



 Spring 2018

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## Young Dancers Shine in Competition

**T**hey cheered. They hugged.  
They danced.

The Denver Ballet Guild's Young Dancers Competition brought 250 dancers from throughout Colorado together at the Pinnacle Charter School in Federal Heights for the weekend-long event.

The dance students, ages 10-18, worked with **Master Teacher Ilya Kozadayev**, an internationally award-winning dancer and choreographer, whose performance career includes the Colorado, Boston, Pittsburgh and Houston ballet companies. He currently is a faculty member at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

"The dancers were as talented, energetic and eager as ever," says Monica Hill, who has been the YDC's artistic director for the last 19 years and works with the students during the event.

**The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company** treated the dancers with a special performance of FREE? with choreography by Dr. Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris.



The Guild awarded more than \$27,500 to YDC finalists to further their dance education

**Alexandra Gray**, 16, a student at Valor Christian High School, placed first in category IV, and also won both the prestigious Florence Ruston Medallion for Overall Excellence and the President's Award.

"I was so surprised," Alexandra says. "When I performed, I just decided to go out and enjoy my dance and it felt really good."

Other award winners included **Maya Lukasik** (David Parvin Award) and **Nicole Moyer** (Emily's Inspiration Award). **Isaac Mueller** won first place in category V; **Tate Ryner** won first in category V junior; **Lauren Vogel** won first for category III; and **Maya Lukasik** won first for category II.



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## Quote

“All these great programs wouldn't happen without our amazing volunteers, who dedicate many hours of their time to support the DBG.”

Marlo Wagner—DBG President

## Mission

The mission of the Denver Ballet Guild shall be to stimulate interest in ballet and other forms of dance; to promote dance at all levels; to conduct dance education; to develop audiences; to conduct fundraising activities to support and promote dance and to disburse funds for such purposes.

## A Letter from Our President

Marlo Wagner

As our temperature grows warmer and spring flowers bloom, I'd like to recognize all the hard work and dedication our volunteers put into our Denver Ballet Guild programs. It's still early in the year, but we've already experienced a number of accomplishments.

It's the 36th year of our **Young Dancers Competition** and our talented Colorado Ballet students, ages 10-18 competed, performed and experienced a master class with **Ilya Kozadayev**, an international award-winning dancer and choreographer. The Guild awarded more than \$27,500 to finalists to further their dance education. We also introduced a new award this year, in honor of **Emily Redosh**, a former YDC dancer, who died unexpectedly last

year. You can read more about her life and dedication to dance below.

The **50th anniversary of Le Bal de Ballet** will be June 9 and we eagerly anticipate the presentation of our 32 Debutantes and 21 Young Men of Distinction at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, followed by dinner and dancing at the Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel. Even if you don't have an honoree, we encourage you to attend this wonderful event. Contact **Kari Stewart**, karistewart@hotmail.com, 720-934-9413, for more information.

The **Les Cygnettes** and **Les Demoiselles** are wrapping up another great year. This year, we've seen the Colorado Ballet's performance of **Romeo and Juliet**, as well as theater productions of **The King and I** and **Aladdin**, later

this month. The **Les Demoiselles** fashion show will be 2 p.m., Sunday, April 8, at Hodson's Bar and Grill in Centennial.

Fashions from Apricot Lane, Belezza Boutique and Susan Loves William will be featured.

All these great programs wouldn't happen without our amazing volunteers, who dedicate many hours of their time to support the DBG. **Want to get involved?** We'd love to have you. If you'd like to join our great group of women, please contact me. **Marlo Wagner**, marlowagner@q.com.

I look forward to more great events in the weeks and months ahead. Thanks for all you do for the Denver Ballet Guild!

Marlo



## DBG Honors Dancer in Memory of Emily Redosh

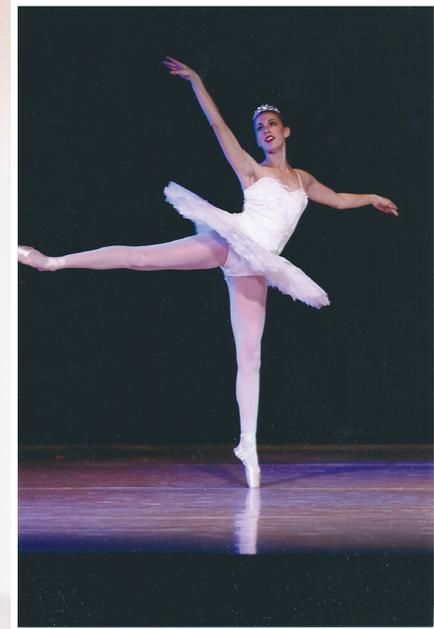
Congratulations to Young Dancers Competition participant **Nicole Moyer**, who won the first Emily's Inspiration award. The \$400 award, established this year in memory of dancer Emily Redosh, recognizes a dancer who demonstrates a special passion for dance and performs with exceptional emotional commitment.

