



# BEHIND THE SCENES

a publication of the Board of Directors

AMHERST BALLET THEATRE COMPANY

OUR THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF DANCE

29 Strong Street, Amherst, MA 01002 • 413-549-1555 • info@amherstballet.org • www.amherstballet.org

SPRING 2007

## from your DIRECTOR CATHERINE FAIR

As we approach the anniversary of the 30<sup>th</sup> season of the Amherst Ballet Theatre Company (the performing company associated with the school), and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school, it is a good time to reflect upon what makes AB unique in the Pioneer Valley. Most of us have heard of the trials and tribulations, comings and goings of other local schools. It is indeed difficult to preserve the integrity of a school during a transition in leadership. Divided loyalties among students and parents, changes in philosophy and training, and lack of a solid infrastructure can make it difficult for a school to succeed over the long term. I am very lucky to have had the help of founder Therese Donohue, the intelligent and thoughtful input of our Board of Directors, and the backing of a very caring community while making the transition from Therese's leadership to mine. The resulting stability of our school now enables our students to thrive in a secure and consistent environment. While I am always seeking ways to improve and enhance our training and performances, Amherst Ballet remains a haven for artistically inclined young people who thrive in an environment that gives them the training to express themselves through their dancing. In a nutshell, our students and community know what to expect from us. Of this, I am very proud. Our history and stability are truly things to celebrate and have been an important factor in bringing us the success in raising the financial support that makes us viable.

While we strive for stability, we always seek to improve. The following is a list of good news items that represent "firsts" for Amherst Ballet:

**Senior Piece:** We are setting a record this year! Eight seniors are graduating and leaving Amherst Ballet for various endeavors. The upcoming departure of Eliza Arsenaault, Irene Bright-Dumm, Carolina DeGroot, Hannah Goodwin, Galina Ponomareva, Evie Simkins, Molly Stamell and Lydia Wileden will leave us

all feeling a little bit of "empty nest" syndrome. We cannot imagine ourselves without them; by "we" I mean all of us - faculty, staff, younger dancers, parents, and our audiences and wonder how it will feel when they are gone. The bright side is that we send them off with great pride and confidence in them. This very motivated group of dancers will be featured prominently in our Anniversary Celebration; not only will they be seen in the repertoire, they have been working hard to create their very own piece. Adding a sizeable load to their already committed schedules, they have created a rigorous rehearsal schedule and are working hard on collaborative choreography and costume design. These young women know how to work hard to meet a goal; their work ethic is evident. I can see that they have learned from their teachers and choreographers what it takes to put together a piece and make it successful and are applying those lessons to themselves throughout the process. I look forward to presenting the final product as a part of our *Celebration of Dance* in March.

**Summer teen intensive and trip to the Joffrey Ballet:** We will continue to offer excellent training to teens in an intensive environment that does not require students to leave home and spend a fortune! Orlando Ballet principal dancer Jessica Sibley will be returning to teach alongside the professional Amherst Ballet faculty. We will follow this with a week's visit (limited to 30 students) to the Joffrey Ballet in New York City. By special invitation of Director John Magnus, our students will take classes alongside of summer students from around the world. We will also take advantage of the exciting NYC environment to visit other schools, companies, performances and classes! Watch for more information about our summer teen intensive (7/23 - 8/3) and our children's workshops.

Additional "firsts" such as our **Winter Workshop** and **Lecture Demonstrations** are described on page 7.

I am proud of our innovation, growth and continued ability to serve the young dancers and audiences of Amherst and the Pioneer Valley. I hope you will join us in celebration of our past, present, and future by attending at least one of the following performances we will be giving:

- **Love Notes Amherst Club Fundraiser** - Friday February 9, Buckley Recital Hall, 7:30pm. Call 253-5179 for ticket information. Amherst Ballet will appear as one of several guest artists. We will perform excerpts from our *Anniversary Celebration of Dance*
- **Anniversary Celebration of Dance**, Bowker Auditorium March 17 (2pm and 7pm) and 18 (2pm). See insert for ticket information. *Dances from the Earth: The Arctic* and *the Rainforest*, excerpts from *Don Quixote*, *Hungarian Festival of Dance*, Senior Piece and dances from the Lower School (Sunday matinee only)
- **Dances from the Earth: The Arctic and The Rainforest**, Wednesday April 25, American International College, Springfield. 1pm and 7pm, tickets free to the public.

