It was a cool spring this year, and for many of us, a challenging one. With such a long and bitterly cold winter, and dreams of an early spring dashed as warm weather “took its time” to get here, it might have been difficult to find something to celebrate. But celebrate we did, as we gathered in Kalamazoo for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival to marvel at the wonderful talent of our Michigan high school artists in Dance, Music, Theater, Film, Video, Visual Arts, and Creative Writing. It was exhilarating to see the strength of the dance performances at the Welcoming Celebration concert and Dance Showcase and to watch 110 dancers (!) take master classes during the festival. It was heartening to witness the creativity and accomplishments of so many performing and visual/film/creative artists – and all so young. It was gratifying to recognize the hard work of the different directors of dance programs, as well as those educators who have worked so hard to develop artists in so many different genres.

Indeed, it’s always appealing to look backwards – especially in this forum. We like to look back and see where we’ve been, so we can tell where we need to go next. Indeed, there is a West African expression, “Sankofa,” that speaks directly to that: “We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we understand why and how we came to be who we are today.” But I think that for this edition of the MDC newsletter, I want to focus on Looking Forward.

I look FORWARD to a long and warm Michigan summer. I look FORWARD to seeing lots of dance in our state – from the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, the 2014 Interlochen Arts Festival, and the stages in Detroit, East Lansing, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, and the Berman Center.

(continued on page 2)
From the President’s Desk, Cont’d.

I look FORWARD to all of the new projects and initiatives that our new Executive Director, Nicole Kaplan, will implement in the next year. I look FORWARD to our annual membership drive, which will start in the next few weeks.

I look FORWARD to our first Michigan Dance Festival with Wellspring/Cori Terry as our featured artist alongside our 2014 Maggie Allesee Choreography Award Finalists. I look FORWARD to an even bigger Fall Summer Scholarship Audition at the Festival, built upon strong partnerships with Blue Lake, Wayne State, the University of Michigan, and Oakland University.

I look FORWARD to getting more students involved in our organization, adding their voices, their ideas and their energy to the MDC dance community. Does your school have a Dance Club, Orchesis or Dance Student Association? Consider becoming the Student Liaison between your school and the MDC? Looking for experience working in a non-profit corporation? Consider becoming a volunteer intern during the summer or school year. Many high schools and colleges give credit for field study and community outreach.

I look FORWARD to seeing more dance and performance in Detroit! Several of my Dance alumnae from University of Michigan are moving or have moved to Detroit, as part of the new revitalization of that magnificent city, and have made the decision to place their bets with Detroit. So I look FORWARD to seeing their work and their collaborations in galleries, small stages, and large venues.

So as we move FORWARD, with our new Executive Director, let’s be encouraged and know that we can really make a difference. We don’t have to think alike or even like the same things. But we do need to believe and support Dance and the Arts in Michigan – and work together to make MDC a better organization for us all.

And last, but not least, I want to publicly thank and acknowledge the excellent work of Kellie Lajiness, Susie Harrigan, the Western Michigan University Department of Dance, the Michigan Youth Arts Board and all of the support staff in making the 52nd annual Michigan Youth Arts Festival such a success.

Have a great summer!
Sincerely yours,
Robin Wilson
President

FOCUS ON DANCE EDUCATION
Collaborations:
A Mosaic of Possibilities

16th Annual National Conference
at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
November 5-9, 2014

A mosaic is comprised of individually beautiful pieces that fit together to create a strong and impressive whole! NDEO travels to Chicago to showcase teaching artists, dance educators, and support organizations who work together to reveal Collaborations: A Mosaic of Possibilities.

*Content pulled from NDEO’s website
Luncheon Honors Michigan’s Senior Dance Educators

On Friday, March 21, seventy-two guests gathered at Creative 360 in Midland to honor seven dance octogenarians. Creative 360 was founded by dancer Linda Z. Smith 20 years ago. Its mission is to promote creativity, interrelated arts and wellness for all ages and abilities.

