# NEWS & NOTES

March 2010 Volume XV Issue I

KATHY HARTY GRAY
DANCE THEATRE
1978 – 2009

KHGDT is a professional modern dance company and 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving, advancing, and sharing Classic American Modern Dance. The company is in partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Alexandria Campus, and receives funding support from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and individual donations.

KHGDT's work affectionately interpreted by one audience member as "ballet without shoes" and called "educational, elegant and refreshing" by the Charleston Post and Courier is great for audiences of all ages. In April 2009, the company was invited to Puebla Mexico and spent a week at the Universidad de Los Americas performing, teaching and viewing other dance companies. From 2006-2008, the company performed Stories to Remember About Women in Virginia for over 9,000 people across the state of Virginia. Other performances include the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Publick Playhouse, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC and the Armed Services Retirement Home in DC. In residence at NOVA Alexandria, with students from 140 different ethnic backgrounds, the company is committed to bringing dance experience to this diverse campus. We continue our new outreach After School Ballroom at Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria.

Kathy Harty Gray, BS The Juilliard School, MEd UVA studied personally with dance legends Martha Graham, Charles Weidman, Jose Limon, Anthony Tudor and Anna Sokolow. Inspired by these dance pioneers, Gray creates choreography that examines historical events and world cultures.

KHGDT is a member of Dance/USA and Dance/Metro DC, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, American Dance Guild, Americans for the Arts, National Dance Education Organization, UNESCO's International Council on Dance and the Comparative & International Education Association.

KHGDT P.O. Box 3291, Alexandria, VA 22302
www.khgdt.org 703-413-3811

## KHGDT Leaps Into 2010!

KHGDT has many exciting adventures planned for the new year. First, we invite you to join us for a performance on Monday, March 22 at 7:30 PM at the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus. That night you will soar with the dancers to Bach's Mass in B Minor for *Baroque Excursions*, experience the haunting eloquence in Alain's *Le Jardin Suspendu*, and see a preview of the *Age of Denishawn* with a newly commissioned score by Bill Barner. A very exciting way to start off the year!

If you like your dance a little more participatory, join us for two *Dance is the Answer* sponsored by Dance USA MetroDC on April 19 at NVCC. At 7:30 PM, Kathy will teach a Master Class in traditional modern dance techniques – Humphrey/Weidman/Limon. Anyone who has ever had any dance training will enjoy this class and learn about these modern dance pioneers. Following the class, the company will have an open rehearsal where you are invited to watch them work on our upcoming performances!

Next, the company will be on the road to the Hampton area for two concerts. We will be part of the Virginia Arts Festival Organ Swell Programs. On April 28 we will perform with organist Peggy Kelley Reinburg at the First Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, and on May 17, with Marjorie Setnicky at Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Norfolk. Go to: http://www.virginiaartsfest.com/2010/pop_organrecitals.php for more information.

After this exciting spring, we have three more events for the summer. On Sunday, June 6, we will perform Alain's *Le Jardin Suspendu* locally – at St. Andrew's Church in Burke, VA. In June, we will hold a benefit concert for Haiti. Former company member Molly Abrams who was in Haiti during the earthquake, will share her stories about the country. A benefit performance will help the dance school where Molly taught. In July, Kathy will be teaching for a week at the Sacred Dance Festival being held at Connecticut College and the company will join her to perform *Baroque Excursion* at the conclusion of this annual Festival.

Through all this, Kathy continues to teach beginning and intermediate modern dance and ballroom classes at NVCC. KHGDT's After School Youth Ballroom program will also repeat at Charles Houston Recreation Center – see article and photos inside. All in all a very exciting first half of the year!

## Helping Haiti

Former company member Molly Moore was evacuated from Haiti after the earthquake. On her return to the US, she wrote on her Facebook page, "At our home and the drive through Port-au-Prince was filled with terrifying and deeply tragic scenes. The market ladies were out, families cooking, erecting new temporary homes, lots of young men removing cement/rock, kids playing. I saw much resiliency and was in awe, as I have been from my first day just one year ago in this extraordinary country. During the entire night I heard mourning and also beautiful prayer songs, coming from groups in every direction."

