



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

of the  
*Sacred Dance Guild*

**VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2**

**Fall 2009**

## *A Letter from the President, Joceile Nordwall*



**F** ALL GREETINGS TO ALL YOU DANCERS!

Where did that summer go? I hope you did some dancing. Three of your board members danced at Parker United Methodist Church in August. We have some great dancing opportunities for you coming up this fall and winter, and more in spring and summer.

Our first event will be our **Fall Workshop** on November 7 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Denver. This will be an opportunity for us to learn and experience Polynesian sacred dance – something different for a lot of us. You should have received a flyer in the mail, and see the article in this newsletter for more information about the presenters. This year we are encouraging you to join the Sacred Dance Guild on the day of the workshop and attend the workshop free of charge.

Our next event will be **Christmas Carol Dancing** on December 6 at Englewood United Methodist Church. Bring your favorite dances of the holiday season and learn some new ones. See more information on page 3.

### BOARD

- President: Joceile Nordwall 303-789-1145
- Vice President: Christina Bryan 303-279-0859
- Secretary: Carole Sue Frickel 303-424-0067
- Treasurer: Carolyn Lutito 303-433-1110
- Chapter Rep: Judy Rutledge 970-848-2549
- Publicity: Regina Bowman 303-238-5058
- Membership: Lesley Williams 720-859-3321
- Member-At-Large: Ann Blessin 303-377-9114

Our **Spring Sharing** will be on May 1st next year. This is always a wonderful event.

And at the end of next summer, we'll have a **Dancing Retreat** at Highlands Presbyterian Camp near Allenspark, see page 3 and put August 27-29 on your 2010 calendar.

The International Sacred Dance Guild had invited the Rocky Mountain Chapter to host Festival 2010. Some of us had great hopes for doing that! Your board worked hard and long to find a venue that had all the necessary features and was reasonably priced, but in the end we decided that we could not commit to hosting by the August 7 deadline. Maybe we'll get another chance in 2012!

Looking forward to dancing with you,

*Joceile Nordwall*  
[bjnordwall@msn.com](mailto:bjnordwall@msn.com)

We need new Board members with fresh ideas and lots of enthusiasm. Please consider joining us next year. Contact any current Board member to volunteer.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President	1
Get to know your Board	2
Upcoming Fall Workshop	2
Mark Your Calendars!	2
Spring Sharing 2009	3
Chapter Retreat 2010	3
Dancing Christmas Carols	3
Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble	3

## Get to know your Board members

Continuing our tradition of introducing a different Board member in every edition

The Dancer's body is simply the luminous manifestation of the soul. *Isadora Duncan*



### Carolyn Lutito

I am a native of Denver, CO and have lived in the Denver area all my life. Sacred Dance stole my heart in the late 1970's. Although I had no early formal training, I was moved to dance and enrolled in modern dance classes at a studio in northwest Denver owned by Elizabeth Mandeville which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also took some classes at Ballet Denver under the tutelage of the late Reika Love.

During the 1980's, I was privileged to dance with Regina Bowman, Ann Blessin, Cynthia Hilgers, the late Paula Nettleton and many more.

Although other commitments keep me from being as active as I once had been, I have been able to serve on the Board of the Sacred Dance Guild as Treasurer, and also on the Board of the Rocky Mountain Chapter as Vice-President, and presently as Treasurer.

## UPCOMING FALL WORKSHOP

We are proud to present "DANCING THE BREATH OF LIFE" ALOHA on Saturday November 7th featuring Siaosi Talitimu, (Samoan dance), Glenda Bautista (Tahitian dance) and Kainoa Gardon (Hawaiian Hula).

*Siaosi* is the High Chief from Savi'i, Samoa, and takes both his heritage and sacred dancing very seriously. On several occasions I have personally seen him dance the Samoan fire dance. It is spectacular, deeply spiritual, and an important part of his culture and being. When Connie Fisher directed "Befana" in the eighties Siasoi and his Polynesian dancers participated. It was glorious seeing all the beautiful costuming of brightly colored red and yellow feathers, the ti leaves of the Hawaiian skirts swirling as they kept rhythm to the beat of the drums, and the joyful faces of the dancers. Siasoi was one of our main presenters at the Sacred Dance Guild Festival 1988 at Loretto Heights College, and his presentation enriched our Festival greatly.

