



THE PULSE

FALL 2010 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Dear Berkshire Pulse Friend,

At Berkshire Pulse, people dance, sing and make music...together!

There is a deep desire in us to **move, learn, seek joy, and make rhythms, alone and in harmony with others**. In difficult times artists create, people seek comfort in creativity, and the need for beauty and artistic expression prevails. This is what draws people to Berkshire Pulse, A Center for the Creative Arts.

Berkshire Pulse makes a difference. As a non-profit organization, we need your financial support to continue serving our community.

And to keep pace with demand:

Our intergenerational community classes have **doubled** in the last year. As the steady flow of students has become a torrent, we've added as much programming as our schedules can hold. Yoga for Men, Zumba early and Zumba late, The Dancer Within, a unique program for mature movers, Foundational Ballet—these classes were created to respond directly to community need.

At the same time, the level of connection between Berkshire Pulse and other artistic communities, nationally and internationally, also grows. Our students have attended exclusive summer dance programs, and we have welcomed **exceptional faculty and staff** from a national community -- talented individuals who are drawn to our high level of commitment to artistic excellence and accessibility.

Since our affordable tuition fees alone do not cover our expenses, **we need your help to continue our mission of dance accessibility for all**. Your tax-deductible donation will help provide:

- Tuition Assistance— our after-school children's Performing Arts Program enrollment is higher than ever. We provide tuition assistance to any young student in need — each and every one — to date, benefitting more than 50 families per year!
- School Programs — we bring our educational dance programs into our local public schools, meeting the needs of teachers and inspiring children to make cultural and intellectual connections using the arts.
- Outstanding Guest Teachers — enthusiastic and successful young professional role models such as Maxine Lyle, Ian Spencer-Bell, and Jennifer Weber, to name just a few, **transform young lives** through special master classes and performances.
- Nuts and Bolts — more people dancing means we need more ballet barres, djembe drums, lockers, etc.

Berkshire Pulse is **celebrating its 6th year** as a vital cultural and educational asset. We couldn't have gotten this far without your past support, for which we are deeply grateful. We ask for your help once again so that we may continue to make the joy of dance and art accessible to people of all ages in the Berkshires. Please give generously. Thank you.

Warmly,

Bettina Montano
Artistic Director

P. S. Seeing is believing — come see us in action! You are cordially invited to watch our students, meet our faculty, or even better, take a **FREE** community class. Just give us a call to reserve your place!

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Bettina Montano

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Performing Arts Program

Ruby Aver

ADMINISTRATIVE

DIRECTOR

Dolores Curto

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Pearlman

President

Louann Harvey

Vice President

Peter Gale

Treasurer

Charles Ferris, Esq.

Alan Glackman

ADVISORY BOARD

David J. Barrett

Dr. Jerome E. Errico

Jocelyn McGrath

Roman Montano

Note from the Artistic Director...

We are now deeply in the swing of our fall session and Berkshire Pulse is thrumming with the energy of wonderful students, faculty, and classes. Every day, it is exciting to come to work! Now, as I sit at my desk, whether it is in the morning, the middle of the day, or in the afternoon, I hear the music drifting from our two studios, the timbre of an instructor's voice, the occasional shout of students' laughter. In these moments, I am filled with gratitude.

At Berkshire Pulse I am given the opportunity to teach a vibrant, growing population of emerging artists within an incredible community of teachers and staff. Thank you dear students, faculty, staff, Board of Directors, family and friends for your support of this vision and for your part in this collective Pulse!

-Bettina



Thrill The World - Thrills The Berkshires!



October 23, 2010 - There was music in the air, as Pulse Instructor Kristine Waterman, and about 82 members of the undead lying on the ground outside Berkshire Pulse. But when the tempo picked up early Saturday evening, the undead rose and began dancing in the dark to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" as part of a global effort to raise money for charity. "Thrill the World" is a global event first begun in 2006 in which thousands of dancers at 29 different locations around the world - linked by the Internet and a love of music and dance - dress up like the zombies of the famed Jackson dance video and perform the "Thriller" dance. Through T-shirt sales and donations, the local effort benefited the Fairview Hospital.

