

# SPOTLIGHT ON DANCE



A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL DANCE ASSOCIATION  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL ISSUE 2009

## NDA PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE

### The Learning Circle: How Dance Pedagogy Leads our Practice

*The conference for exceptional teaching, leadership and scholarship in dance education*

January 15–January 18, 2010  
New Mexico State University  
Las Cruces, New Mexico



Photo by Steve Clarke

Over my many years of teaching, I now understand that through my service to my students, *together* we find our way in understanding who we are. The educator does not make the dancers, but guides them through the path

through dedicated study, so to give voice and flight to the spirit.

However, the art of teaching is not always easy, yet it brings rewards and challenges to both veteran and novice educators. Setting goals to increase instructional impact, developing innovative, responsive classes; instilling joy in the experience and preparing students to embrace a full life, takes carefully crafted lessons. Teaching the language, athleticism, the poetry all in harmony with dance requires building a personal yet professional pedagogy philosophy

of movement; the student must allow the “dancer within” to emerge

*Conference, continued on page 3*

## Dance A While Co-Authors to Receive the NDA Heritage Award



### Special Announcement!

Marlys S. Waller and Anne M. Pittman, co-authors for 57 years of *Dance A While*—the best-selling folk dance book ever printed—have been named the NDA 2010 Heritage Award honorees. They were both highly respected professors of folk and social dance: Marlys Waller, emeritus of University of Washington; Anne Pittman, emeritus

of Arizona State University. Recipients of the National Folk Organization’s highest award and NDA’s Plaudit Award, they are recognized internationally for their shared excellence and profound spirit in promoting dance as part of a creative, healthy lifestyle.

What an exciting journey they have had in the world of folk and social dance!

*Heritage award, continued on page 4*



## President's Message

Nancy Kane  
Performing Arts Department  
SUNY Cortland

### "The Secret to Our Success"

It has been just a few months since I was honored with the position as the NDA President. Many people spoke with me at the convention about ways the NDA Board of Directors and staff can serve our circle of friends and colleagues. Our strength is in the depth of talent that runs throughout our membership and we will achieve phenomenal results if we continue to share our ideas and vision.

I send a special invitation for all to register for our fabulous conference: *The Learning Circle: Dance Pedagogy Leads Our Practice* to be held at New Mexico State University on January 15-18, 2010!

One of the first issues I will address is technology in our organization. We now offer our convention

*Proceedings* on disk, allowing authors to submit videos of dance steps (within copyright guidelines) to complement the sessions. I also want to encourage more use of live video feeds at our dance sessions to help participants see teachers' movements more easily. Several dance activity sessions used video this year with excellent results. We are also working on a virtual interactive museum tour for our Web site, supported in part by a Research Consortium grant.

I promise to work with NDA and AAHPERD to improve our web communications to make it easier for members to access information and become active advocates for dance and dance education at the local, state and national levels. I look forward to hearing ideas from all members—especially state and district dance VPs!—to make great connections across all levels of NDA. News items of terrific, innovative programs or teaching methods and dance-related legislative victories are welcome. Please include photos when possible!

We cannot afford to be isolated and there are many opportunities, workshops, scholarships and auditions out there waiting for our members. NDA can help you get the word out to other members through our e-mail alert system.

I encourage all members to work individually and collaboratively on session proposals or Gala submissions for our workshops, conferences and conventions; writing articles for *JOPERD*, *Nu Delta Alpha Journal*, or *Spotlight*; fostering Nu Delta Alpha chapter growth; nominating professionals and students for awards throughout NDA and AAHPERD; bringing in new members; hosting a Dance Educator of the Year for master classes at your school; running for office; and advocating for dance in your community and across our nation.

YOU are the secret to our success and YOU make our association the leading dance education organization in the country. NDA is here to serve you and to help you achieve your goals.

## Spotlight on Dance

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1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 20191  
Ph: (703) 476-3436  
Fax (703) 476-9527  
Email: [nda@aahperd.org](mailto:nda@aahperd.org)

Back-to-School Issue 2009

### Editorial Staff

Colleen Dean, Program Administrator  
Elsa Nygard, Layout Design  
Deb Callis, AAHPERD Staff  
Kathleen Larrick, Admin. Assistant

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## NDA Call for Nominations

**Make your voice heard in dance education—become a leader in the National Dance Association! For the following nominations, please contact NDA Headquarters at [nda@aahperd.org](mailto:nda@aahperd.org), 703-476-3464.**

- NDA Board of Directors
- Outstanding College/University Dance Students
- Heritage Award
- College/University Student Literary Award
- Scholar/Artist
- NU DELTA ALPHA Dance Honor Society
- K-12 & College/University Dance Educator of the Year

### A Special Invitation to Our Members!

President Nancy Kane welcomes all of our respected colleagues to become committee members for one or more of our educational programs: Heritage, History, Publications, Nu Delta Alpha and more. Contact President Kane.