The honorees were Harriet Berg, Detroit Jewish Community Center; Kathryn Ellis, Detroit Public Schools; Carole Howard, Central Michigan University; Doris Marsh, Saginaw; and Connie Rehmann, dance accompanist, Saginaw.

In addition, Joanne Wilcox-Maxwell (Clare) and Maxine DeBruyn (Hope College) were honored with tributes from Susie Harrigan and Ashley Ghose, although neither honoree was able to attend.

Jean Treadway (Delta College) was given a special tribute. Sadly, Jean died unexpectedly on February 20th. Her family and close friends were present at the luncheon.

Before the lunch was served, Susie Harrigan introduced the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (SASA) and their director/teacher Meagan Bublitz. The seven SASA dancers performed three incredible dances: Swan Lake Variation, Can’t Help Falling in Love with You, and Return with Songs of Glory. The last dance was selected to be performed at this year’s Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

Harriet Berg said, "What an honor and blessing to be recognized for a lifetime of dedication to dance.” And Doris Marsh thanked us and said, "...it was a lovely luncheon; there were so many memories....thank you for everything."

This luncheon was a part of a four-month program called YES WE CAN! Celebrating the Creative Legacy of Artists 80 and Older. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Creative 360 has been able to present over 100 artists in performance, lecture, tributes and an art exhibition through May. For more information, visit www.becreative360.org.

Many Winters

A Poem by Nancy Wood,
Read Aloud at Jean Treadway’s Memorial Service

All my life is a dance.
When I was young and feeling the earth,
My steps were quick and easy.
The beat of the earth was so loud
That my drum was silent beside it.
All of my life rolled out from my feet
Like my land which had no end as far as I could see.
The rhythm of my life was pure and free.
As I grew older my feet kept dancing so hard
That I wore a spot in the earth.
At the same time I made a hole in the sky.
Like my land which had no end as far as I could see
My head touched the clouds sometimes
And my feet danced deep in the earth
So that I became the music I danced to everywhere
It was the music I dance to everywhere
It was the music of life.
Now my steps are slow and hard
And my body fails my spirit,
Yet my dance is still within me and
My song insists that I keep dancing forever.
My song insists that I keep rhythm
With all of the earth and the sky.
My song insists that I will never die.

SASA dancers. Photo: Janet Nash.
MDC is very pleased to award the 2014 Touchstone Award to Karen Mills Jennings!

Karen is the Chair of the Dance Division at the Flint School of Performing Arts and Artistic Director of Flint Youth Ballet and the Flint Institute of Music’s production of The Nutcracker. As the FSPA Outreach Coordinator she facilitates programming with partners including Head Start, the Boys and Girls Club, the Police Activities League and several community based organizations. She has been instrumental in the development of Super Saturdays, the FSPA transition program for children from outreach programs who are inspired to continue the study of music and dance.

Karen received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Marygrove College in Detroit and performed principal roles with Ballet Michigan. Her teachers and mentors include David Howard, Gayla Zukevich and Jürgen Schneider.

Congratulations, Karen!

Newly hired Executive Director Nicole Kaplan is a dance administrator, choreographer, and performer originally from West Bloomfield, MI. Nicole holds an MFA in Dance from The College at Brockport SUNY, where she was awarded the School of The Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Award; and a BA from Michigan State University in Communications with a specialization in Public Relations and Dance.

Nicole recently served on faculty at both Nazareth College and at The College at Brockport SUNY. Her choreography has been presented at the Niagara Fringe Festival, Nazareth College, The College at Brockport SUNY, and for adjudication at the American College Dance Festival. Nicole has also performed throughout the northeast region with both established and emerging artists such as Mariah Maloney Dance, and Red Dirt Dance (Karl Rogers). She additionally spent a summer under the Marketing team at the prestigious Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival as a Press and Editorial intern.

Nicole recently relocated to Detroit from Rochester, NY, and is thrilled to join an organization that values and inspires dance in the Great Lake State.