## DONORS

### BENEFACTOR \$1,000 +

Anonymous

### SPONSOR \$250 - \$499

Dean's Beans  
Linda & Mark Bean

### FRIEND \$100 - \$249

Delcie Bean  
Lucy Wilson Benson  
Nonny Burack  
Fancy Feet Plus  
Janet Kelly  
Dave Moskin  
DeAnne & Chris Riddle  
Shumway & Sons Tree &  
Landscaping  
Stamell Strings  
Paul Vasconcellos  
Gerda Wald  
Marianne Wald

### DONOR \$25 - \$99

Tina & Michael Berins  
Lili Bermant  
Clarkdale Farms  
Dan Coughlin  
Doris Holden  
Edith Howe  
Tom & Anne Jeanne Lardner  
Andrea Leibson  
Vivian Liu & John Warren  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Moskin  
Estela Olevsky  
Jose Ornelas  
Sandy Riggs  
Elizabeth Schmitt  
Linda Slakey  
Larry & Ann Steinhauser  
Karen Tarlow & John Montanari  
Amy Zuckerman

### SUPPORTER \$1 - \$24

Pauline Heffley  
Susan Redditt  
Shuk Yuen & Peter Vichi

*Special thanks to Lugascharchitect for underwriting part of the costs of the newsletter, to Andrea Leibson for editorial assistance, to E.S. Fair and Catherine Fair for photography, and to Vivian Liu for design.*

## SENIOR INTERVIEW WITH EVANGELINE SIMKINS

By Annette Cycon

Evie Simkins has been surrounded by music all her life. Her parents are both musicians and her mother is a singer. So when she and her younger sister Elora were little, they would dance around the house while their parents played music for them. Evie began playing piano herself when she was six years old and at the same time began dancing at Amherst Ballet. She became so excited about dance that in first grade she wrote a book about ballet class which she still has. She remembers being obsessed with *The Nutcracker* and being scared by the music of *Swan Lake*. "Which is ironic since I eventually danced to it."

Evie is a senior at Belchertown High School, and appreciates the way that her involvement in Amherst Ballet has influenced her life growing up. "Everything about Amherst is so much more worldly, kids are more aware of things. My world expanded coming here." She loves the teachers, friends and environment of Amherst Ballet. She spoke about how interesting it is when teachers and students introduce new ideas, concepts and perspectives. "John Wrzos-Bancan used to show us videos of different kinds of dance and it was so interesting."

Performances that stand out for Evie include *The Ribbon Festival*, *Swan Lake* and *The Arctic*. She was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade when *Ribbon Festival* toured in Maine. "We drove up in vans with Mrs. Donohue, Sam Kenney and Jennifer Rockwell and danced in different places like a school gymnasium and a barn." So began her interest and skill in character dance. She went on to be cast as a soloist in *Swan Lake* as the Polish Princess. "It was really fun but it was an

exhausting role because of all the jumps. I really like character dancing. Every movement has to be so strong and sharp." She also danced en pointe in the corps in *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*. She is currently double cast with Galya as the human girl in *The Arctic*, a performance piece that she spoke about eloquently. "It is a very heartfelt role, really beautiful to dance. The music and the dance gently bring you into the world of *The Arctic* - how beautiful and precious it is. I really love everything about it."

Evie takes five classes every week, in addition to rehearsals. She has focused on ballet but also takes modern, which has helped her to be "freer in my movements, which is hard because of all those years of ballet training." In her opinion *The Rainforest* is "spectacular" and she has developed an appreciation for seeing modern dance performed.

She insists that her future plans must include travel and the pursuit of languages. She has taken six years of French and traveled to Paris with her mother when she was fifteen. "It enforced my need to get out and see the world! I love far-off, foreign places and things. I'm fascinated by languages." She is interested in colleges which include international, humanitarian work in their curriculum. When asked if dance and music will be a part of her future plans, Evie says, "I want to branch out into new kinds of dance. I want to go on an adventure and try something new!"