CULTURAL TRADITIONS - BACK IN THE SCHOOLS!!

Originally launched in 2004, and then sidelined in 2009 due to funding, the Cultural Traditions In-School Program is a much loved Berkshire Pulse signature in community outreach. The intention of the Cultural Traditions Music and Movement Arts Program is to facilitate an immersion in the artistic and cultural traditions of Africa, using music and dance to trace our own unique African-American cultural heritage. With grants from the Berkshire Hills Fund for Excellence and Eagle and Janet's funds of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, this week-long Berkshire Pulse program was held once again this year in November for all 6th grade classes at Undermountain and Monument Valley Regional Schools.

New Faculty & Special Guests!

Founder and Artistic Director Jen Weber of Decadancetheatre —an all-female, hip-hop, international dance theater company based in Brooklyn, NY—and NYC's Perichild instructor Angela Crain, are the latest Guest Faculty to teach for the Pulse's Hip Hop Workshop. Both Crain and Weber tour internationally with Decadancetheatre and will continue to teach at Pulse throughout the Spring session.



OUR NEWEST Performing Arts Class, Dance for Boys, introduces instructor Tom Masters. Tom holds an MS in Special Education from The City College of New York and a BS in elementary education with a concentration in dance and movement for elementary school children. As a performer he has danced with The Park Avenue Dance Company in Rochester, NY, The Alvin Ailey Student Ensemble in NYC, and with various musical theatre productions both nationally and internationally. He has taught dance and creative movement since 1990, most recently at the Center for Kinesthetic Movement in NYC as an educational tutor —using dance to teach literacy, and using movement to increase the attention span of students with ADHD.



“Just dance it!” Ruby Aver, Ballet Director Ruby Aver receives a new, additional title



Since the inception of Berkshire Pulse in 2005, our **Ballet Director Ruby Aver** has contributed significantly to the over all progress and development of the Performing Arts Program curriculum. Along with guiding young students from beginner through advanced level training Ruby's many efforts have included developing guidelines for successful and healthy practice, establishing relationships with special guest teachers, designing summer Ballet intensive programs and assisting with placement recommendations tailored for the individual needs of each PAP student.

We are happy to acknowledge Ruby's contributions with an official change in title to Performing Arts Program Associate Director.

Ruby brings a wealth of experience to our program, based on her exceptional training and professional capacity, both as an inspiring dancer and a committed teacher. Her professional life included dancing as a soloist with the Chicago Ballet and the Ballet De Caracas of Venezuela, and as a principal for Het Scapino Ballet of the Netherlands. In her classes she cultivates an appreciation of the range of ballet languages, romantic to contemporary, with a deep assurance that an interdisciplinary training contributes to dance as a fulfilling, life long artistic experience.

Thank you Ruby, for your foundational contributions in guiding our Performing Arts Program into the next level of artistic growth, and for your heart-felt commitment to safe and joyful movement for all our children.

Welcome...

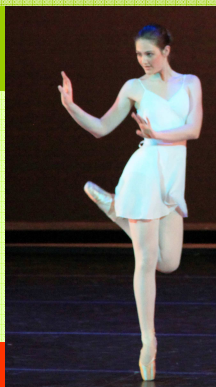
Welcome to **David Barrett** as our newest **Advisory Board member**.

Until recently, David held the position of Development Director at Jacob's Pillow.

We look forward to having his expertise in non-profit dance organizations available to help our mission.

Student News...

Congratulations to **Mary McGrath** on her acceptance to the year-round program of the Boston Ballet School. Though she is honored to have been accepted, Mary has chosen to continue dancing at Berkshire Pulse.

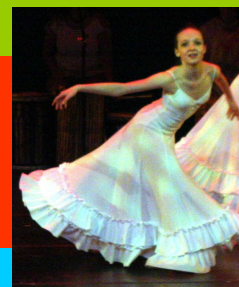


Three of our ballet students -

Iler McGrath, Mary McGrath

and Moselyne ParkeHarrison,

were invited to participate in a Master Class at Williams College, taught by New York City Ballet Principal Jenifer Ringer. Our young students shared the barre with other NYCB principles and corp members—a very exciting experience for our emerging dancers.