Two Summer Dance Intensives at Oakland University

Great Lakes Dance Festival
July 7 - 18, 2014

Oakland.edu/GLDF

Take Root: The Intensive
May 16-18, 2014

Takeroottdance.com
Summer Scholarship Winners Announced

The Michigan Dance Council is pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 Gay Delanghe and Ann Zirulnik Scholarships for Summer Study.

The scholarships were named to honor two seminal dance educators and artists in the State of Michigan: Gay Delanghe (1941-2006) and Ann Zirulnik (1919-2009). Delanghe, beloved teacher, masterful choreographer, and charismatic dancer, taught dance at the University of Michigan for over thirty years, and was central to the development of modern dance in Michigan for over four decades. A native of Detroit, she attended Cass Technical High School, received her BS and MFA from the University of Michigan, and received a Michigan Artist Award from the Arts Foundation of Michigan and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Dance Council.

In a career that spanned over six decades, Ann Zirulnik taught dance in the Detroit schools for over 25 years, served as chair of Wayne State University Department of Dance, and helped design the dance certification program for teachers of K-12 education in Michigan. She was also a founding member of the Michigan Dance Council.

Students Christina Chammas and Hannah Schon have been selected as the 2014 Gay Delanghe Summer Scholarship awardees. These two young ladies will use their $500 scholarships toward the costs of attending summer programs in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and France. Christina Chammas, a dance major at Wayne State University, will use her scholarship to attend the LA Contemporary Dance Company’s Sixth Annual summer program in Los Angeles, California. Christina is entering her third year as a BFA dance major at Wayne State University. She began her dance training at the age of 4 and by the age of 14 was choreographing dances at her high school, Arts Academy in the Woods (Fraser, MI). As a freshman at WSU, Christina was a member of Dance Company ONE. As a sophomore, her work was selected to perform at the Spring Dance Concert.

Hannah Schon, a third-year dance major at the University of Michigan, will use her scholarship to attend the University of the Arts Dance Studies Cycles: Summer 2014 Intensive, held in Philadelphia, Avignon, and Paris, France.

Calista Esterline and Lena Shuptar were selected as the 2014 Ann Zirulnik Scholarship for Summer Study awardees. The Zirulnik scholarship was established for freshman, sophomore, and junior high school dancers, either private or public, who need assistance in attending summer dance workshops and who display high artistic and academic achievement. They will use their $200 scholarships toward the cost of attending summer program nearby and afar. Calista Esterline, currently a dance student at Eisenhower Dance Center, plans to use her scholarship to attend the 2014 Great Lakes Dance Festival, held at Oakland University this July. Calista was raised in Shelby Township, where she received her early dance training with Suzette’s Masters of Dance, Dancer’s Edge Studio, and Eisenhower Dance Center. She was the Teen Miss BravO! Regional Title Winner in 2012. Calista was also a cast member in a piece for the Inaside Choreographic Sponsorship Event in March 2014. She is currently training in various styles at the Eisenhower Dance Center.

Lena Shuptar, a student of Happendance, will travel to New York City to study at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Lena studies ballet, modern, composition, hip hop, jazz, and tap at Happendance School, CBT Academy, Fusion Dance Center, and workshops. She dances with the Children’s Ballet Theatre of Michigan (Carabosse/Sleeping Beauty, Guardian Angel/Nutcracker, Mad Hatter/Alice-in-Wonderland) and is an Happendance Professional Company Apprentice (trio and ensemble). Other dance experiences include Grand Rapids Ballet Intensive, Michigan Youth Arts, Eisenhower Dance/GLDF, Lou Conte - Hubbard Street, Happendance 2, and DanceFusion Competitive Company.