Evie brings her friendly, thoughtful, and radiant enthusiasm with her every day to Amherst Ballet. We look forward to seeing the new adventures she is so passionate about discovering. We know that her qualities of commitment, curiosity and compassion that have made her a special part of the Amherst Ballet community will also touch the hearts of those she will meet in the future.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHERINE FAIR



## THOUGHTS BY SENIOR LYDIA WILEDEN

"My training has gone full circle," jokes Lydia Wileden, tying on a black wrap skirt and pulling on leg warmers before heading into the lower studio to teach her Pre-Primary class. Lydia started out in that very class in that very studio 12 years ago, when she first came to Amherst Ballet. For Lydia it was love at first plie. "I knew from the very beginning dancing was something I wanted to do for a long time," she remembers. Now a Level C, Lydia dances every day, taking jazz, modern and ballet classes.

"Dance gives me something to look forward to," Lydia comments. "If I'm having a bad day I know I can work it out in a class, and if I'm having a good day it makes dancing that much more enjoyable." A senior at Northfield Mount Hermon School, Lydia laughs that balance is the hardest thing for her to find. "I am so busy, running around all the time, that when I'm in class I love living in the moment and just enjoying the movement."

Looking forward to next year, Lydia hopes to keep dancing. "I'm looking at colleges with dance programs, maybe double majoring. I know I want to do more than just dance, but I can't give it up. I need to keep moving!"

Regardless of where she ends up next year Lydia admits that nothing will replace her years at AB. "All the teachers, the roles (being a little swan in *Swan Lake* was her favorite), and especially the girls, everything there has really impacted my life, I would not be the same without it."

## Amherst Ballet Senior Piece

*By Molly Stamell*

For those of you who spend time at the studio on Saturday mornings, you may have noticed a group of Upper School students rehearsing under their own supervision. For others, you might remember an announcement made at Presentation Night about Amherst Ballet's first Senior Piece. For the eight of us who are graduating from high school this year, the choreographic process of the Senior Piece is well underway. We feel extremely privileged and excited to have been given the opportunity to make the first student choreographed piece at Amherst Ballet. It is rare that a group of students is able to form such close friendships and work together as well as this year's seniors.

We began the process of making this piece by voting on music and appointing a few students to generate the majority of the material we would use in the piece. The responsibility of generating choreography fell mainly to me and Lydia Wileden. However, the setting of the piece has been an entirely collaborative effort by all of the seniors as we have added material that was choreographed by all in the group.

When we began putting this piece together, we developed a base of four or five different phrases, which we have been able to use in various ways for the basic framework of our choreography. We ended up pulling a lot of the phrases apart, choosing our favorite moves and looping different parts of them together. The result is a mix of modern, jazz and Caribbean style movement, which flows nicely and fits the mood of the piece surprisingly well. I think we are all pleasantly surprised at what we have come up with so far, and are excited to see the final result as much as anyone else.

Working together to create this piece has been a very valuable experience. It has been a lot of fun as well as a challenge, and has been entirely worth the effort. We are all looking forward to performing this piece in March. Thank you to Mrs. Fair for encouraging us to proceed with the making of this piece, and Sam Kenney for being our choreographic supervisor; we really appreciate all of the support we've gotten from the school, and the amount of freedom we have been allowed to make our own decisions concerning the piece.

## A NOTE FROM 2006 ALUM JILLIAN DIAMOND

Since heading off to the University of Vermont this past fall, I have been very busy, but I love every minute of it! I am majoring in Human Development, an interesting and flexible major that will allow me to follow whatever path I choose for the future. As a part of my major, I had an internship at the Boys and Girls Club of Burlington where I worked with children in grades K – 3. It was great being able to apply what I learned from teaching the Pre-Primary ballet class (for kindergartners at AB as part of the Teacher Trainee Program) to my academic work.

Other interests that have kept me busy at UVM are my photography-themed living suite (we have a dark room in our building!), class council, and last but certainly not least, the Orchesis Dance Company. ODC is a UVM Company that currently has 10 members. Auditions were held in the fall and I was accepted along with three other girls. We meet three times weekly in a very spacious studio to rehearse our pieces for our end of the semester show, which will feature jazz, ballet, hip-hop and tap. Although ODC is very different from my dancing at Amherst Ballet, it is a lot of fun and keeps me moving! I am proud that my training at AB gave me an edge during the audition process and am pleased to be continuing my dancing. I also enjoy the opportunity to fill in for the young children's classes at AB during my time off from school.

