

The Banneker Grapevine



Newsletter of the Banneker Ballroom Dance Club

October 2013

President's Message

By Cecelia Dade-Winfield



A new dance season has begun and Banneker's doors are wide open and ready for the rush of returning members, and equally ready to warmly greet new members!

As we embrace and welcome one another, we share highlights of our summer experiences, travels, and activities.

One member excitedly mentioned her wonderful cruise which focused on fitness and wellness. Another attended an Argentine Tango class, and two others joined their first line dance class and quickly acknowledged how refreshing to learn some new dance phrases such as "sailor step" and "triple step". Some other Banneker dancers were non-stop in their experiences.

In July, following our June 2013 Gala, Banneker visited the Hollywood Ballroom. About 30 members learned new Tango movements and heated up the dance floor mixing and mingling with ballroom dancers from the entire metropolitan area!

A team of Banneker dancers were invited to perform the Cha-Cha at Northern Va. Community College. Members who perform dance routines spend many hours practicing and traveling to various locations and do a superb job representing Banneker. We owe them and our extraordinary, talented instructor and choreographer, Stan Kelly, a gigantic THANK YOU!

Banneker is committed to helping students develop a greater sense of self-esteem, build confidence on the dance floor, make new friends, and expand their whole world of dance!

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

Silver Bells
Annual Holiday Gala

Sunday, December 8, 2013
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Drive
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Tickets: \$60.00 per person
Attire: Black Tie

Contact
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Cecelia Dade-Winfield 301-589-0051

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To My Dance Partner (Bring Out the Best Dancer in Us)

By Sherill Chasen

Dear Partner,

As is traditional for most male–female relationships, in dance, the onus falls to the man to be the leader, not a simple task. However, on the dance floor, the leader teams with a cooperative and enthusiastic follower.

As the dance leader, you must know the steps and choose their sequence. You are the choreographer. This requires both mental and physical agility. Never fear, dear Partner, with continued practice and determination, I believe you will achieve this skill. However, the ultimate goal is to communicate your choreography to me, your willing partner, via a good connection.

Articles on how to be a good dance leader stress the importance of the connection between partners, the frame, and the source of the energy or force of the connection. “Leading and following is all done through that elusive thing called “connection”... a magic that happens through the physical contact between

two dancers...that makes the two individuals dance as one unit...” (Colin Hume).

Further “...the one thing that the woman needs to feel from the man is the core momentum coming from the center of his gravity; the torso. And the part of your body through which a woman connects to your torso is through your frame.” (Joe Donato–How to Lead Like a Man).

We are ballroom dance “newbies.” Many hours of practice lie ahead before we join the ranks of USA World Latin Dance Champions Riccardo Cocchi & Yulia Zagoruychenko. However, to “dance as one unit” is a more immediately attainable goal for you as a leader and me as a follower. So remember, dear Partner, spaghetti arms won’t get it. A woman wants to be lead—decisively with confidence; to be guided firmly with a gentle hand. “Luke, use the force!”



Photography by David Corry

A Hot Time

Submitted by Glenca Kande, Treasurer

Welcome to, and welcome back for another Banneker ballroom dance season 2013–2014. We started September off with the hot blood-raising Salsa and then in October stayed in the hot zone with the Tango. Our membership enrollment is hot, too. To date, returning members numbered 63 and thus far we have nine new ballroom aficionados. The warmth and camaraderie make the classes a welcome and exciting night in one's week.

On Tuesday, September 24, our themed social "Caribbean Carnival" was a good time for all. Folks showed up in their bright and festive costumes supporting the carnival theme. Bob DJ'd the music and we all danced ballroom, hand dance and line dances.

And, oh yes, there was food thanks to the hospitality committee and all the members who contributed a dish.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and healthy dance year.



Angela O'Davies shows her unique Carnival style.



Carnival Night revelers Brenda Manley, Deryck Chase, Pearl Spencer, and Cecelia Dade-Winfield



Members, old and new, pair off to practice the Tango.



