling and bopping around on the kitchen floor...to now, learning complex choreography that requires attentiveness and passion. The word dance evokes a sense of expression, entertainment, and freedom; when I think of dance, I think of telling a story through purposeful choreography. I think of all of the times I have spent in the studio doing across-the-floor exercises and small combinations and the joy and satisfaction that learning new dances and movement give me. Dance should play a significant role in our culture as a form of artistic self-expression. However, today, the styles and meanings related to the word *dance* have greatly changed ~ but not always in a positive light.

Dance has been an important part of celebrations and rituals since the beginning of human civilization, and throughout the decades, new forms have evolved. Ancient Egyptians and Greeks performed during religious ceremonies and for entertainment. Native American dances traditionally honor their ancestors or ask Nature for

protection. Many African dances are deeply spiritual, performed for healing and fertility rites. Other genres such as classical ballet, hip hop, modern, and tap have evolved with a musicality of beauty and athleticism, and a deep story to convey. All of these are a pure form of creativity and expression that educate and relay one's cultural heritage.

Today we encounter viral dances such as the "dab" the "whip" and the "nae-nae." More recently, one routine to the song "Juju on That Beat" became an overnight sensation. These are internet concoctions, capturing the attention of millions with their simple and, yes, enjoyable tricks. Sure, they might be fun to do at a party or with a group of friends, but do they really capture the essence of dance? I don't think so. If you ask someone to dance today, more likely he or she will present one of these viral moves, rather than a serious style that demonstrates a real technical challenge like a pirouette or a jeté.

It is true that dance is strongly influenced by the current culture and trends...

However, many people are oblivious to the fact that dance is a true art form.

Behind every dance there lies intent: the purpose within the choreographic composition. Each is designed with care, considering elements such as shape, size, tempo, space, costume, lighting, and sound. Similar to any other form of art, dance evolves within a single creative idea. The choreographer spends time, thought, and effort in creating a piece that is both meaningful and aesthetically unique or pleasing.

I am a dancer and to me the word ***dance*** represents creativity and abstraction; we might even say dance represents healing or celebration. As I have studied technique at my high school, I have learned that creating a powerful dance takes complex ideas and collaboration. Popular routines today definitely go against the original meaning of dance as art. Even though I believe that the feelings evoked are no longer as serious and as appreciated as they should be, many argue that this kind of expression is necessary to assimilate to the culture surrounding them. They argue that dance is not a part of everyday life as it was in ancient times. Maybe they are right, but the art of dance still deserves serious respect.



As a dancer myself, in the genres of hip hop, jazz, modern, and tap, the word dance must represent the imaginative, free form art that it did so long ago. I hope that more people will acknowledge dance for the pure creative storytelling process it truly is and that it will blossom to what it should be: pliés, waltzing, time steps, and so forth.

...It is time for dance to return to its aesthetic with the respect it deserves.



DANCER & PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographer: Erica Kim
Dancer Model: Emily Pagano
Advisor: Claudine Ranieri
Paramus High School

“As an artist, I find passion as I lie awake, excited to bring a story to life through photography, film and dance.

Envision the stories around us, as we become open minded to our differences and to the beauty of movement that evolves within our inner-creativity.”

~ Erica Kim

Erica Kim’s love of dance transcends from dancer to photographer with her unique ability to capture the essence of movement. Emily Pagano is the dancer in all three of Erica’s photographs exhibited in this issue. Emily’s dedication to her craft and love of dance serve as a role model for the school community. Both students have advanced throughout their four years at

Paramus High School as members of the Dance Department and the Spartanettes Dance Company. In the spring of 2016, they were nominated as members of the National Honor Society of Dance Arts.

Here follow three beautiful photographs that represent their creative collaborations, accompanied by Erica’s personal notes...



This photograph is true inspiration from pure nature, surrounding city life, and the creative movement through a powerful art form. Expression of passion comes from the bottom of the heart.



This photograph expresses the movement of this very concentrated and passionate dancer. The world may surround her yet she still stands strong. It exemplifies true strength ~ physically and mentally.



Jumping...

It is okay to let go of the difficult challenges and embrace the true beauty of the work around you.

This photograph is inspired by the idea to grasp onto the little inspirations because one may turn into something greater.



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