Congratulations to this year’s awardees!
**Congrats MYAF Showcase Concert Participants!**

MDC wishes to acknowledge and congratulate the following high schools, studios, directors and students selected for the 52nd Michigan Youth Arts Festival! The MYAF Dance Showcase Concert was held Saturday, May 10, 2014 in the Shaw Theatre at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

- Angie Hahn’s School of Dance: Carrie Riley/Christa Smutek
- Ballet Chelsea: Wendi Dubois
- Company Dance Traverse: Betsy Carr
- Eisenhower Dance Center: Barbara Schoen
- Flint Youth Ballet: Karen Mills Jennings
- Lewis Cass Technical High School: Anthony Smith
- NE Academy of Dance: Scott Heinrich/Giuseppe Canale
- Northwest Michigan Ballet Theatre: Thomas Morrell
- Pure Existence: Jodie Randolph/Meagan Sheppelman
- Renaissance High School: Gina Ellis
- Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy: Meagan Bublitz
- Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan: Wendi DuBois

Congratulations to the following two Student Choreographers whose submissions were also selected for the Saturday Showcase Concert! MDC extends their best wishes to these graduating seniors!

- Amber Bailey: NW MI Ballet Theatre/Thomas Morrell
- Sarah Gottfried: Company Dance Traverse/Betsy Carr

Additional congratulations to the following school ensembles and directors for being selected for the MYAF Welcoming Concert held Thursday evening on the Miller Stage at WMU.

- Company Dance Traverse: Betsy Carr
- Lewis Cass Technical High School: Anthony Smith

Special thanks to Kirsten Harvey, WMU professor, for conducting the collaborative Choreography Workshop, resulting in a wonderful piece entitled "Release". What an exciting opening to the Showcase! Last but not least, our success could never be realized without our WMU liaison, Sharon Garber and WMU Department Chair Nina Nelson!

**MYAF 2014 Adjudication Acknowledgments**

- Thanks to Flint Institute of Music for allowing MDC to host the MYAF Dance Adjudications in their lovely facilities on Feb. 16!
- Thanks to Karen Mills Jennings for helping plan the adjudication day and the greenroom and warm-up schedules!
- MDC is very grateful to Holly Hobbs, Thayer Jonutz and Diane Mancinelli for sitting on our 2014 Adjudication Panel! We appreciate their time and dedication in sharing their expertise with us through evaluation, feedback and final selections for this year's MYAF Dance Showcase and Welcoming Concert!
- MDC thanks all of the high schools, studios, directors, students, chaperones, drivers and volunteers who helped make the Adjudication Day a positive experience!
- Thank you to Robin Wilson and Michael Means for documenting the dances throughout the day!
- Thanks to Susie Harrigan for assisting with the Adjudication Day document preparations and emails, as well as collecting and playing the music selections for the entire day!

**Meet Your Board: Gregory Patterson**

MDC Secretary Gregory A. Patterson is the Program Director and Associate Professor of Dance at Oakland University, and is also a certified McEntire Method Pilates instructor. A native of Toledo, OH, Greg is a four-time collegiate All-American diver, and was impressively pursued to train for the 1980 Olympics. It was not until his junior year of college, however, that Greg started dancing and found his true passion for movement. Having received his B.S. from Bowling Green State University (1985) and his M.F.A. from the University of Michigan (1987), Greg has been dancing and teaching professionally across the nation and abroad for over 25 years. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Patterson Rhythm Pace Dance Co (PRP), and was previously a member of Harbinger Dance Company, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble (EDE), Ann Arbor Dance Works, and Rigmarole Dance Company. In 2000, Greg’s work was selected for the Leo Choreography competition at the Jazz Dance World Congress, and in 2002, he received the Maggie Allesee Choreography Award. When he’s not dancing, Greg is an enormous tennis fan, and loves to play every chance he gets!

**Meet Your Regional Reps: Holly Hobbs**

Holly Hobbs, a Michigan native, received a M.F.A in performance and choreography from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. from Western Michigan University. Currently, she is Visiting Assistant Professor and Director of the Tower Dancers ensemble at Hillsdale College. She is Co-Founder/Director of the Ann Arbor based Hobbs/ImberSki Dance Exchange, featuring dynamic movement through the art of collaboration.