2012-2013 Hospitality committee: Anthony Curtis, Margaret Green, Thomas Green III, Vincent Parker



Past hospitality committee Chair, Margaret Green (r), passes the leadership torch to Candace Thomas



Members in the Spotlight

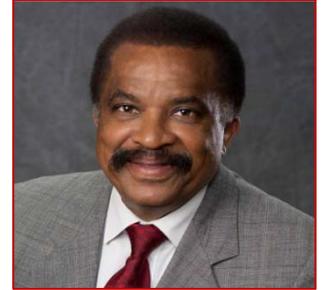


Talent Within

David Charles Corry, an accomplished photographer and teacher, has earned the title of Certified Professional Photographer and continues to hold that title among the nation's top professional photographers. He is past president of the Maryland Professional Photographers Association where he has also served in other elected positions. Currently he is Vice President of Professional Photographers Society of Greater Washington, D. C.; serves as Counselor to the Board of Directors of Professional Photographers of America representing Washington D.C.; and continues to provide leadership among fellow professional photographers in the Metropolitan area.

Mr. Corry whose teaching career spanned 32 years, taught in the field of performing arts

in the public schools of Fairfax County Virginia. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the field of photography and helps others develop a clearer understanding of the art form. He specializes in creating large wall portraits of individuals that reveal the human form in photographic images that enables them to seem to come alive to the viewer.



He recently served as the portrait photographer for Banneker's June Gala capturing beautiful photographs of members and friends who attended the event.

Who Knew?

By Michael Gunn, BBDC Reporter



Mrs. Eleanor Stewart, a third year Banneker member, is the Founder and Director of the D. C. Boys Choir, a group of musically talented young male students whose talents she nurtures through artistic expression.

Founded in January 1993, the choir is celebrating its twentieth anniversary and has as its motto "striving for excellence through song". Mrs. Stewart has many stories of how choir activities help to keep them off of the streets and help choir members build confidence and self-esteem. The choir presents opportunities for them to travel and meet other people. Members also learn how manners and the art of being professional play a role in becoming gentlemen and ultimately successful, productive citizens. When they dress up they become different; they transform when they

appear before an audience, says Mrs. Stewart. The Choir has performed extensively from Harlem to the White House; throughout Europe in France, England, Austria, Switzerland; and China. They have performed at conferences, festivals, universities, government agencies, schools, churches, and community organizations.

Mrs. Stewart, a native of Kinston, North Carolina, is an accomplished vocalist, conductor, and music educator. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Hampton University and is a retired vocal music teacher of the District of Columbia Public Schools.

She realized her love for music and rhythm early in grade school while plaiting the May pole. She enjoys Banneker because she has to memorize steps, use rhythm, and concentrate. Her desired goal is to perform her favorite dance, the Tango, at a gala with the Banneker performance team.

What I Did This Summer

Submitted by Pearl Spencer

This summer, I supported two Banneker Ballroom Dance Club (BBDC) performances. The first performance was on August 10th at the Northern Virginia Community College Amphitheater in Manassas, Virginia. Several supporters and I arrived early to observe the dance team practice and provide our critique before the official performance. I took my seat in the front row and kept an eye on the team's belongings.

BBDC members Stan Kelly, Cecelia Dade-Winfield, Jerry Whitfield, Pauline Hazel, Deryck Chase, Betty Wilkins, Eddie Stevison, Brenda Manley, Bob Jones, and Yvonne John performed a Cha Cha routine. Our instructor Stan also danced a tango with Cecelia. Our dancers did very well and we cheered and applauded them as they danced the evening



away. For a moment there I thought I was at Radio City Music Hall.

Another dance group performed a belly dance and a Salsa circle dance called the Rueda. We were invited to join them, and it was certainly fun to have our own ballroom members dance with the host group, *Dance in Time*, directed by Barbara Bernstein.

I was also in the cheering section when the dance team performed the Cha Cha and Tango at the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Health Fair in September. Minnie Taylor and Richard Crutchfield danced with the team at this performance.

A senior group from Our Lady Queen of Peace staged several line dances, and one couple from the group performed a very lively hand dance. Dancing, like music, is such a universal language.

