From the Desk of the President

Warm greetings to patrons and friends of the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library,

Our 2018-19 season began at the end of July when a group of dance lovers enjoyed a trip to the Vail Dance Festival to see a marvelous performance by the American Ballet Theatre. Coming up in October the Dance Library will honor the Legends of Dance for 2018, an incredible group of artists, educators and philanthropists. This is a not-to-be-missed event. To wind up 2018 make plans to attend a performance of the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet in November. The Dance Library honored this company as a Legend in 2011. We encourage you to go and hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued support of the Dance Library. Your materials and monetary donations are invaluable to the growth of an incredible dance resource in the Rocky Mountain region.

Michelle O’Bryan Hamel
President, Board of Directors

Celebrate the 2018 Legends of Dance

Sunday, October 21 from 4-6 p.m
Anderson Academic Commons  2150 E Evans, Denver
$40 per person, includes food and drink
Children under 10 are free

To make a reservation and pay by check contact Joan Brown
1010 Monaco Pkwy, Denver, CO  80220, 303-399-6208
checks made out to Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library/
University of Denver
OR
call 303-871-4065 to pay by credit card
ANA CLAIRE  Artistic Director  Boulder Ballet

Ana has been part of Boulder Ballet for 30 years, first as principal dancer, then as director, producer and choreographer, and now Artistic Director. She originated the outreach program “Steps in Time” performed in Title 1 schools in the Boulder/Denver area. She studied with Maxine Williamson, Milenko Banovitch, Barbara Demaree, and Larry Boyette. She also performed with Fort Worth Ballet & Opera, David Taylor, and 3rd Law Dance/Theater.

BOULDER JAZZ DANCE WORKSHOP

Created in 1978 by Lara Branen and Michael Geiger, BJDW celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018 with Lara serving as co-director or director for all 40 years. BJDW provides an annual 2-week intensive summer dance workshop to train Colorado dancers in a wide range of jazz dance styles. Today, students receive diverse technique classes led by unique dance artists and repertory from these professional teachers. A commercial dance weekend, student choreographic opportunities, and auditions for the professional company (Interweave Dance Theatre) and cruise ships lines are offered.

DENVER BALLET GUILD  Arts Philanthropy

The Denver Ballet Guild’s mission is to stimulate interest in ballet and other forms of dance; to promote dance at all levels; to conduct dance education; to develop audiences; to conduct fundraising activities to support and promote dance and to disperse funds for such purposes. Guild’s Programs include: Youth Membership Programs- Les Cygnettes (6th-8th grade) and Les Demoiselles (middle/high school students); Community Outreach includes: Community Enrichment Grants, In-school programs, Showcase of Dance, Young Dancers Competition, and Young Professionals; Fundraising Events include: Le Bal de Ballet, A Taste for Dance, and Colorado Gives Day. Denver Ballet Guild is a totally volunteer organization that has awarded over $1 million dollars to the Denver dance community.

NADA DIACHENKO  Professor & Director of Dance, University of Colorado/Boulder

Nada’s performing career included performing with Ethel Butler, being a soloist with Erick Hawkins Dance Company, founding/choreographing/directing her own NYC company, and serving as a guest artist throughout the US and abroad. Nada has studied a variety of somatic practices...
and is certified in Alexander technique. She brought her dance-based experience to Colorado as the Director of the CU dance program from 1989-2001. She continues as a Professor, teaching graduate and undergraduate classes. Her directorship provided the sustaining foundation of the CU dance program as it moved into the 21st Century.

KATHLEEN HILL  Founder/Artistic Director of Hill Academy of Dance

Kathy, a Denver native, graduated from South High and received a BA in Theater Arts & Dance from Colorado Women’s College in 1977. At Hill Academy of Dance she taught tap, ballet, jazz and lyrical. She is an experienced competition judge and has taken her performing company “The Colorado Timesteps” to many competitions in the US. Summer dance training included the Ailey School and Joffrey Ballet plus training with noted tappers Fayard Nicholas, Louis DaPron, Buster Brown and Jerry Ames. She served as President and was a Board member of the Colorado Dance Alliance for many years. She has taught tappers of all ages including seniors at Windsor Gardens—“The Duchesses of Windsor.”