Father Damien, who saved and gave grace and dignity to the Lepers on Molokai, Hawaii, was canonized by the Pope a few days ago on October 11th. Siasoi's lovely and talented wife Marsh has written a deeply moving tribute to Fr. Damien. It has been translated into Hawaiian and will be performed as part of their presentation to us.

Vui Siasoi founded the Polynesian Fia Fia, a group of dedicated, talented musicians and dancers celebrating the



tropical sights, sounds and dances of Polynesia. Fia Fia means happiness or joy.

*Glenda "Aiwa" Batista* is a professional Polynesian dance instructor who will share her expertise with us. She has studied with many renowned (Halaus) schools across the U.S. She danced professionally for ten years in Ft. Lauderdale before moving to Denver. Glenda choreographed Hula Kahiko (ancient hula) the canticle of Father Damien "A Breath Of Life In Molokai" composed by Marsha Talitimu. Glenda is the founder and director of Kalama Polynesian dancers.

*Kainoa Gardon* hails from Ohua, Hawaii, where she started dancing at a young age. She has performed and choreographed all over the U.S.A. and Canada and studied with some of the great Kumus and master teachers of Polynesian dance. She is an accomplished choreographer, teacher and performer, and dances with the Polynesian Fia Fia.

Randy and Linda Smith are musicians and composers who have written two beautiful songs in honor of Father Damien. These will be sung and danced at the workshop.

We are pleased and privileged to have these talented presenters for our workshop.

We have a tremendous workshop planned for you but we need your attendance and support. It will be exciting, uplifting, spiritual and a learning experience of the Polynesian culture. You will learn a dance you can take to your home church.

So ALOHA and GOD BLESS until I see you November 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions please call me at 303-377-9114.

*Ann Blessin*

## Mark Your Calendars!

When: Saturday, November 9th, 2009

What: **Fall Workshop**

**Dancing the Breath of life "Aloha"**

Where: St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
2201 Dexter St, Denver, CO 80207

Time: Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.  
Program 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A light lunch will be provided

Members \$15 (free if you join on the day)  
Non-members \$25

To Register contact Joceile at  
303-789-1145, [bjnordwall@msn.com](mailto:bjnordwall@msn.com)

When: August 27th & 28th, 2010

What: **Chapter Retreat**

Where: Highlands Presbyterian  
Camp and Retreat Center

Located between Lyons and Estes  
Park, nestled at the foot of Mt.  
Meeker in the Rocky Mountains.

Check the website for details as  
they are finalized.

When: Saturday, May 1st, 2010

What: **Spring Sharing**

To reserve a spot on the pro-  
gram, call Christina Bryan at  
303-359-1878

Location and times have not  
been decided yet. Check the  
website and look for more details  
in the spring newsletter.

Every year, on a Saturday in early May, the sacred dancers of the Rocky Mountain region gather to share their work and affirm and inspire each other.

On May 9, 2009 our Spring Sharing *"Dancing the Sacred Together"*, took place at Englewood United Methodist Church.

From the dancing, singing and drumming of the Native American tradition to dancing a Japanese myth, this Spring Sharing spanned many cultures and traditions. We opened and closed with dance prayers that included all the dancers and audience members.



First Joceile Nordwall taught us the piece, "People of the East, People of the West", reminding us of our

oneness with Nature and the unity of the world's people reverencing the Great Creator.

We experienced classical liturgical dance pieces and beautiful choreography by the Living Grace Dancers in "We Are", in "Agnes Dei" by Ann Blessin, and in "Bring Forth the Kingdom" by Mary Adams and Melanie Frances.

## 2009 SPRING SHARING



Our very young dancer, Isabella Bretillo, gave a joyous and generous performance in "Cradled in the Arms of the Goddess".

Other young dancers joined adults in the evocative and powerful Native American dance with singing, flute and drum.

Evoking strength, grace, praise and joy, in "Bayette" the Redeemer Dancers first spoke, then danced, a piece full of joyous praise for our majestic God.

"The Ancient Assyrian Dance" was dedicated to Linda Lundquist. Through these solemn movements this small dance community suffered grief and honored the one lost.

In closing, Ellen Young, the Membership Director and past president of the International Sacred Dance Guild, led us in a Jewish Dance. Joining hands, this intergenerational group, aged 10 to 65, was so happy dancing we hardly wanted to stop.



Found: A big red boom box, GPW brand, was left at the church after the Sharing. If it's yours, please call Joceile at 303-789-1145.