Conference, continued from page 1

for self discovery and community building. The art of teaching includes leadership and communication. In all of my workshops, the dancers ask how they can become better teachers; it is from these thoughts that this pedagogy conference takes seed.

This conference brings educators, dancers, performers, administrators and choreographers from all areas of our profession together to create an atmosphere of exploration toward growth. The conference includes forums/panels, presentations, workshops, posters and more.

Registration begins at 4:00 pm on Friday, January 15, followed by several dance somatic classes to help our bodies recover from the travel.

## Conference Highlights

\* **Special technique classes for students**

\* **In-depth workshops**

Among the highly respected presenters will be Brenda McCutchen, author of *Teaching Dance as Art in Education*, who will give a series of in-depth workshops based on her extensive work in advancing the curriculum. Colleague Bill Evans will give workshops on his approach to pedagogy and technique. Dr. Fran Cleland will offer workshops on developmental movement for all children.

\* **Forums**

Panels will address topics on pedagogy practice with approaches that dancers use in their “creative and artistic” skills in leadership.

Speakers: Dr. Waded Cruzado-Salas, VP-Provost at New Mexico State University; Dr. Nancy Kane, NDA President; and Fran Meyer, AAHPERD Board of Governors.

\* **Creative and academic writing**

For all ages and all dance topics to promote future collaborative projects.

Start the year 2010 by affirming the creative teaching spirit—make the commitment to share your gift of giving, while being inspired by others, at “The Learning Circle” conference. Online registration is available on the NDA web site, [www.aahperd.org/nda](http://www.aahperd.org/nda), which includes entry into all daily classes and evening performances.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the conference!

By Debra Knapp, NMSU

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## NDA ANNUAL APPEAL & ADVOCACY

Dance has been a fabulous part of AAHPERD for 125 years! So let us continue this great tradition in advocating for quality dance education by supporting the NDA

Annual Appeal!

Your donations help make our advocacy efforts and our members’ benefits possible! Please give generously to the NDA Annual Appeal today!

Just \$250, \$125, \$75, or even \$35 will help provide financial resources to make a difference in the lives of dance professionals and students across the country!

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## Reflections on Gotta Dance! Standards-Based Musical Theatre Workshop

by Nancy Kane

This past winter’s Page to Stage Standards-Based Workshop: *Gotta Dance!* gave educators and students a fabulous chance to work on technique and much more. Organized by K-12 National Dance Educator of the Year Kelly Burnette and NDA Past President Margaret Musmon, this year’s classes were designed to appeal to musical theatre enthusiasts.

The core of the workshop took place at Manatee School for the Arts in Palmetto, Florida, on January 17-18, 2009. Participants attended classes in ballet, jazz, tap, musical theatre, historical dance, ballroom and partnering/lifts. They also learned cho-

reography from Broadway veteran Michael Barriskill (who played Mr. Mistoffelees in the NYC production of *Cats*) and *A Chorus Line* with Kelly Burnette.

The importance of healthy dancing was reinforced with classes on nutrition, injury prevention, conditioning, Pilates and kinesiology. Theatrical techniques—make-up application, stage combat, cold readings, auditions and “acting the song” were also offered. Costumers Paul F. Lopez and David Walker, whose creations adorn performers on *Dancing with the Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance*, provided insight into making and recycling costumes.

*Gotta Dance!*, continued onpage 7



Michael Barriskill as Mistoffelees in *Cats*

Heritage award, continued from page 1

**Marlys S. Waller**, whose father was mentored by Luther Gulick (founder of the Camp Fire Girls), maintains their philosophy of outdoor living standards, especially as a camp counselor teaching dance and athletic activities. While studying at Columbia University, she lived at International House where she was active in all aspects of folk dance. She also performed with former Heritage Award recipients Vyts Beliajus, Lucile Czarnovski, Martha Hill, Michael and Mary Ann Herman, and Nelda Guerrero Drury.

Today, Marlys leads a full life as a wife, grandmother, and editor of *Dance A While*, now in its 10th edition. Continuing her role as a community leader, she still teaches her folk ballets and methods.