Thank You...

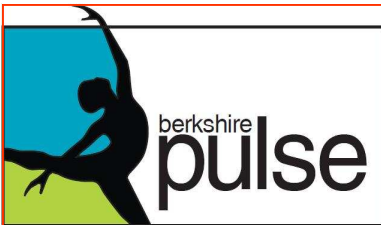
Kate Hold, owner of local Housatonic business, LJ Stark, has stepped down from the Berkshire Pulse board after serving her tenure.

Thank you Kate for your time, energy, commitment, and most especially, sense of humor.

Special thanks to:

Anni Crofut and the Wyomissing Foundation for their support of Berkshire Pulse's capacity building efforts in 2010. With a generous grant from this foundation, Berkshire Pulse was able to bolster programs, administrative and development efforts, and engage in strategic planning for the next stages of growth.

Thank you Liana Toscanini for all of your grant and development support. We greatly appreciate all that you have given.

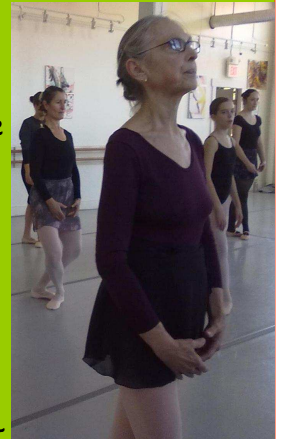


A CENTER FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

PO Box 37

Housatonic MA, 01236

TO MY ASTONISHMENT AND DELIGHT, LESS THAN A YEAR AGO, MY LIFE SUDDENLY VEERED OFF COURSE, LANDING ME IN THE SPACIOUS STUDIOS OF BERKSHIRE PULSE, TO AWAKEN "THE DANCER WITHIN". MY ELDEST DAUGHTER AND TWO TEEN-AGE GRANDCHILDREN HAVE BEEN TRAINING FOR YEARS IN THIS MAGICAL, VISIONARY AND DYNAMIC DANCE SCHOOL, SKILLFULLY DIRECTED UNDER THE WISDOM & EYE OF BETTINA MONTANO. BETTINA'S SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE AND CREATIVE INTUITIONS KNOW DANCE IS ROOTED IN ALL OF US. WE DANCE FROM WITHIN, WE CONNECT. THE MUSIC OF DANCE CONNECTS US TO OUR INNER LIFE, TO OTHERS.



THUS A DYNAMIC ARRAY OF CLASSES, TAUGHT BY EXPERT AND FULLY INVOLVED TEACHERS IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE MOST SERIOUSLY PURSUING DANCE, AND THOSE WHO SIMPLY DANCE. THIS OUTREACH IS A UNIQUE GIFT AND OFFERING, AND DREW ME IN. NOW, JUST AS I WATCHED MY DANCING FAMILY GROW INTO SELF-ASSURED, SELF-DISCIPLINED INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESS SO NATURALLY AN EASE AND GRACE, I FIND IT'S MY TURN, THE THIRD GENERATION, TO STEP UP TO THE BARRE AND JOIN IN TOO. THE CHALLENGE AND THE HARD WORK, THE SWEAT - NOTHING MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN THIS! FROM THIS DANCING GRANDMOTHER - KUDOS, AND THANK YOU BERKSHIRE PULSE.
Flo Mason - Pulse Community Class Member 2010

www.berkshirepulse.org

SPRING 2011 REGISTRATION

JANUARY 3rd thru 14th (closed Sunday)
410 PARK STREET, HOUSATONIC, MA

FOR DETAILS &
CLASS DESCRIPTIONS
PLEASE VISIT
WWW.BERKSHIREPULSE.ORG



BERKSHIRE PULSE is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to building and strengthening community life through diverse and accessible programming in performing, movement and creative arts. By promoting the participation in these educational and health sustaining activities, we enrich the lives of families and individuals of all ages throughout the region.