## ANNOUNCING OUR 2010 CHAPTER RETREAT

The Rocky Mountain Chapter is planning an all-Chapter retreat August 26th to 28th, 2010, and we are looking forward to seeing you all there. It will be held high among the aspens and pines of the majestic Rocky Mountains at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center, a place set apart for the renewal of your spirit, mind and heart.

The 285 acre Center is located at the foot of Mt. Meeker near Allenspark in north west Colorado. The camp offers many possibilities for group retreats. They have standard rooms that hold 4-6 people and suites that accommodate 12 to 16 people in 3 room configurations. The dining room provides breakfast, lunch and dinner all served up with the beautiful view of Mt Meeker. There is plenty of room for dancing and lots of trails for hiking or just spending time alone with the beauty of nature.

We hope you will mark your calendars now. It would be wonderful to have the whole chapter attend. Further information will be coming in 2010.

*Submitted by Judy Rutledge, Chapter Rep.*

## DANCING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

*On Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 p.m., come to Englewood United Methodist Church at 3885 So. Broadway in Englewood for an afternoon of carols, dancing and fellowship. We will dance some carols and learn dances for Hanukkah and Solstice. If you have a special holiday dance to teach or share, bring it along. There will be no charge, but bring a snack to share. Contact Joceile at [bjnordwall@msn.com](mailto:bjnordwall@msn.com) or 303-789-1145 for information, directions, and to register.*

## Zikr - the remembrance of God

The word "remember" is too pale a word for zikr, which has now acquired a large number of associations in our religious literature, especially Sufi literature. In its verbal signification it implies: to remember, to praise by frequently mentioning; to rehearse; to celebrate or commemorate; to make much of; to cherish the memory of as a precious possession. In Sufi devotions, zikr represents both a solemn ritual and a spiritual state of mind or heart, in which the devotee seeks to realize the presence of God. Thus there is zikr of the mind and zikr of the heart. For beginners the one may lead to the other, but in many cases the two may be simultaneous. There is also a subtler distinction, between the zikr that is open,

*(Continued on page 4)*



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

[SDGRockyMountain.org](http://SDGRockyMountain.org)

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***The Sacred Dance Guild  
promotes sacred dance as  
prayer, and as a means of  
spiritual growth, connection to  
the Divine, and integration of  
mind, body, and spirit.***

### MEMBERSHIP

Ellen Roberts Young, Membership Director for the  
International Sacred Dance Guild  
505-532-9239  
[mem@sacreddanceguild.org](mailto:mem@sacreddanceguild.org)

Lifetime Membership — \$1,000.00

Annual Memberships:

Individual — one year \$50.00 / two years \$80.00

Regular Group Membership — \$90.00 (max 4 people)

Student (full time with ID) — \$25.00

Senior— \$35.00

Lesley Williams, Membership Director for the  
Rocky Mountain Chapter  
720-859-3321  
[info@SDGRockyMountain.org](mailto:info@SDGRockyMountain.org)

There is no separate local membership and you don't have to be a National member to be on our mailing list. Please let us know about changes of address, telephone numbers, email address etc. or if you are reading someone else's copy and would like to get your own. Email us if you want to be removed from our mailing list, or if you would prefer to read the newsletters on the website.

We don't share our mailing list with anyone!

(Continued from page 3)

and the zikr that is secret, corresponding to the two doors of the heart, the fleshly and the spiritual.

The **Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble** offers a spectrum of works that are based on transcendent dance rituals from many different ancient world cultures along with original and contemporary dance/theatre realizations. The Ensemble's varied and unique repertoire ranges from Gurdjieff sacred movements, including a two thousand year old Assyrian Women's Mourning Dance, to hypnotic interpolations of the Sufi Mevlevi Whirling Dervishes and the Balinese Sang Hyang Dedari trance dance. Combined with the theatrical and ritualistic contemporary choreography of Artistic Director David Taylor, the **Zikr Sacred Dance Ensemble** offers stunning performance experiences of spiritual atonement for both audiences and participants alike. The breathtaking choreography and music is complemented by mesmerizing visual projections and an educational narrative provided by Mr. Taylor, completing an evening of mystery, rite and revelation.

**Sunday, November 1, 7:00 pm**

Thunder River Theatre

Carbondale, CO

All Tickets \$20

Reservations: 970-963-8681

**Friday, November 6, 8:00 pm**

Dairy Center for the Arts East Theatre

2590 Walnut St, Boulder

All Tickets \$15

Reservations: 303-444-7328

[www.thedairy.org](http://www.thedairy.org)

