

# ON POINTE

February  
2010

Newsletter of the Marblehead School of Ballet and North Shore Civic Ballet

## North Shore Community College Honors Florence C. Whipple for Excellence in Teaching



Florence C. Whipple, second from left, receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Florence C. Whipple of Marblehead, recently cited for "Excellence in Teaching" by North Shore Community College (NSCC) in a ceremony held at the school's Danvers campus, is also a person of great importance at the Marblehead School of Ballet (MSB) and the North Shore Civic Ballet (NSCB). "Mrs. Whipple," as she is affectionately known to all at MSB, taught at NSCC for over 40 years beginning in the late sixties and retired this past December.

Mrs. Whipple originally taught Creative Dance AT NSCC and later co-developed an innovative course, "Art & Perception" with Kristin Webb, a music instructor, and the late Duane Eichholz of the art department.

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## MSB Expands Summer Intensive with Repertory Week and Performance

*Applications Now Being Accepted*

The MSB's Summer Dance Intensive returns for 2010. Known as an incredible opportunity for students of dance to cultivate their technical skills and enrich their understanding and appreciation of the art form, it attracts dancers from a large geographic area, including all of New England, Texas, Kenya, and France. During two weeks of all-day classes, students ages 12 and up receive highly-individualized ballet and modern technique classes as well as lectures in related disciplines including music theory, nutrition, anatomy, injury prevention, dance history, and more.

This year MSB is excited to announce the program will offer an optional third week which will focus on choreography and will conclude with a public performance. Students will also be invited to participate in several optional excursions to experience some of the many artistic, cultural, and culinary treasures of Boston's North Shore.

From July 5 - 9, MSB will host a Youth Intensive with a curriculum specifically designed for ages 8-12.

Because space is extremely limited, students are encouraged to apply by **April 15**. Detailed program guides and applications are available in the MSB office and online.

Mark your calendars now:

**Summer Intensive for Students 12+, July 19 - August 7**  
**Youth Intensive for Students 8 - 12: July 5 - 9**



"I've improved my dancing thanks to Paula Shiff's advice. I like the way Paula teaches each student differently... considering each body, each student's possibilities."

Charles Dalerci of Paris, France

Photo: Joseph Puleo  
portraitsoflight.com

## Alumni News

One of the true joys of the holiday season is the many visits from former MSB students. Shira Bergman, who works for Teach for America, visited from New Orleans and took a class. Katie Muise returned home from California -- and not only did she take class, she also taught one. Vanesa Puluse Kingslow, who now lives in New Jersey, stopped by to see our Christmas Walk performance. Then there were many students home from college for the break including Jennie Edwards, Megan Kartstein, Emily Pautler, Sabrina Rosenberg, and Kelly Walsh. It was wonderful seeing all of you, and hopefully we will see you in class this summer.

## Foot Notes

Congratulations to student Robyn (Knights) Giannopolo and her husband Mike on their recent marriage!

Marina Hostrop is moving to Japan where she intends to continue her dance studies. Although we will be sad not seeing Marina on a daily basis, she will return for the Summer Intensive. Good luck Marina! We hope you enjoy the sushi and learn to play Shogi.

**Buy your tickets now for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Fiesta de Baile, Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Nahant Country Club.**

## MSB and NSCB Welcome New Marketing Director



Christine C. Creager

We are excited and proud to announce that Christine C. Creager is the new Director of Marketing and Development for NSCB and MSB. We have always enjoyed the energy, intelligence, and vitality that Christine brings to every event and think you will too. Christine was most recently the Global Director of Marketing for NERA Economic Consulting, a subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan, where she established the firm's first marketing and communications department. Prior to NERA, Christine was the Market Intelligence Team Leader for PricewaterhouseCooper's E-Business Practice. A longtime advocate of the arts, Christine served on the Board of the Marblehead Festival of Arts for three years (one of which as President) and is currently completing a degree in Art History and Non-Profit Management at Lesley University. If you see Christine at the school please introduce yourself. You will be happy you did.

## Internship Opportunities

The MSB and NSCB are currently seeking interns for the following positions:

- Marketing and Development (writing, online research, event planning)
- Photographer (for dance performances, experience preferred)
- Graphic Designer (print and electronic media)

MSB/NSCB internships are designed to provide insight and hands-on experience regarding a specific area of the school and/or company. Candidates must be intelligent, creative, enthusiastic and dedicated to growing a vibrant arts-focused organization. They should possess a can-do attitude and enjoy working with others.

All positions report to the organization's Director of Marketing and Development. Time commitment is decided on a case by case basis, although part-time internships require a minimum of 20 hours per month. Projects will involve time at the school, at event sites, and working remotely from home. Candidates must have their own computer equipment and high speed internet access. Candidates must also have their own transportation and live within 45 minutes of Marblehead, MA.

Although MSB/NSCB internships are unpaid, our interns may receive college credit, learn valuable real world skills from dedicated and experienced professions in marketing and non-profit management, and build an impressive and highly visible portfolio of work. MSB also provides references for future employers (letters of recommendation). MSB internships are exceptional opportunities for the right individuals.

Please send a cover letter, resume, and two examples of your work (or a link to your website or Facebook page) to [ccreager@me.com](mailto:ccreager@me.com). Calls to the school will not be returned.