JANE SPAIN  Founder of Dance Arts Studio

Founded in 1961, Dance Arts Studio was Broomfield’s first dance studio. Jane is credited with introducing young girls and boys to pirouette. The studio flourished with Jane at the helm and provided entertainment to local group events. She has taught generations of families who return with their children to Miss Jane’s studio for lessons. “Children’s Dance Theatre,” founded in 1974, used dancers from the studio to perform in local elementary schools. The approach was to integrate dance with an academic subject being studied by the children. The program continues today. Jane volunteered for the Board of the Broomfield Council on the Arts & Humanities, serving a term as president, and is the official historian. She continues to be a valuable volunteer and a source of guidance for the community. She received the “Heart of Broomfield in the Arts” award. Heidi Thomas, current studio owner says, “If there was a kid who wanted to dance, Jane made sure they could even if the family could not pay.”

In Memorium
KATHLEEN HILL  1955 - 2018

Kathleen Hill began dancing with Hope Moore, a 2014 Dance Legend, at a young age and also studied with Rita Berger and Larry Boyette. She assisted with the free dance classes every summer at Elitch’s. When Hope retired Kathy took over the school, becoming Executive/Artistic Director of “Hill Academy of Dance” where she taught children tap, ballet, jazz and lyrical. Her performing group, “The Colorado Timesteps,” received many awards in regional and national dance competitions. Kathy was also a competition judge for “I Love Dance,” a national dance competition. As a dancer and actress she performed with The Denver Post Opera, Bonfils Theater, and throughout Colorado in numerous productions and industries. After she closed her dance school, Kathy went back to school to earn her Large Care Center Director License and her Colorado State Early Childhood Coaching Credential and most recently was employed by the Denver Public Schools as the Licensing and Program Quality Coordinator. Kathy is survived by her sons Terry (Christy) Jones and Jack Sheldon, a sister Virginia (Steve) Winn and brother Dr. John (Gail) Hill.
Darlene Handler 1940-2018

Darlene was honored as a Legend of Dance in 2012. She began dancing at age three with Florence Kessler (Ruston). Before she was a teenager she was inspired by Modern Dance classes with Friedann Parker, so she turned in her pointe & tap shoes for the freedom and creativity of modern dance. She continued her modern dance training with Vera Sears at the Lamont School of Music and at the University of Colorado. Always interested in teaching, she started a studio in her home. This quickly grew to hundreds of students and led her to join with Katherine Marcus Detre and Gloria Kubel (Winber) to found the dance school Three Arts, Inc. in Denver. Darlene developed a special teaching style that involved children, seniors and inter-generational classes that incorporated music and art as well as dance. Her unique teaching style put her in demand to conduct master classes and workshops locally and nationally. She assisted Joan Brown with two Artist-in-Schools residencies in Ohio. Darlene won Greenwood Village Mayor’s Award and the Colorado Dance Alliance Award for Service to the Field.

(Reprinted from CBGDL newsletter 2012 by Michelle O’Bryan Hamel)

Darlene is survived by husband Ronald, daughter Juli (Steve) Handler-Ivey and son Mickey (Mary) Handler, grandchildren Taylor and Sydney Ivey and Mac Handler, and Brother Howard Cohen.

From the Archivist’s Desk

As always, new and exciting projects are keeping Kate Crowe and I busy. After the June premiere of our exhibit and documentary, “Square Dance in the American West,” the dance library took a dramatic turn from square dance to modern and ballet. Our 2019 annual project focuses on the production and documentation of the choreographic processes involved in Colorado Ballet’s “Tour de Force.” Combining dancers from Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Wonderbound, and Colorado Ballet, this production is monumental in its representation of Denver’s dance community. For our project, we have been fortunate enough to outsource the videography to Stabio Productions. The final product will be a documentary to be premiered in 2019. We are so excited to be a part of this production and based on the rehearsals, we can’t wait for you to see the show.

Nathalie Proulx

Garrett Ammon is interviewed after a day of rehearsals at Colorado Ballet.

“Tour de Force” runs March 8th through 10th, 2019 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.

Tickets are available at: https://tickets.coloradoballet.org/