## SENIOR INTERVIEW WITH IRENE BRIGHT-DUMM

By Heidi Stemple

Irene Bright-Dumm lights up the stage. Whether it is dancing as a caribou, seaweed, as Little Fugue or as a flower in Narnia, Irene combines a strength and beauty that make her an important part of Amherst Ballet's senior dancers this year. She is looking forward to being a demi-soloist in *Don Q* as well as performing in *The Rainforest*. But, perhaps most exciting, she is part of the first ever student choreographed senior piece.



PHOTOGRAPH BY E.S. FAIR

Irene did not start her dancing career at AB. She moved from California where she danced as a child and entered AB in third grade when she was eight. She recalls preparing for exams in Level 3 by taking a small early-morning Saturday class. She complained at the time, she admits, but secretly, she loved every minute of it. Her mother, the late Brenda Bright, loved it too. Before her mother's death, one of her greatest joys was watching Irene dance.

A senior at Amherst High School, Irene is not only passionate about dance. She is also deeply involved in an organization called Esperanza which is dedicated to helping Ecuadorian people who have been effected by oil contamination from Chevron-Texaco's drilling practices ([www.arps.org/hs/clubs/Esperanza/](http://www.arps.org/hs/clubs/Esperanza/)). She was selected last year to be part of a student trip to view the abysmal living conditions of the effected areas as well as do hands-on work there. "It changed my life," says Irene.

Many of the skills she carries over to her activism and school work (time management, organization, commitment and follow through among others), come, she says, from her years of dance training. These skills will carry her through next year when she plans to attend college and perhaps minor in dance. "Dance," she says, "has taught me to push myself." But, it's more than life skills that Irene gets from Amherst Ballet. She considers the AB girls her family--the purple dressing room, a community. What she will miss is knowing she has a place. "Right now I know I belong to Amherst Ballet and that a small part of AB belongs to me."

Catherine Fair recalls not only Irene's beautiful dancing, but a special piece of information she shared with her Level 3 class before their exams. "Irene came in with a bit of advice that she had been given by her mother. 'Smile! The muscles in your neck and face aren't tense when you are smiling.' For such a young girl," Ms. Fair continues, "she was already seeking, applying, and sharing information that she knew would not only benefit her, but others." Irene's father, Tom Dumm, President of the Amherst Ballet Board of Directors says of his daughter, "dance has become like breathing to her... and through the years, the ballet has been the one constant in her life, something, for better or worse, that she has known is always there."

Seeing Irene dance, it is easy to know that dancing is, indeed, like breathing. She is gorgeous on the stage - equal parts grace and power - and her love of dancing is apparent to anyone watching her. It is also evident that the skills she has honed during her years of dance will help her succeed at whatever she chooses to do. And, of course, she will always belong here and that small piece of AB that she feels is hers, will always be waiting.

# SENIOR INTERVIEW WITH GALINA PONOMAREVA

By Annette Cycon

Like many young women here at Amherst Ballet, this senior began dancing at a very early age, but what sets Galya Ponomareva apart is that her early training took place in Russia. Born in Moscow, ballet has always been an important part of her life. Galya began creative movement at age three, and started ballet at age six. By age eight she was dancing en pointe and learning partnering! She attended a private school where ballet was a natural part of the physical education curriculum. Her entire third grade class took ballet class during school. All the girls were en pointe, and all the boys learned partnering. Galya loved it so much that she also took private lessons and classes after school as well. "I have always wanted to be a ballerina." She remembers that ironically her first performance required her to play the part of an American!



PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHERINE FAIR

Galya grew up seeing the Bolshoi and Mariinski, or Kirov, Ballet regularly. "In America people go to the movies, in Russia, people go to the ballet." One of her most significant early memories is being in the audience to see the ballet *Carmen*, when the first ballerina to ever dance the part of Carmen, Maya Plitsetskaya, stood up in the first row to be recognized. "This really impressed me. Maybe that's why *Carmen* is my favorite ballet."

