

Denise Baker



Denise is the owner, and teacher of ballet, jazz, tap and acrobatics at the Baker School of Dance, Glenville studio (28 yrs); Certified Teacher of Tai Chi with Capital District T.C.; Instructor of T.C. for Glenville YMCA including Charlton & Glenville Senior Ctrs; Dance Arts Teacher for Grace Arts Institute, Portland, OR summer 2010 & 11; Choreographs Weddings; Workshops for Daisy Scout Troops; and Ballroom sessions for teens/adults. Past Teacher Dance Enrichment Program Brown School (14 yrs); Choreographer St. Lucia National Youth Choir, West Indies; Instructor Spirit, Mind Body Retreat at Camp Chingachgook 2009 & 10; Director of Dance for the Empire State Institute of Performing Arts at the Egg in Albany, NY (5 yrs); Dance & Tai Chi Instructor for Le Sport and Coco Palm Resorts, Caribbean. Choreography includes over 20 musicals such as "Hello Dolly", "Guys & Dolls", "Music Man", "Oklahoma", "My Fair Lady", "Sweet Charity", etc for Schenectady Light Opera Co.; Lake George theater & local high schools. 3rd in Miss Dance of America; 1st in Western NYS trampoline. A graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Psychology, she developed grants and worked in Human Services for 10 years. She has provided scholarship dance to those with financial need for her entire teaching career (25 students in 2010/2011).

Kyle Henzler



Kyle began her dancing career at 2, was an assistant for many years and now is a teacher/Choreographer and set designer. Kyle has received her Level I and Level II Teacher Certification with Top Honors in Ballet, Jazz, Tap Acrobatics and Modern dance through Dance Educators of America. She is a member of DEA. She teaches at the Glenville Studio and directs the satellite dance programs at both the Schenectady Jewish Community Center and Albany Jewish Community Center. Kyle runs the Baker Performance Group which has performed all over the Capital District including Times Union Center and Valley Cats minor league baseball Game. In 2010, Kyle brought 7 Baker dancers to NYC for a Tremaine Dance Convention where she and the student's studied with Master teachers in Lyrical, Contemporary and Hip-Hop to name a few. Kyle was a gold and silver medal winner at SUNYAC's in college swimming for long distance freestyle .

Irma Baker



Irma was honored by the Dance Masters of America with 50 year Membership Award in 1997. She has served as Secretary, Vice President, and President of dance Masters of America Chapter #8, Board of directors of DMA #26 as Membership Examining Staff. She had her 1st dance recital July 1935, Eastern Star Hall, in Albany. A professional dancer/teacher, Irma owned dance studios in Albany, Marathon, Auburn, Red Creek, Camillus, Seneca Falls, Clifton Park, and currently in Scotia. Her students have been Tony Award winners, Rockettes, Broadway Dancers and Dance Studio Directors. In April 2007, Rochester Institute of Technology honored Irma for outstanding dedication to students, nominated by her 14 year student Kate Page. Maryville College (Maryville, TN) cited Irma Souder Baker, class of 1939, as an "ICON" in their Focus Magazine for her lifetime career in dance (summer 2006). In May 2007, Irma received a citation from New York State, sponsored by Senator Farley.

Tara Coppola



Tara Coppola teaches the Adult Beginning Tap class and has also enjoyed teaching Jazz and Hip Hop Summer Dance camps. "I feel honored to be a part of the school as it is the cornerstone of where my dancing began. I love the art and beauty of dance which brings so much joy into my heart. I hope to be a part of helping other dancers find the same joy". Tara started dancing jazz, tap and ballet with Denise in 1986 at age 14. She continued through College taking modern dance, jazz and ballet as elective courses. Completing a degree in nursing, she holds a position of Registered Nurse in a Physician's office. Tara's love of dance and music has afforded her the opportunity to participate in the Adult tap classes as well as the music ensembles at Recitals. Tara lives in Scotia with her husband Tom and their son. Tara is looking forward to a great dancing season.

Joanne McFadden



Joanne McFadden has the privilege of working with our studio's youngest dancers. "It is one of the great joys in my life to introduce our preschoolers and kindergarteners to the art of dance and watch them learn new ways to express themselves through movement," Joanne said. Joanne grew up in California where she studied Irish dancing, tap, jazz, and ballet. At Goucher College in Baltimore where she majored in Russian and International Relations, Joanne studied ballet and modern dance. She has been dancing and teaching with the Denise Baker School of Dance since 1996 when she and her family moved to the Capital District. Joanne also works as a freelance journalist and has a Masters Degree in Consciousness Studies.

Dawn McCarthy



Dawn McCarthy started dancing when she was 4 years old. She took tap, jazz, and ballet. Throughout her teen and young adult years, she focused on ballet. She holds an Associates Degree in Education from the Sage Colleges and is currently a Teacher's Assistant with the Scotia-Glenville School District. Dawn takes an adult tap class at the Baker Studio. She loves that dance is a part of her life. Dawn teaches a preschool combination class at the studio in Glenville and especially loves teaching the young ones because it brings them joy. She believes dance is a skill that they can hold on to for a life time!

Andrea Leahy



Andrea Leahy has been teaching fitness classes since 1990 and has certifications in AFAA (Aerobics and Fitness Association of America) Group Exercise, AFAA Group Cycling, Zumba, Zumba Gold and Aqua Zumba. Andrea has taught classes as a guest instructor at Camp Chingachgook on Lake George and at resorts in Mexico and Jamaica. Andrea joined the Baker School of Dance as a tap student in September, 2004 and added jazz and ballet classes in 2008.

Zumba is an energetic dance fitness program that was originated in Miami in 2001. Zumba uses world rhythms and especially Latin music to get your heart pumping as your body moves to the music. We use all the muscles in the body, but great emphasis on the ones that make you SMILE!!!

Andrea teaches Zumba on Mondays at 1pm (11 am during the summer--see website for details); she will also be offering dance and Zumba summer workshops at the studio and substitutes teaches at the Baker Dance Studio.