**Anne M. Pittman** will be posthumously honored by NDA. Square dance, above all, was her specialty and she shone as a caller. At New York University during World War II, she directed the Cadet Nurse Corps for whom she taught dance and sports. She also performed with the Hermans. Anne was the “winningest coach” in the history of Arizona State University because, not only did she teach dance, she was named to the Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame, took her tennis team to the World Games in Moscow, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arizona Women’s Golf Association.

### Dance A While!

At the University of Texas in the 1940s, Marlys and Anne organized their lesson plans and class notes—and

*Dance A While* was born. By 1950, they had moved on to their own academic careers, but because of their involvement in the ever-popular book, their friendship continued. They began a dance newsletter and the Texas Folk Dance Camp, both still in operation.

*Dance A While* remains a classic in recreational dance because it uniquely combines instruction with cultural background for more than 260 international dances. A wonderful music CD accompanies the latest edition. ♦

NDA’s Heritage Award presentation is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2009, in Indianapolis, as part of the 125th Anniversary AAHPERD National Convention. Creative dance specialist Anne Green Gilbert will be among the guest speakers.

# SPORTIME

Dancing Colors are wonderful for children to use as they explore movement. Because they extend the movements beyond the reach of the body, it excites the children as they spin, leap and design their own choreography. The addition of props seems to build confidence because the prop makes any movement look impressive!



## Congratulations, Dr. Mary Ann Laverty 2009 National Dance Association Dance Educator of the Year



“I cherish working with students that are hard-working and dedicated. I endeavor to enlighten students to understand the rigor of dance; however open-mindedness, understanding of different teaching and learning styles, and compassion for each individual is also a charitable quality one needs to possess. Dance still remains one discipline that involves human interaction. The pedagogy of Dance is a gift that must be cherished and held close to the surface of the soul.”

Ph.D. in Anthropology of Human Movement from New York University; M.A. from Mills College in Oakland, CA; undergraduate degree in Dance and Teaching Certification from San Francisco State University.

Current Position: Director of Dance at Woodside High School, Magnet Dance Program at the Center for Communication and Arts.

Special: Has served both as Vice-President Elect for Dance Performance and Vice-President for Dance Education for the National Dance Association.

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### Doris Humphrey Foundation for Dance

Charles Woodford, son of modern dance icon Doris Humphrey, and



*Doris Humphrey*

Minos Nicholas, Doris Humphrey Institute Executive Director, have donated the licensing rights to Humphrey's works, as well as her memorabilia, to the newly created Doris Humphrey Foundation for Dance, at Goucher College. Contact Amanda Thom Woodson, Associate Dean, at [awoodson@goucher.edu](mailto:awoodson@goucher.edu).

### Country Dance World Championship

Judy Wright, Human Kinetics editor and author of *Social Dance: Steps to Success*, and husband Sam earned the title of overall champions in the Couples Gold Combined division at the Country Dance World Championship. The Wrights, who have been dancing together for thirty years, teach all levels and own the Wright Way Dance Studio.

## In Fond Memory

### Last Dance: Merce Cunningham, Master Choreographer

July 28, 2009, *NY Daily News*

When Merce Cunningham came to New York in 1939 as an electrifyingly



*Merce Cunningham*

athletic but unknown dancer, he took one look at the skyline and said, "This is home." Fortunately for us all, so it was. In the next 70 years, he became arguably the greatest choreographer in the world - who helped transform the city into the center of dance. Through more than 150 works, straight up to his death...at the age of 90, Cunningham relentlessly pushed the boundaries of the art form. That confounded some people but inspired many more.

He discarded story and even music in his quest for pure movement. He took the way New Yorkers moved on the city's streets and integrated those rhythms into his work - making challenging, transformative art out of the everyday. Toward the end, he even distributed preloaded iPods to his audiences, encouraging them to shuffle the commissioned musical selections while the dancers danced. The city will keep moving - that's part of its brilliance, like Cunningham's - but we will never move quite the way we did before Merce.

### Dr. Dorothy Gifford Madden, Past NDA President

We fondly remember Dr. Dorothy Gifford Madden, 96, NDA President from 1961-62, whose leadership drove NDA into the forefront in advocating for dance education. Her writing has been immortalized in her

highly praised *You Call Me Louis, Not Mr. Horst*, a biography of the renowned music director for Martha Graham. Dr. Madden was also the first chair of the Dance Dept. at the University of Maryland and founding fellow of the American Council for the Arts and Education.