From left: Jerry Whitfield, Pauline Hazel, Eddie Stevison, Brenda Manley, Stan Kelly, Cecelia Dade-Winfield, Betty Wilkins, Deryck Chase, Yvonne John, and Bob Jones

At right: Banneker's dance team performs the Cha Cha at the NOVA Community College Amphitheater in Manassa, VA.,



Comfah Dancing

By Deryck S. Chase

When ah was young
 Dey always tell me to
 Stay away from de comfah
 music
 'cause it make you
 jump to de lef' an' den to de
 right
 spin all around and shake all
 night.
 Wind down to de bottom
 An' back to de top
 Wid a glass o' water 'pon yo'
 head
 Yet yo' won't spill a drop.
 Dey wait till you get in the
 middle of de room
 Den dey beat de spirit out o'
 yo' wid a manicole broom.

Den dis comfah woman saw me
 looking at she
 Crook she finger and say "boy,
 come dance wid me".
 Ah say ah don't mind
 Jumping to lef' and den to de
 right
 Spinning all around and shaking
 all night.
 Ah would like to wind down to
 bottom and back to de top
 An' if yo put a glass o' water
 'pon me head, ah won't spill a
 drop.
 But I ain't goin' get in de middle
 of no dancin' room
 For dem to beat some spirit out
 o' me wid a manicole broom.

Well ah wake in pain, wid de
 woman smiling at me
 She say, last night you were a
 sight to see.
 Man, you just jumped to de lef'
 and back to de right
 Spinning all around and
 shaking all night.
 Ah like how yo' wind down to
 de bottom and back to de top
 An' when we put de glass o'
 water 'pon yo head, you didn't
 spill a drop.
 But we had to use dat manicole
 broom wid some extra clout
 'cause we put a licking 'pon
 you, but de spirit never come
 out.



Club Calendar



| November | December | January |
|--|---|--|
| 5, 12, 19 Class: Merengue 26 Thanksgiving Break (No Class) | 3 Class: Cha Cha 8 Annual Holiday Gala (@ Martin's Crosswinds) 10 Theme Social Happy Holidays | 7, 14, 21 Class: Rhumba 28 Theme Social Sports Night |
| February | March | April |
| 4, 11, 18 Class: Foxtrot 25 Theme Social Black History/Valentine | 4, 11, 18 Class: Samba 28 Theme Social Country Western | 1, 8, 15, 22 Class: Waltz 29 Theme Social Wine and Roses |

Class Times
 7:00 pm – Introduction | 8:00 pm – Intermediate

Class Location
 6310 Chillum Place NW Washington, DC 20011
 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Union Hall – Second Floor
 (Check our online calendar for updates at www.bannekerballroomdance.com)

Birthdays!

| May | June | July | August |
|--|---|--|--|
| William Banks Joyce Bowles Deryck Chase Ronald Crockett Anthony Curtis Lawrence Lanier Cindy Price Gumbs Roma Candace Thomas | Gwellnar Banks Albert Lee Brock Frances Brock Stewart Fitzgerald Judith Fykes James Jackson Mary Terrell Felix Theodore Loren Walker Betty Wilkins | Angele Baker Veda Carter Sherrill Chase Cliff Collins Margaret Crump Cecelia Dade-Winfield Teresa Dent Ethel Hawkins Rosalind Palmer Darlene Robinson Odette Smith-Forte Lauri Williamson Sandra Wilson Mary Wolf | James Commissiong David Corry Richard Crutchfield Emma Davis Mary Duarte Jean Gilmore Harrison Hawkins Inger Hogan Connie Jackson Janice Latimer Vincent Parker Jeanne Woods Agnes Yates |
| September | October | November | December |
| Pat Commissiong Earl Armstrong Lisa Bell Pauline Hazel James Jenkins Yvonne John Frenchie Lumpkin Frenchie Lumpkin Anita Marshall Gail Mayers Martha Parks Thelma Price Minnie Taylor Francis "Bob" Yates | Loretta Argrett Nancy Berry Cynthia Carpenter Brenda Crockett John Harps Norma Kelly Stan Kelly Brenda Manley Maria Mims Publina Pereira Howard Pippen Fern Underdue | Tami Bey Emma Jordan Sherrie McReynolds Cecile Mitchell Katherine Moseley Barbara Owens Jimmy Thorne | James Baker Raymond Contee Lorna Greaves James Gross Gwendolyn Ingram Thomas James Anna Laney Dennis McCall Ronda McCall Roland Randolph Pat Theodore Harry Townsend F. Robert Yates, Jr. Pearl Young |

Newsletter committee: Betty Wilkins, Eddie Witten, Michael Gunn

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