**Emily Redosh** was born in Philadelphia in November 1989. She moved to Denver with her parents when she was a toddler. Although her parents tried to instill in her a love of the outdoors, Emily's real passion, from a very early age, was dance. Emily danced at the Academy of Classical Ballet in Lakewood, training from age seven until she left for college. Over the years, she danced nearly every part in the Nutcracker, earning the role of Clara when she was 15, and later danced as the Sugarplum Fairy. She was the first at the Academy of Classical Ballet to

perform both Odette and Odile in Swan Lake, among other parts big and small.

Emily attended Lakewood High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona. While at U. of A., she traded her pointe shoes for ballroom heels and won numerous medals for the school's ballroom team at competitions around the country. When she returned to Colorado after graduation in 2012, she balanced work at Colorado Physicians Health Program with her love of ballet and ballroom dance, along with a busy social schedule.

Emily, who was diagnosed with epilepsy at age seven, passed away suddenly on December 2, 2017 from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy "SUDEP." She rarely spoke of her ailment, as she was determined that it wouldn't define her. Upon her death, her family asked that contributions be



made in her memory to the Denver Ballet Guild, as she had competed many years in the Young Dancers competition. We are honored to present this award in Emily's name.



We'd like to thank our Master Teacher **Ilya Kozadayev**, and our international award-winning dancer and choreographer, and our visiting judges **Pascale Leroy** (Pascale Leroy Ballet Center, San Francisco); **Carla Stallings Lippert** (California Arts Academy, Fresno, CA); **Claudio Munoz** (Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy); and accompanist **Ritsuko (Micky) Kubo** (San

Francisco Ballet). Thank you to **Cleo Parker Robinson Dance** for their special performance.

The Denver Ballet Guild would also like to thank the following for helping make the **Young Dancers Competition** a success: **Michelle Hamel** (warm-up classes), **Rob Harris** (technical expertise), **David Andrews Photography** (videography services), **Kathy Wells** (photographer); **Dan Miller**, Signal Graphics Creative Marketing and Printing Services; **Littleton Ballet Academy**, **Colorado Ballet**, **Marilyn Talbert Designs**, **Marjorie Felsberg**, **Inspirational Travel**, **Lou Miller**, principal, **MPACT Design and Promotion**, **Lehrer's Flowers** and **Valor Christian High School** graphic design students for creating the program. We apologize if we've inadvertently left anyone off the list.

We'd also like to thank the YDC committee and volunteers, who worked

so hard to make this event happen. We give special thanks to **Monica Hill**, who has been the YDC's artistic director for the last 19 years.

Finally, we'd like to thank YDC co-chairs **Kathy Konopka** and **Lisa York** and other committee members: **Monica Hill**, **Pam Gatz**, **Pamela Adams**, **Elise Ford**, **Donna Rodden**, **Edie Bell**, **Tricia Armstrong**, **Nancy McCurdy**, **Pam Piro**, **Susan Tracy**, **Colleen McKinley**, **Marlo Wagner**, **Gail Kassin**, **Denise Nalen**, **Jean Armstrong**, **Rosemary Jonassen**, **Virginia Danna**, **Rosemary Cleary-Hague**, **Helene Schmidt**, **Claire O'Neal** and **Hilary Morland**.



## Showcase of Dance

Thank you to the dance companies participating in Showcase of Dance 2017: Ballet Ariel, Celtic Steps, Dancing Across Cultures, Wonderbound, Kim Robards, Colorado Ballet, Mudra, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Boulder Ballet, and

Hannah Kahn. You helped the Denver Ballet Guild to bring the joy of dance to 6,000 grade school children through a fun and educational live theatre experience.



## 50 Years of Le Bal de Ballet

Le Bal de Ballet turns 50 this year! Let's look back at Le Bal 1969:

- **June 28, 1969** – 6:30 p.m. Get acquainted pool party. Swimming in the new Kent Village pool and supper under the stars for honorees, their escorts and their parents. Entertainment by folksingers.
- **June 29, 1969** – 7 p.m. The Denver Club. Gourmet dinner and dancing to the music of Morton Mann. A dress-up party for honorees, escorts, parents and family.
- **June 30, 1969** – 10 a.m. Rehearsal Brunch, Cherry Hills Country Club. Following rehearsal, lunch will be served on the veranda for honorees, escorts and fathers.
- **June 30, 1969** – 9 p.m. Cherry Hills Country Club. Presentation of the honorees with the Honorable John A. Love, Governor of Colorado. Dancing to the music of the Action Brass and Bob Capelli's orchestra under the direction of Gordon Close. Midnight supper.



- **Number of debutantes:** 26.
- **Honorees' Fees:** \$200 each.
- **Chairman:** Mrs. W.S. Bing Law; Co-Chairman: Mrs. Douglas W. Macomber; Honorary Chairman: Miss Eleanore Weckbaugh
- **Menu Budget:** \$7,500 – 600 people at \$12.50 each.

## A Family Celebrates Decades of Le Bal de Ballet



Stacey Crouch McDonald with her father, Bill Crouch, in 1986

For Stacey McDonald, and her daughter, Molly, Le Bal de Ballet is a family tradition.