Molly's husband was on a three year assignment in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). While they were there, Molly became involved with a local dance school, both teaching modern dance and taking Haitian Folk classes. She found the Haitian Folk dance an incredibly exciting dance that draws from African, ballet, ballroom and Haitian history and vodou. The classes are accompanied by talented drummers and trumpet players. Each year, in partnership with the Haitian Government, the school performed free dance concerts for 1,000's of Haitian kids and orphans. In the summer, they teach free classes to rural Haitian children.

She has heard from the director of the school and they have reopened their doors, though they are uncertain if they will be able to stay open. The director wrote, "The building is fine but we want to be able to open the school and be free for the kids for at least 4 months. We think that the kids will need that kind of therapy after this big shock." Academic schools are not open and it's unclear how many more months it will take before they do. The children are coming to the studio and find a safe place to be together. In addition, 25 children from a local orphanage are currently attending and the director wrote, "you should see them, so much talent and they are so happy and sweet."

KHGDT plans to support this effort by having a fundraising concert this summer. Look for your invitation in the mail in May. Right now, your support can go to the many international efforts going on such as the Red Cross. Our thoughts and wishes go out to those in need at this terrible time.

## After School Youth Ballroom a Hit!

KHGDT's After School Youth Ballroom at Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria had an exciting start last fall with a culminating performance by 12 second and third graders showing off their skills in Rumba, Waltz, Cha Cha, Salsa, Merengue, Tango and Swing. The packed audience of family and friends gave the performers a standing ovation before devouring punch and cookies provided by the Recreation Center. We think the ballroom program has many important benefits for our youth. Besides mastering the discipline needed for each dance, it helps improve confidence and self esteem, social and interactive skills, musical awareness and gives students an opportunity to present themselves to an audience. Dancer Carrie Wilcox, who has many years of experience teaching creative dance to young children, co-taught the class with Kathy. Dates for the spring session are being set.

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Brenn Huckstep Rick Latterell
Cathy Malin Eritrea Michael
Amy Mills Iantha Parker
Joselle Shea (on leave) Lauren Silva
Carrie Wilcox Meghan Welsh

## Notes...Notes...Notes...

*Dancer Joselle Shea and husband Phil welcomed new born Cian Alexander Shea on January 10th. A radiant Joselle continued dancing in our Up Close and Personal Concert last November.

*We welcome two new dancers to the company – Beth Elliott and Eritrea Michael. Beth is certified in Labanotation, a written dance language and Eritrea studied dance at George Mason University.

Photos below are from our fall performance with musical group QuinTango. We also premiered the multi-media version of *Ellis Island* with photographic projections and poetry.

## Circle of Friends for 2009

Help us keep dancing! We invite you to join our Circle of Friends at the levels below, but we are always grateful for donations of any amount. Groundbreakers, $50+; Pioneers, $100+; Trailblazers, $500+; Legacy Keepers, $1000+. Please send this form and your tax deductible check made payable to: KHGDT PO Box 3291, Alexandria, VA 22302. A letter acknowledging your gift as a tax-deductible contribution will be sent within 30 days of receipt.

Enclosed is my/our gift of _____.

Name: _____

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**Join us March 22nd for a Preview of the Age of Denishawn and other works. See Upcoming Events below.**

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, March 22, 2010,** 7:30 PM, **In Concert,** Tyler Building Auditorium, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, No tickets required

**Monday, April 19, 2010**
7:30 PM, **Master Class,** Tyler Building Dance Studio, Room 206
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, www.dancemetrodc.org
8:30 PM, **Open Rehearsal,** Tyler Building Dance Studio, Room 206
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, www.dancemetrodc.org

**Wednesday, April 28, 2010,** 12:00 PM, **Organ Swell Program,** Virginia Beach, VA

**Monday, May 17, 2010,** 12:00 PM, **Organ Swell Program,** Norfolk, VA

**Thursday, July 7, 2010,** 4:00 PM, **In Concert,** Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria, VA