Within her long, fruitful career, she danced with the companies of Pola Nirenska and Ethel Butler and performed in Doris Humphrey's *Passacaglia*. At the author's request, she acted as the manuscript reader for Humphrey's *The Art of Making Dances*. Madden travelled extensively, studying with Mary Wigman in Switzerland, Etienne Decroux in Paris and at the Laban School in England. She earned her PhD in Dance as a Creative Art, being the first to be awarded for choreography as doctoral study, and was named Doctor Honoris Causa from Federation Francaise de Danse of Paris.

### Marilyn Kahl, Dedicated to Community Service

Nu Delta Alpha advisor Marilyn Kahl had recently retired from the Marquette-Alger Regional Education Service Agency. As a teacher and education consultant, she received many honors, including the Edward J. Sloan Youth Prevention Services Award for leadership of Upper Peninsula Youth and the Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Services and Outstanding Educator, Michigan AHPERD. She continued to volunteer as a Nu Delta Alpha chapter advisor after retirement. NDA is grateful to Marilyn for representing the honor society, with two of her students, at the National Society of High School Scholars Assembly on Capitol Hill and organizing student enrichment programs, including trips to New York City plus donating her beautiful handmade quilts as NDA fundraising projects. ♦

# DANCE LESSON PLAN

Mary Ann Laverty, K-12 National Dance Educator of the Year  
Woodside Magnet School, Newport News, VA

## Haiku Project: An Interdisciplinary Lesson Plan

### OVERVIEW:

This lesson demonstrates how to apply poetry to dance composition. Students will 1) analyze, 2) interpret and 3) create movement based on selected prose known as Haiku, of classical Japanese origin. Students may also write their own poetry in Haiku style as the catalyst for a large choreographic piece.

### OBJECTIVES:

By participating in this learning experience, students will:

- create and perform a complete, original work [Psychomotor]
- answer aesthetic questions about the completed work [Cognitive]
- interpret written text, abstract movement and resulting choreography [Affective]
- collaborate with students in the creative process [Socialization]

### Sources

Sam Hamill, translator, *The Sound of Water: Haiku by Basho, Buson, Issa & Other Poets*. Shambhala, 2006.

Anne Green Gilbert, Chapter Four: Creating (Narrative Dances). *Brain Compatible Dance Education*, NDA, 2006.

Terry Sweeting, "Using Haiku Poetry in Children's Creative Dance," NDA Proceedings, AAHPERD National Convention (Tampa), NDA, 2009.

Vas, *In the Garden of Souls*, Narada Recordings, 2000.

**Secondary Grade Levels: 9-12** (may be adapted to suit all age groups)

### Applied National Dance Standards

- Movement elements and skills in performing dance
- Choreographic principles, processes and structures
- Ways to create and communicate meaning
- Critical and creative thinking skills in dance
- Connections between dance and other disciplines.

### Basic Procedures

Students will:

- **Research** and share examples of Haiku poetry with the class.
- **Discuss** the basic 5-7-5 syllable structure, why Haiku does not deliberately rhyme and how nature acts as the essence of writing Haiku.
- **Seek inspiration from nature.** The class could sit quietly outside, contemplating the beauty of nature, discuss how nature will affect their choreography, bring in bits of nature—branches, shells, flowers,

pebbles, pictures and so on—or create drawings inspired by nature, all to evoke an idea. Assign as homework.

- **Improvise** On paper, copy a poem and cut it into strips that include one stanza (or a few lines) on each strip. Each student picks one strip and explores movement that relates to a particular stanza written on the paper.
- **Select their poem and create their own movement phrase**, based on the following elements as invoked within the poetry:
  - Weight ◦ Rhythm
  - Cadence ◦ Imagery

### Continued Steps

Students will:

- Be encouraged to create abstract movement, as opposed to a literal translation
- Demonstrate their own movement phrases
- Be assigned to small groups of no more than four. I like having different sizes, such as duets, trios, quartets.
- Divide the groups based on choreography with similarity or contrasts

of movement or poetic themes. They then teach their own phrase to each of the members in the group, deciding how to connect the two, three, or four movement phrases.

The teacher and students now formulate how to combine the small groups into a larger body of dancers. Some phrases travel while the others remain more stationary. You may choose to juxtapose groups or have them only perform one group at a time. By the conclusion of the lesson plan, all dancers should know everyone's movement phrase.

As a final composition, you may create a completely new poem by taking each of the Haikus and placing them in a new sequence, creating a new, longer movement sequence that involves all dancers.

