

SCOTDANCE USA

# Alumni Connections



## Alumni Connections Committee

We want to hear from you!

Do you have email addresses of friends who were dancers who should be added to our Connections list?

Send their name and email to your regional rep or [USASHDALumni@gmail.com](mailto:USASHDALumni@gmail.com)

## Alumni Connections Committee- Updated!

We are the ScotDance USA committee charged with keeping dancers of all ages connected. The current committee chairs, Sandra Weyman and Kathy Eisel, appreciate the contributions and efforts of previous chairs to start this committee and get it on its way. The alumni committee wants to refresh their work in an effort to connect with more people especially with past dancers and teachers who may no longer be involved. The members agreed to rename the committee the Alumni Connections Committee with the key word being *connections*. The current committee just started meeting this past September. Our group is focused on finding ways to connect former dancers as well as current dancers and teachers. Our plans include reaching out through social media, newsletters sent via email and an Alumni connection web page under the umbrella of the ScotDance USA website.

By connecting past and present dancers, we may also come together with other interests besides dancing. For example, we may find that we have dancers who like to knit, enjoy cooking/baking or are proficient in another style of dance. We may find out who is a new mom or dad? Who is a new grandparent? New pet parent? Find old friends? We can also connect with each other by having similar careers such as education, medicine or public service. Watch for future plans on how we will create ways for you to connect or reconnect. These connections may allow past dancers and teachers to help in mentoring current dancers as they consider career and college decisions.

The members are very excited about the direction of our committee. We encourage you to reach out to any of the committee members if you have any comments or suggestions.

## Tis the season...for babies!

It didn't take long for our committee to realize that four of our members have given birth recently! It's made for some adorable Zoom meetings.



Top row left to right: Harrison James, 7/11/2018 (Allie Gibson Murad), Eleanor Ann, 4/11/2020 (Hilary Heiney) Bottom row left to right: Cambria Humphrys, 6/15/2020 (Cassandra Humphrys), Layla Marie, 7/16/2020 (Kelly Borjian)

## Honoring one of our own

Special shout out to committee member Madhuri Vasudevan and her work as a medical doctor treating our veterans in the Houston VA hospital.



## Holiday Greetings 2020 from ScotDance USA President- Fred DeMarse

During this time of the year, many of us are focused on celebrating the Holiday Season with family and friends and reflecting on this year's events as 2020 draws to a close. Even though this year has been very different, including many challenges and sacrifices for all of us, I hope everyone is able to find joy and peace.

On behalf of the ScotDance USA Board of Directors, I wish everyone a safe Holiday Season. I hope everyone can celebrate safely with family and friends. Please remember to follow the public health and safety guidelines in your local area. It is very important for all of us to follow the guidelines for wearing masks, maintaining proper physical distancing, and avoiding unnecessary travel and congregating. We want everyone to be safe.

There is light at the end of the tunnel with the recent announcement that a vaccine is ready. However, we must remain vigilant for the next months until the vaccine is distributed and the virus is under control. This is not the time to let up! Please continue to follow the public health guidelines and we will soon be able to get back to the Highland dance events and activities we all love.

All the best to you and your families.

Fred

## COVID UPDATE

The committee asked Allie Murad Gibson to share her expertise of the Covid situation with us.

Allie has been involved in the Highland Dance community since 1998, first as a dancer and now as a teacher. She went to Alma College, graduating in 2009 with a degree in Exercise and Health Science. She then attended the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine to pursue her Master's degree in Public Health, with an emphasis in Epidemiology. Allie worked for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) from 2011-2020 first as the National Healthcare Safety Network Coordinator/Epidemiologist, with work focusing on healthcare-associated infections and other infectious diseases. She transitioned to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Coordinator/Epidemiologist, and conducted a statewide survey on chronic diseases. Additionally, Allie was trained in after-hours on-call work, in which she dealt with public health emergencies outside of business hours and took on additional roles in the event of various emergencies and outbreaks.

To read her full COVID update, click [here](#).

## YOUR COMMITTEE

USASHDAlumni@gmail.com

### Co-Chairs:

Sandra Weyman (East) (slwstrathspey@gmail.com)

Kathy Eisel (West) (kathyeisel@earthlink.net)

### East:

Megan Stangl (mstangl03@gmail.com)

Cat Hanks (Catherine.e.hanks@gmail.com)

### Southeast:

Amy Mooney (danceramy@aol.com)

Megan Grant (inverted1st@gmail.com)

### Midwest:

Allie Gibson Murad (Allison.gibson5@gmail.com)

Kristy Van Hoven (kvanhoven04@gmail.com)

### Southwest:

Madhuri Vasudevan (madhurivasudevan@gmail.com)

### Northwest:

Hilary McKinney Heiney (hilarymheiney@gmail.com)

Cassandra Humphrys (highlandddancer@yahoo.com)

### West:

Kay Hamilton (KayHamiltonDances@sbcglobal.net)

Kelly Glynn Borjian (kellyborjian@gmail.com)