Galya is the youngest of six siblings, four of whom have also danced. The family moved to the United States when Galya was in third grade. It was January and Galya did not go to school until September because she could not speak a word of English. In September she began Crocker Farm School and joined Amherst Ballet "because it was recommended to us by another Russian family as the best ballet training in the area." It was strange at first that she was not allowed to dance en pointe here, but she secretly walked around on her pointe shoes at home.

She fondly remembers dancing as a butterfly in *The Magician's Nephew*, in the corps in *Sleeping Beauty* and especially being given the opportunity to be a soloist in *Swan Lake*. It was like a dream come true for her. "It was really great to work with Jessica Sibley, a professional ballerina. I got to see what I'm going for."

Galya's plan is to become a professional ballerina herself, and therefore she is in the process of auditioning to a number of dance conservatories or four year colleges with dance conservatories. After that she hopes to dance on the stage with a ballet company. In preparation for that future, Galya takes eight dance classes every week in addition to rehearsals. Her focus is obviously ballet but she also likes jazz and modern. "They really enhance ballet by teaching more range of movement." She has participated in summer ballet programs at North Carolina School for the Arts, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and Amherst Ballet.

Galya loves Amherst Ballet and really sees it as her "second home." "I love the environment, the teachers, the girls and how close we are. It's safe and friendly. You don't have to worry about competitiveness or that girls are talking about you. I'm really going to miss it here. Everyone is so caring. When I walk in the door I'm happy. It's the favorite part of my day."

Galya, we are going to miss you too. You have a quiet grace that is admired by your peers, teachers and audiences, and a steely determination to follow your dreams. You have come a long way in every sense of the word and everyone who knows you is proud of you. Don't forget to sign autographs before you leave, so that when you become famous we can all brag that "we knew you when!" Good Luck!

## We thank everyone who made donations to the Silent Auction:

All Fired Up Restaurant	Fine Arts Center	Joy Howard	Nancy Huntley
Amherst Books	Food for Thought Books	Julia Rueschemeyer	Paradise Spa
Amherst Coffee	Hannoush Jewelers	Julie Bermant	Peter Shea
Boyden & Perron	Gillian Haven	Karen Michaels	R & P Liquors
Butternuts Restaurant	Good Dirt Pottery	Linda & Mark Bean	Robin & Ted Diamond
Chez Albert	Hampshire Hospitality Group	Ling Lu	Rocky's Ace Hardware
China Dynasty	Heidi Stemple	The Lord Jeff Inn	Sherry Shuman
Christina Lindwall	Hill Construction	LT Exposures	Susan Waite
David Farkas	Historic Deerfield	Maria Fernandez	Tom Dumm
David Moskin	Jack Wileden & Andrea Leibson	Meg England	Valley ComputerWorks
Dean's Beans	Jane Yolen	Mobil 9 Service Station	Valley Veterinary Hospital
Donna Witmer	Jeanne Esposito	Monkey Business	Vivian Liu & John Warren
Esselon Cafe	Jim & Gillian Duda	Mullins Center	

## Old Friends

*By Andrea Leibson*

AB lost two good friends recently. This past summer Ed Martin closed the doors on Dance Stuff in Amherst and former board of directors member Dorothy Grannis passed away.

Ed Martin opened Dance Stuff in 1989. Ed had been working as a medical technician and was looking for a career change. At that same time Ed's daughter Sussannah started dancing at Amherst Ballet. They found it was hard to find good and interesting dance clothing so Ed created Dance Stuff to remedy both situations.

Over the last 17 years Ed had gotten to know all the dance schools in our area but Amherst Ballet is the school he knew first and best. Dance Stuff was a good friend to AB: Ed offered discounts on dance clothes to all AB dancers, Dance Stuff was a long-time underwriter of AB's newsletter and Dance Stuff donated many dance clothes to AB. All members of the AB community will miss Ed and Dance Stuff. While internet sales had cut into Dance Stuff's business in the last few years, that trend was reversing. Ed said this was true for both his store and other dance stores throughout New England. But Ed was ready for another career change. For the last few years Ed had been running Dance Stuff and farming about 130 acres in Pelham. Now Ed has turned to farming solely. We hope with all his extra time Ed will continue to read our newsletter and support dance. We thank him for his many years of friendship to AB.