**Extensions/Modifications** (short things starting with verbs)

- Advanced students create original poems, lyrics, stories, or myths
- Conduct library research; select an author based on each student's personal interest

*Lesson plan, continued on p. 7*

*Lesson plan, continued from p. 6*

- Explore many manipulations of sounds by: experimenting with one's voice, adding a reader, incorporating music, or removing words altogether

### **Optional**

Extend and refine the classroom learning experience into a cumulative performance on the concert stage.

### **Accommodation/Differentiation Ideas**

ESL (English as a second language) students select a poem in their native language.

For one concert performance, I found a beautiful instrumental song, "In the Garden of Souls" by Vas, in which we recorded voice overlays with students reading their original Haikus. As they performed, we also projected images onto the cyclorama. The overall effect was deeply moving, unearthly. This project was truly enriching for all and a wonderful creative process.

Use any poetry as a springboard for movement ideas. Another song I love using "I Know Why the Cage Bird Sings." I print one and cut it into strips with a few lines on each. Each student



or small group then choreographs or improvises to their few lines of the poem.

K-12 Dance Educator of the Year Mary Ann Laverty will present her session, *Haiku as Poetic Dance: An Interdisciplinary Learning Experience*, at the 2010 AAHPERD National Convention in Indianapolis. ♦

## **NDA/NASPE PIPELine Workshop:**

### **Teaching Dance in Secondary Physical Education**

Teachers, register for the NDA/NASPE PIPELine Workshop at a special discounted price for the AAHPERD National Convention and learn how to include dance in your physical education program at the secondary level.

Instructor, Gary E. Sanders, will prepare you to apply the National Dance and Physical Education Standards and best practices in content and assessment. He will cover a variety of cultural, creative and social dances, so come ready to dance! The special convention fee includes: instruction and practical applications, a lesson plan book (\$20 value) and a certificate of completion! This half-day intensive

workshop is recommended for all dance, physical education and recreation teachers.

Gary is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Education at St. Joseph's College, in Rensselaer, Indiana. He has taught dance and physical education at schools in Norway and Denmark, presented sessions at many conferences and conventions and has served as the Minnesota Dance Educator of the Year. He continues to share his dance expertise to people of all ages and levels. So, join in the fun while earning credit for this great workshop!

*Tuesday Morning, March 16, 2010  
AAHPERD National Convention, IN*

*Gotta Dance!, continued from p. 3*

Past President of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, Janet Rubin, together with NDA board member Fran Meyer, gave an inspiring presentation on arts advocacy. Participants were coached on Internet usage as a public relations tool and for generating social networking groups. Karen Lynn Smith of Washington College spoke with teachers and students about the NDA Dance Honor Society.

A Gala Concert featured diverse pieces ranging from show choir works and student choreography to dance-team kick line styles, modern dance, ballet, and—of course musical theatre. Here is just some of the feedback from our participants:

- *The courses were low-stress and high energy. The instructors were well-prepared and honestly interested in their subject.*
- *The program was fun and wonderful. I liked that the teachers were very personable and thorough with their lessons.*
- *I LOVED learning original choreography—just for fun (I never get to). I will adapt some of it for my kids.*

A special thank-you goes to Southern District AAHPERD for collaborating in this project.

NDA members are encouraged to submit proposals to NDA Headquarters staff at [nda@aahperd.org](mailto:nda@aahperd.org) for hosting workshops on standards-based dance topics, which are an important way to reach out to our members while facilitating learning and networking opportunities. ♦



The National Dance Association Announces...  
**Special Dance Events at the 2010 AAHPERD National Convention**  
**Celebrating 125 Years as Leaders in the HPERD fields!**

**Creative Folk Dance Day**  
 Saturday, March 20

Honoring NDA Heritage Award  
 Recipient: Maryls Waller,  
*Dance A While* Co-Author

With Special Guest Presenter,  
 Anne Green Gilbert  
 Workshop: *Brain-Compatible Folk Dance*



**Special Folk Dance Sessions TBA**

**GALA Performance ~ and More!**

**PIPEline Workshop**

Teaching Dance in Secondary  
 Physical Education  
 Tuesday, March 16

Presenter: Gary Sanders, St. Joseph's  
 College

**NDA Scholar/Artist**

Friday, March 19

Gayle Kassing, author and Human  
 Kinetics editor

Keynote Lecture: *Future Directions in Dance Education*

Check out the NDA website  
 this fall for more great highlights!

[www.aahperd.org/nda](http://www.aahperd.org/nda)

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