

President's Message

CTFD extends far beyond the fundamentals. Check us out.

By Cynthia Fischer

While our scholarship and career counseling programs are fundamental to a successful transition, CTFD provides so much more! Starting with our offices: chosen for easy and safe access, our New York office is in the heart of Times Square and our LA office is in the AFTRA building that houses the performing arts unions on Wilshire Blvd. There are extensive resource libraries, video viewing of past Career Conversations, information on events, programs and opportunities at CTFD and elsewhere.



Cynthia Fischer
CTFD Board President

Career Conversations

These in-depth presentations and discussion sessions with a panel of experts cover life skills, employment choices and guidance for the practical and emotional challenges facing dancers in transition. Just in the last year, typical programs covered included financial management, legal issues, health insurance and the basics on starting your own business. Video tapes of all Career Conversations are available for viewing at the New York and Los Angeles offices.

Focus Groups

Over the years, support and focus groups have developed in response to our dancers' particular needs and interests. Focus Groups are six week career counseling programs with weekly meetings for up to six dancers where a CTFD career counselor facilitates discussion of career exploration, financial management and job search experiences. Dancers exchange both information and support. The Dancers Managing Change Support Group meets monthly to help dancers process the emotional side of transition. The Business Group provides practical business advice

and mentoring by dancer entrepreneurs and outside volunteer business people. The Diamond Group, formed by a group of mature dancers, addresses their particular needs and points of view.

Networking Directory

The National Networking Directory is a brilliantly conceived resource, listing volunteer dancer clients by their educational institution and by career. Thus, any dancer seeking advice on a particular educational institution or exploring a possible career can speak directly and be mentored by a CTFD client who has "been there and done that!" 350 of CTFD's dancer-clients have volunteered to be listed in order to supply information or even mentor other dancers.

Take care and best wishes for a happy new year.

Board Profile

Anka K. Palitz is a name virtually synonymous with the New York Dance community.

Anka K. Palitz is an arts patron who has served for many years on the boards of American Ballet Theatre and Career Transition For Dancers. Her wealth of knowledge of the dance world is immeasurable, and her philanthropy is boundless. Exposed



Anka K. Palitz

to dance at an early age, Anka shares an innate fondness for the art, and she shares this fondness with all of the dancers she serves. Her efforts to satisfy the needs of the dance community illustrate the tremendous amount of respect, admiration and devotion she possesses for these dancers. Walking through her elegant Fifth Avenue apartment overlooking Central Park, one can find several awards she has received placed carefully around her home — pieces of evidence which indicate that her feelings

of love and admiration for these dancers are more than reciprocated.

Anka's involvement within the dance community has been recognized and commemorated by numerous dance organizations, foundations and non-profits. One particular award she received, the Lucia Chase Award from American Ballet Theatre, encompasses this mutual respect and loyalty. In her acceptance speech, Anka spoke about her love for dance. Echoing the words of Ted Shawn, a pioneer of modern dance in America: "I believe that dance is the oldest, noblest and most cogent of the arts. I believe that dance is the most perfect symbol of the activity of God and his angels. I believe that dance is the universal language and as such has the power to promote one world." These words reflect her testament on the world of dance, and represent what CTFD communicates.

The notion of using dance to "promote one world" was celebrated in CTFD's most recent gala, "ONE WORLD: A Spectacular Global Celebration" which Anka chaired this year. Anka has been involved with the CTFD gala since its beginning at the invitation of her beloved friend, and CTFD benefactor, the late Caroline Newhouse, when it was first held at the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College in 1994. She described this recent gala as a showcase on the "evolution of dance." As a natural expression of the body, "dance is a spiritual and very human aspect... the body of the dance is fused with the music... they're connected. It's a very happy form of expression." Regarding the CTFD gala itself Anka says enthusiastically: "Thanks to the dedicated hard work of all of our gala chairs it has grown and grown... leaving people dumbstruck... every year is the best!" Her enthusiasm derives from her understanding of how much work is put into the organization's gala each year.

This year, as 21st Anniversary Chair, Anka worked with fellow chairs, Patricia Kennedy, Denise Cobb, Yolanda Santos Garza, Janice Becker, Ann Van Ness, Roberta Silbert Greene and David Goldring to help create one of our most successful galas ever, raising over \$1.1 million. Anka knows much of this year's success is due to the tremendous efforts of the gala chairs as well as the gala producers, Ann Marie DeAngelo and Alexander Dubé: "the reason why this year's gala was so successful was because there were more people



Dance China NY

Photo: Richard Termine

Lorena Feijoo

Photo: Richard Termine

Drum Café NY

Photo: Richard Termine