Former board member Dorothy Grannis died at her home in Amherst in early July. Dorothy was a member of Amherst Ballet's Advisory Board and generously hosted many Amherst Ballet fundraisers at her beautiful home on Sunset Avenue. Her daughter Eliza danced with us in the 1980s and 1990s and the family has remained generous to Amherst Ballet throughout the years of Amherst Ballet's existence. We offer our condolences to the Grannis family and remember Dorothy fondly for all her support of AB.

## Fete '06 Teamwork Nets Amherst Ballet nearly \$10,000!

*By Andrea Leibson and Susan Waite*

The night air was crisp and the barn was warmed by the energy of dancers and smiles of their friends and families. The harvest theme was evident in the bright table decorations of fresh gourds, squash, pumpkins and apples and the abundant good food waiting on the buffet tables. Bright chrysanthemums added a dash of color and fun music filled the air. This was the scene for Amherst Ballet's Third Harvest Fete.

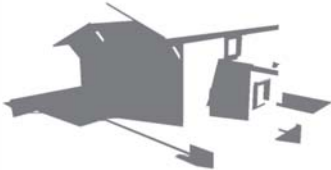
The Harvest Fete took place on October 14, 2006 with more than 100 people in attendance. Generous hosts Gillian and Jim Duda and a small army of board members, AB dancers and their parents worked to create the ambiance described above. The delicious dinner was catered by Portabella Catering of Amherst. Entertainment for the evening included music provided by Johnny B and the Hornets, a mini-performance by AB dancers from the Upper School (Jessie Duda, Marissa Hashizume, Lia Karras, Robin Palmer, Kenna Tyrrell and Rachael Bean) and a video montage of clips from AB performances from the past 10 years prepared by AB board Treasurer Delcie Bean. AB board President Tom Dumm and AB Director Catherine Fair each spoke to those in attendance.

After the entertainment it was time to determine the winners of the Silent Auction items. Each year volunteers have worked hard to secure interesting items for the auction. There were many and diverse items to bid on this year including four weeks at vacation homes from Massachusetts to St. Andrews, Scotland, handcrafted items from many talented people associated with AB and artisans from throughout the northeast. The Silent Auction also featured goods and services donated by institutions, restaurants and businesses from around our area. These artisans, institutions, restaurants and businesses are listed on page 5. Please patronize them, and when you do, thank them for their support of Amherst Ballet.


This October, the Fete and Silent Auction proved once again to be a terrific fundraiser for the Ballet. The 2004 event netted AB more than \$5000, the 2005 Harvest Fete netted AB more than \$8000 and this year's Fete netted AB nearly \$10,000. The Board of Directors sends heartfelt thanks to all the auction donors and the volunteer helpers and to Johnny B and the Hornets for their wonderful music. We thank also the Duda family for the use of their grounds and cozy barn.

Each year the Board is overwhelmed by the Amherst Ballet community's generosity. Whether donating goods or services for the Auction or volunteering to vacuum a dusty barn, your contributions are key to the Fete's successful outcome. We are so lucky to have such active, helpful champions. Thanks to everyone who made the Fete a tremendous success! If you would like to donate an item for next year's Fete and Silent Auction, please contact Andrea at AB and it will be included.

www.lugoscharchitect ■ com



101 university dr. - suite b6 - amherst MA 01002



phone: 413 658 3777 - fax: 413 549 1627

And here we continue the list of “firsts” for Amherst Ballet:

**Winter Workshop:** Our Winter Workshop directed by faculty member Joanna Duncan will be our first offering of a workshop during the school vacation in February. There are already 15 enrolled and only a few spots remain. With a record turn-out of boys (three) this workshop will spend significant time teaching basic partnering skills and creating choreography suitable for our rapidly maturing male dancers. The girls attending will be challenged as well! All dancers are sure to have a great time creating their costumes and props, refining their dance technique and presenting a performance.