Ms. Hobbs was a former dancer and soloist with Ann Arbor’s Peter Sparling Dance Company, performing works by Martha Graham and Peter Sparling. Ms. Hobbs has performed with Ann Arbor Dance Works, Detroit Dance Collective, and People Dancing. She has studied, taught, and performed internationally in Switzerland and Costa Rica. Ms. Hobbs co-produced independent dance concerts in the Ann Arbor area, and her choreography has been commissioned and presented throughout Southeast Michigan and Ohio. She designed and implemented modern dance curriculum for youth at both the Flint School of Performing Arts and the former Dance Gallery Studio. She also worked as an administrator, instructor, and choreographer at Dance Gallery, directing the Dance Gallery Adult Ensemble.

Ms. Hobbs is a former faculty member and guest choreographer at Eastern Michigan University and Bowling Green State University. She has previously served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Michigan Dance Council.

To learn more about Ms. Hobbs, please visit www.hollyhobbsdance.com.
Mark Your Calendar:
Mich. Dance Festival 2014

Celebrate the vibrant and diverse dance community in Michigan at the 2014 Michigan Dance Festival on Saturday October 11! Hosted by Oakland University in Rochester, this exciting day of auditions and workshops includes our annual MDC membership meeting and ends with our first evening Gala Concert.

Make sure to also attend the Summer Scholarship Audition, where funding for many incredible high school and college dance intensives will be offered. Summer dance programs provide exciting opportunities for young dancers to grow both technically and artistically in a creative setting outside of their resident studio. This year’s audition includes scholarships for high school programs such as Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, MPulse Dance Institute (University of Michigan), and the Great Lakes Dance Festival (Oakland University); and college programs including the Great Lakes Dance Festival (Oakland University) and Complexions Dance Intensive (Wayne State University).

Support from members like you make MDC’s programs and performances possible – so be sure to take part in the annual Michigan Dance Council Membership meeting and reception. This is an excellent opportunity to network and share ideas for how to further inspire and promote dance in our state.

Another highlight is our always-exciting Gala Concert featuring the Maggie Allesee Choreography Award finalists, and Kalamazoo-based company, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers.

Registration begins August 1, so be sure to check the website for more information!

Audition Notice


An audition date will be set for the near future. Interested dancers please send a resume, photo and letter of recommendation immediately to: P.O. Box 99558 Troy MI 48099. For further information, please call (586) 899-2629.

MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company is a professional nonprofit modern dance company in existence since 1996. Daytime rehearsals. Oakland County, MI. The season begins in the fall-spring 2015. Mature, responsible, professional dance artists with ballet and modern training.

New Dance Archive Blog Launches

The Dance Heritage Coalition has announced the launch of "Artist-Driven Archives," a new blog advancing a vision of archives as a vital component of dance-making.

The blog features cases studies of artists exploring innovative ways to document, preserve, and enhance their creative legacies. Along with video, audio, images, and posts, the site includes notes on focus groups hosted by the Dance Heritage Coalition and background on the Artist-Driven Archives project. Users are invited to submit questions, comments, and ideas to the site.

"Planning Artist-Driven Archives" addresses the dance field’s need for a new vision of how its heritage can be preserved through the involvement of artists in developing their own models to document their legacies and creative processes. In November, 2013, the Dance Heritage Coalition convened artists, archivists, arts presenters, and dance scholars in three focus groups to explore visions, models, and challenges for artist-driven archiving. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The blog, which will regularly add new case studies, is intended to continue and expand the conversation. Initial case-studies feature David Gordon, Bebe Miller, and Sarah Maxfield. The Dance Heritage Coalition is grateful to the artists who have contributed to this project.

Visit Artist-Driven Archives and take part in the conversation!

http://artistdrivenarchives.wordpress.com/

Master class at Michigan Youth Arts Festival. Photo by Jodie Randolph.