

# The Banneker Grapevine



Newsletter of the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club

October 2012

## President's Message

By Cecelia Dade-Winfield



Welcome to all new and returning members!

A new Banneker dance club season has gotten off to a terrific start with a bustling group of beginner and intermediate students

crowding the dance floor. Many students are traveling from around the entire metropolitan area, as far away as Baltimore. We believe ballroom dancing is good exercise, a healthy social outlet and great fun.

The word is out—Banneker is a fun place to be. Why? We have a superb dance instructor, Stan Kelly, who patiently teaches members dance steps from the basics to the most challenging. The more experienced dancers are encouraged to assist/coach the newer members promoting confidence and self assurance.

Banneker is high stepping with an infusion of several exciting new happenings, which include the following: redesigning our website; adding new content to our newsletter; recently expanding our scrapbook collection dedicating one solely to pictures and information on former, and/or deceased members.

Our Gala committee has capitalized on a recommendation to enlarge the seating chart showing the arrangement of numbered tables—at Martin's Crosswinds, our favorite venue. Paid-for tables, with the buyer's name, are highlighted in color making it easier for persons to know who to contact if tickets are needed. This method has proven to be efficient and effective.

The dedicated Board and various committees have contributed greatly to the success of Banneker. They have generously given their time, talent and energy and all are sincerely appreciated!

### 2012-2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Cecelia Dade-Winfield - President

Pauline Hazel - Vice President

Glenca Kande - Treasurer

Inger Hogan - Assistant Treasurer

Brenda Manley - Secretary

Harry Townsend - Assistant Secretary

Margaret Green - Member at Large



Introducing the new Executive Board at the June Gala. From left: Margaret Green, Harry Townsend, Glenca Kande, Inger Hogan, Pauline Hazel, Cecelia Dade-Winfield, and Brenda Manley.

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## My First Demonstration Dance

By Angela O'Davies



Angela performs the Tango with Vincent Parker

Stan Kelly announced that the Banneker dancers would be performing the American Tango at the June 2012 Gala. Everyone that was interested should have a partner and prepare for rehearsals. I wanted to dance but needed a partner. I asked around for interested males. No takers!

After a couple of weeks of rehearsals, a female dancer was not able to continue and asked me if I would be

interested in taking her place. Wow! I was delighted but wanted to make sure that her partner agreed with the switch.

I didn't know all the steps that were already practiced so I had some catching up

to do. Most of the other dancers had performed the Tango at the NBC 4 Fitness Expo 2012 so I was feeling very nervous at my initial practice. I had never performed with a partner before – how would he adjust to dancing with someone else now?

Well, after many nights of rehearsing, stepping on each other's toes, changes to the routine, out of line, shopping for the right outfit, joint pains and laughter, it all came together.

Our performance on June 24, 2012 at the Banneker Ballroom Dance – Roses of June Gala was magnificent. The group danced with poise and grace and our hard work was well received. I enjoyed every moment. We were told by Stan that we received a standing ovation.

This was a wonderful opportunity for me to be a part of this demonstration dance group and I hope not the last.



Photography by David Corry

### Banneker Ballroom Dance Team 2012

From left: Robert Jones, Margaret Green, Carl Carlton, Bonnie McCoy, F. Robert Yates, Jr., Agnes Yates, Betty Wilkins, Lawrence Lanier, Richard Crutchfield, Minnie Taylor, Stan Kelly, Cecelia Dade-Winfield, Deryck Chase, Sherrill Chase, Vincent Parker, Angela O'Davies

## Summer of 2012

By Pearl Spencer

My anticipated wait to visit China finally arrived after a 13½ hour flight on Air China that arrived in Beijing on August 1st. We arrived late in the day, which allowed time for dinner and resting up for the next day.

The second day we went to Tiananmen Square that was erected in 1419 during the Ming Dynasty. From there we walked to the Forbidden City (Imperial Palace) home of the emperor with about 800 buildings. We continued to the Summer Palace to admire its beautiful gardens.

On the third day we were driven to the Great Wall of China that spans 4,000 miles to the north of China. We visited a local jade factory, and the Beijing zoo to see the pandas. Unfortunately, we didn't see Singing and Lingling because they were a bit shy and went into their house.

We started day four by flying to one of the old cities, Xian, where we visited a historical museum that houses treasures from the Han and Tang dynasties. Then on to Xingqing Park where seniors exercise, sing and dance. I was chosen by one of the seniors to dance the waltz with him. Boy did I show off what I was taught at Banneker!

On the fifth day we visited three museums which house the tomb of China's 1<sup>st</sup> Emperor, and more than 8,000 life-size sculptured terracotta soldiers and horses that were discovered by a farmer in 1974.