Stacey was a debutante in 1986 and Molly will be presented at this year's 50th anniversary of Le Bal de Ballet in June. Molly's brothers, Jackson and Charlie, were Young Men of Distinction as well her uncle and cousins. All told, nine members of the McDonald family have been Debutantes or Young Men of Distinction in the last 30 years.

"It was like a big party and my whole family was there," says Stacy,

remembering the 1986 Le Bal, which had *Sleeping Beauty* as its theme. "I remember being nervous – we were presented around the pool at Cherry Hills country club. I even remember taking curtsy lessons."

Stacey's dad, Bill Crouch, who owned a number of car dealerships was game to join in. The pair had their picture in the paper of Stacey adjusting her dad's bow tie.

"My dad was bigger than life – he was a car dealer and loved to party," Stacey says. "He loved the whole scene and spending time with me."

Stacey still has a snapshot of her with her dad from that day on her dresser.

"It's my favorite picture with my dad," she says. "It's even better than a wedding picture."

In the 30 years since Stacey has been a Debutante, the dresses have changed (no more puffy sleeves!), but the parties aren't so different. Stacey remembers a western-themed party, ice skating and the fun friendships she made.



Molly McDonald, 2018 Debutante

Molly, a senior at Valor Christian High School, has also enjoyed being a Debutante.

"The best part has been the parties – meeting new people and catching up with old friends too," says Molly, adding that she's looking forward to spending time with her dad, Jim, during the big event in June.

"I'm looking forward to being up on stage – and then dancing with him," she says. "It's been special to continue our tradition."

## Les Demoiselles Fashion Show

Join us for the always popular Les Demoiselles fashion show, 2 p.m., Sunday, April 8 at Hodson's Bar & Grill, 6851 S. Gaylord St. in Centennial. Tickets are \$35 per person, and \$25

for Les Demoiselles and Les Cygnettes. Mocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The mother-daughter event honors the 2018 seniors and will feature fashions from Apricot

Lane, Bellezza Boutique and Susan Loves William. Register online at [denverballetguild.org](http://denverballetguild.org). Please bring new children's-sized socks and gently used shoes to benefit Clothes to Kids.

## Les Cygs and Les Dems Have a Great Year

The Les Cygnettes and Les Demoiselles are wrapping up another successful season of ballet and theater. This year, they've seen the Colorado Ballet's performance of **Romeo and Juliet**, as well as the musical, **The King and I**. The group also will see **Aladdin** this year.



### Find Us on Social Media to Learn More About Us

If you're a fan of Facebook, check out the Denver Ballet Guild. For more detailed information on the Guild, take a look at our website, [denverballetguild.org](http://denverballetguild.org).

**TWEET TWEET!** A little bird told me we can be found on Twitter too! @DenBalletGuild



# Le Bal Parties!

Debutantes and Young Men of Distinction enjoyed a number of events during their busy year, including a mother/daughter luncheon at the Brown Palace, father/son event at Elways, Broomball and the Neiman Marcus fashion show.



# A Toast to Madams & Martinis

A special thank you to Pamela Adams, who opens her historic Denver home each February to celebrate Madams & Martinis, an event that raises money for Denver Ballet Guild programs. And thanks to her hard-working committee, who helped her organize this great event.



## More YDC Moments



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## Save the Date!

### Spring Luncheon Features Hannah Kahn

The Denver Ballet Guild will host the Hannah Kahn Dance Company at the spring luncheon, **11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 26, at the Columbine Country Club, 17 Fairway Lane, Littleton.** The performance will be at 11:30 a.m. Enjoy dance, friends, good food and a beautiful, newly-renovated space at Columbine Country Club.

Master teacher Hannah Kahn founded the company in New York and directed it there for 12 years before moving to Colorado in 1988. The company's activities include performances, participation in festivals and educational outreach, including the DBG's Showcase for Dance.

The company will incorporate original guitar music created by Denver musician Zach Heckendorf. Learn more about the company, which has received a DBG community enrichment grant, at [hannahkahndance.org](http://hannahkahndance.org).

To attend the luncheon, please send a check for \$60 made out to:

**Denver Ballet Guild  
c/o Missy Stolberg  
2112 E. 4th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80206  
by April 20**

Or sign up online at  
[denverballetguild.org](http://denverballetguild.org)

### We Need Le Bal de Ballet Memorabilia!

It's the 50th anniversary of Le Bal de Ballet this June and we're putting together a special display to remember the past years.

If you have fun memorabilia from your or your child's year that you'd like to share, please contact Le Bal Chair **Kari Stewart, [karistewart@hotmail.com](mailto:karistewart@hotmail.com), 720-934-9413.**

Would you like to attend Le Bal de Ballet 2018? Please contact **Christian Reid, [c-reid@comcast.net](mailto:c-reid@comcast.net), 720-272-4440**, if you'd like an invitation.

Thank you!

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Photography, Kathy Wells

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