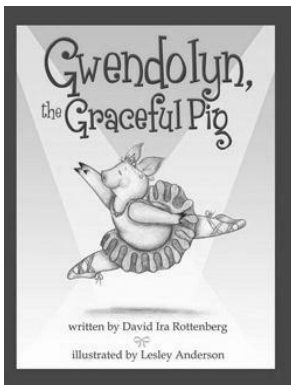
## Events: January – August 2010

- Feb. 6** Director Paula K. Shiff will provide Salsa Lessons for attendees at St. Michael's Church.
- Feb. 14** Master Class: Balinese Dance with Carlos Fittante.
- Feb. 14** 6th Annual Youth Initiative Class and Performance with North Shore Dance Alliance.
- Feb. 15** Video and discussion of Australian Ballet Company's performance of *Coppelia*.
- Feb. 27** Special Workshop for US Figure Skating Team to prepare for "Nation's Cup" in Toulouse (Offered to team members only).
- Mar. 6** Skating Workshop Part 2 (Offered to team members only).
- Mar. 13** **Workshop: Blades on Broadway with Julie Pappas-Smith.** Musical jazz for teen skaters (closed).
- Mar. 20** **11th Annual Fiesta de Baile, 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM, Nahant Country Club. Tickets and Sponsorships Available.**
- Mar. 13 – Apr. 17** Online auction at <http://ballet.cmarket.com>. All proceeds benefit the NSCB.

### **MSB Celebrates National Dance Week (APR. 23 - May 2)**

- ❖ Community Appreciation Days with \$5 classes for non-enrolled Students. Come one and all!
  - ❖ **Apr. 20 - Ballet film and discussion.** TBA
  - ❖ **Apr. 30 - Ballroom Dance Party.** Salsa, foxtrot, swing and more! Couples and singles welcome.
  - ❖ **May 1 - Master Class: Intermediate/Advanced Ballet with Matthew Powell.** Students 12+. 2 - 4 PM.
- July 19 – Aug 7** **Summer Dance Intensive** – MSB offers a unique chance for in-depth study in ballet, modern, injury prevention, music theory, and much more. New repertory week with performance August 7.
- July 5 - 9** **Summer Youth Intensive** – Dance intensive for children 8 – 12.
- Aug. 1** Annual field trip to **Jacob's Pillow** to see Compania Nacional de Danza 2 from Spain. Performance is at 2 PM. See our website for details.

## When Pigs Fly? How About When Pigs Dance!



Author David Ira Rottenberg invited dancers from the Marblehead School of Ballet to join him in celebrating the release of his new children's book, *Gwendolyn the Graceful Pig*, at the Barnes & Noble in Peabody on Friday, January, 22. The book tells the tale of two friends, Gwendolyn and Omar, who have big dreams. Gwendolyn longs to dance ballet, and Omar wants to join the football team. There is just one problem - they're both pigs!

Mary Lee Karlins, Director of MSB Children's Division, led an energized hour of fun starting with a reading of the book that had the dozens of kids in attendance mesmerized. Next, dancers from MSB demonstrated some classic movements children might expect to learn in a traditional ballet class. Then Mary Lee led the entire group in a Magic Soup Dance. Director Paula K. Shiff and other members of the MSB Board and faculty joined in the fun.

The North Shore Civic Ballet generously thanks Mr. Rottenberg and Barnes & Noble for inviting us to co-host this entertaining event!



“Magic Soup Dance” at Barnes & Noble, Peabody

## **Mrs. Whipple Receives Teaching Award (continued)**

This interdisciplinary course looked at the arts from the varied perspectives of the dancer, the musician and the visual artist. "Sometimes one of us lectured, sometimes all three" said Mrs. Whipple. "We all learned from each other – lecturers and students together."

In 1995 Kristin, with the help of Mrs. Whipple, developed a Certificate Program in "Wellness and Healing Arts" in which Mrs. Whipple taught Reiki. The school's website says that the course "prepares students to engage in an exciting learning process through the interdisciplinary study of healing systems in which the wisdom of the past is incorporated with present day care. The courses are designed to explore holistic thought with practice in health care and to build healing arts skills." Reiki is a discipline Mrs. Whipple began to study in 1989 and became a Reiki master in 1994. The two women collaborated to write "Reiki in Academia," published in the Reiki International Magazine.

While her many singular accomplishments are overwhelming, Mrs. Whipple's greatest works seem to have been achieved by imaginative collaborations with others.

To members of the NSCB Mrs. Whipple's greatest collaborations have been with Paula K Shiff, who she met in 1971. Ms. Shiff had recently founded the MSB and Mrs. Whipple's daughter, Judith, was a student. Within a year, Mrs. Whipple was a member of the faculty. She headed up the children's creative movement division, taught modern dance, choreographed for the company, co-developed educational programs for both public and private schools, and is now an Emerita member of the faculty.

In 1974 Ms. Shiff and Mrs. Whipple co-founded the NSCB, a not-for-profit dance company that provides performances and arts education for the Greater Boston community. The NSCB, which operates out of MSB, has gone on to become the home of an ever-changing group of both seasoned professionals and aspiring young dancers. "This became my richest and most important collaboration ever". Our years together were exciting, productive, and rewarding in all aspects, both professional and personal" said Ms. Shiff. "Florence brought her artistic vision and her choreography. We built repertoire together, each adding her own unique talents. We didn't separate modern dance from ballet but merged our passion for dance together. We were among the first to blend ballet with modern dance."

While Mrs. Whipple is retired from the dance world and NSCC, she continues to be busy in the practice of Reiki. She is co-director of two Reiki clinics of the North Shore Medical Center plus a private clinic located in Salem that is not associated with the hospital. The clinic was established in 1989 and is the longest running Reiki clinic in the New England area. Staffed by volunteer Reiki practitioners, the clinic is open to the public and runs on a donation basis.

All members of the MSB and NSCB family congratulate our dear friend on her prestigious honor. We remain the beneficiaries of her teaching, guidance, and inspiration!

John Moynihan

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