Pearl at the Great Wall of China

We flew to Shanghai on the sixth day. It's largest commercial city in the world. Then we took a city tour and walked along the Wusong River that separates the old city from the beautiful new one. During this tour we witnessed how silk material is made at a silk carpet shop.

The cruise to the Grand Canal and our flight back to Beijing were canceled because of the typhoon. Finally, we got a flight back to Beijing and arrived in New York City two days later. I enjoyed every bit of it!



## Birthday Best Wishes

Banneker Ballroom Dance Club shows their appreciation by helping instructor Stan Kelly celebrate his birthday with a beautifully decorated cake that proclaims, "You Are the Best". May there be many more!

## What Makes Banneker Ballroom Dance a Lavish Affair? *It's a Black Tie Social Occasion!!*

By Hazel Mebane

**W**hat is Black tie? Black tie is a dress code for evening events and social functions. Black tie is less formal than white tie but more formal than informal or business attire. Black tie attire is worn to private and public dinners, dances, and parties, and traditionally is worn only after six o'clock in the evening or after sundown. It need not be black and, for dresses, if it is short it must not be "too short".

For men, black tie attire is traditionally a *suit*, usually black with the jacket lapels and trouser of silk or other contrasting material (optional), a white dress shirt, a black bow tie, a waist coat (vest) or cummerbund, and black dress shoes. A handkerchief is placed in the breast pocket (linen, silk, cotton), and a boutonniere (carnation, rosebud) may be worn as well.

For ladies, black tie attire has varied greatly over the years. Traditionally, it was a

dinner (ankle) or tea length (below mid-calf), sleeveless dress, often accompanied by a wrap or stole, gloves and evening shoes.

From many years of attending Banneker's galas, the attire has been glamorous and elegant. And Banneker's black tie elegance has grown grander over the years, redefining even Amy Vanderbilt and Emily Post Black tie traditions.

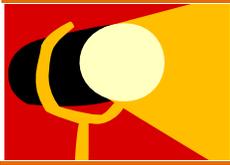
Ladies' attire has exemplified en vogue fashions ranging from street length to floor length dresses in rich colors with sparkle and bling. Men's fashion ranges from white dinner jackets and black pants, black suits, to black tuxedos worn with various colored bow ties.

Evening wear has played a stunning role in enhancing the wearer as well as the special occasion in a very supportive way. Banneker's star-studded affair has rivaled any red carpet affair each year.



They could have danced all night at Banneker Ballroom's June 2012 Gala.

Photography by David Corry



## Members in the Spotlight



### An Artist among Us



Secretary Brenda Manley (left) wins painting by Sherrill Chase (right).

BBDC member, Sherrill Chase is also a member of the Prince George's Artists' Association and cordially invites you to 'Full Circle II' Art Exhibit where her works are on display.

Full Circle II Exhibit and Benefit opened, Friday October 5, 2012 at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives. The evening featured 'Artists Talk', refreshments and live entertainment by The Rahmat Shabazz Jazz Combo. Over 15 paintings were raffled off. The event attracted art lovers from around the metropolitan area. Brenda Manley, Banneker Secretary, was in attendance and what a coincidence, won this beautiful painting, *Water Sprite*, by Sherrill Chase!

#### Full Circle II Exhibition

September 17, 2012 thru January 31, 2013  
Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives  
1201 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

### Joyful Songs

Did you know that Emma Davis is a singer and songwriter? Born in New Jersey, Emma has lived in Maryland since 1982 and has been a member of Woodstream Church in Mitchellville since 1997, where she serves in the music ministry. She loves the Lord and uses her God-given abilities in music ministry at weddings, gospel services, memorial services and special events.

Emma is an identical triplet and from a family of music lovers and creative arts enthusiasts.



### Staying in Shape

Deryck Chase taught a six-week Tai Chi Chuan class at Saint Martin's Catholic Church during the summer. A number of Banneker Ballroom members attended and learned that the slow, deliberate movements are deceptively strenuous and help build strength and improve balance and posture. Perfect for ballroom dance conditioning!



Deryck Chase (far right) guides class through Tai Chi movements.

# Birthdays!

September	October	November	December
Earl Armstrong Pat Commissiong Pauline Hazel Toni Jackson Yvonne John Barbara Kamara Anita Marshall Martha Parks Frankie Sanders Minnie Taylor Francis Yates	Loretta Argett Nancy Berry Lynn Holliday Arthur Johnson Norma Kelly Brenda Manley Publiana Pereira Howard Phippen Angela Steele Fern Underdue Roberta Wright	Tami Bey Canary Girardeau Emma Jordan Loretta Khaalid Barbara Owens Doreen Thompson Jimmy Thorne	Edward Galiber Gwendolyn Ingram Thomas James Anna Laney Judine Slaughter Harry Townsend Jon Wright Robert Yates

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