**Lecture Demonstrations:** Funded in part by a recent \$1000 grant from the Amherst Cultural Council, Amherst Ballet hosted a series of lecture demonstrations in January for more than 170 Wildwood Elementary School children as a way of kicking off their physical education dance unit. I collaborated with physical education teacher Elizabeth Fernandez-O’Brien to create a curriculum that allowed the students to observe a demonstration and then take a dance class in our studios. My “team” consisted of teacher trainees Sarah Cycon, Mariel Lugosch-Ecker and Lydia Wileden and Level A dancer Ethan Schweitzer-Gaslin. The AB dancers were stunning and quickly gained the respect and interest of their young audience. The four gave a flawless demonstration of dance concepts, steps and technique and then split up into 2 groups to help me instruct our young guests in our studios. I recently received the following email from Ms. Fernandez O’Brien: “*Catherine, I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful experience our students had. Coming back to Wildwood and now dancing in PE, students' eyes were opened and they are dancing beautifully!*”

P  
O  
L  
A  
R  
B  
E  
A  
R  
S



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF BANCAN

While our children are rehearsing their roles in **The Arctic**, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of listing the polar bear as an Endangered Species. The melting of their ice/sea habitat in the Arctic threatens polar bears with extinction. This melting is due to global warming. As the first species whose demise we can directly link with global warming, the polar bear is becoming the poster child for swift and drastic action to stop global warming.

Amherst Ballet is adding its voice to the call for governmental action to stop global warming. Students and faculty hope that this poignant and elegant ballet can help move the public and our politicians to make the changes in their lives and policies that the earth and polar bears desperately need.

By Meg Vickery



*Alumnae,  
current students  
& families are  
invited to join us  
for Amherst  
Ballet's 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Celebration.*

*The party will be  
held at the  
Amherst College  
Alumni House after  
the 2 pm matinee  
performance on  
March 18<sup>th</sup>.  
See ticket order  
insert for more  
information.*

*Seniors, we want  
you there!*





**AMHERST BALLET**  
 29 Strong Street  
 Amherst, MA 01002

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 AMHERST, MA  
 PERMIT NO. 119

CATHERINE FAIR, *Director*  
 ANDREA LEIBSON, *Office Manager*  
 THERESE BRADY DONOHUE, *Founder*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

TOM DUMM, *President*  
 SUSAN WAITE, *Vice-President*  
 MITCH GASLIN, *Secretary*  
 DELCIE BEAN, *Treasurer*  
 ANNETTE CYCON  
 ROBIN DIAMOND  
 JEANNE ESPOSITO  
 JOY HOWARD  
 KATHLEEN LUGOSCH  
 DAVID MOSKIN  
 PETER SHEA  
 HEIDI STEMPLER  
 JACK WILEDEN

**ADVISORY BOARD**

SARAH BOY  
 JAMES DUDA  
 PAM GLAVEN  
 JOHN MONTANARI  
 DEANNE S. RIDDLE  
 STAN ROSENBERG  
 HOWARD SONODA  
 ELLEN STORY

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>FEBRUARY 18- 25</b>	<b>School Vacation.</b> Classes resume February 27
<b>FEBRUARY 19- 23</b>	<b>Winter Vacation Camp</b>
<b>MARCH 10-11</b>	<b>No Level C classes. SPRING REPERTOIRE REHEARSALS</b> at AB for <b>all students</b> in Upper and Lower Schools. Time TBA.
<b>MARCH 15 AND 16</b>	<b>NO REGULAR CLASSES. Rehearsals, Bowker Auditorium.</b> Upper and Lower Schools, exact schedule TBA
<b>MARCH 17</b>	<b>SPRING REPERTOIRE PERFORMANCES</b> at <b>Bowker Auditorium: 2:00pm matinee</b> Repertoire and <b>7:00pm</b> Repertoire
<b>MARCH 18</b>	<b>2:00pm matinee</b> Repertoire and Pre-Primary, Primary, Levels 1/2/3, and Jazz I/II class dances
<b>MARCH 18</b>	<b>AB 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party</b> at Amherst College Alumni House after the performance
<b>APRIL 16-21</b>	<b>School Vacation.</b> Classes resume April 23
<b>APRIL 22 &amp; 24</b>	<b>REHEARSALS, <i>Dances from the Earth</i></b>
<b>APRIL 25</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE <i>Dances from the Earth</i></b> at <b>AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE</b> in <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>
<b>MAY 28</b>	<b>NO CLASSES.</b> Memorial Day

**PLEASE CHECK REHEARSAL BOARD FOR REHEARSAL SCHEDULES ESPECIALLY DURING VACATION WEEKS**