



Decades of Dedication

If it were at all proper for a grown woman to declare that she has a favorite animal, Nancy MacMillan (pictured above) would most definitely claim her love for the giraffe. Friends and family know this, and over the years small giraffe statuettes have slowly moved into the living room. There are perhaps some giraffe napkin rings in the kitchen. Nothing ridiculous, but giraffes subtly inhabit her home.

Her love is very much about their grace and sophistication, how they rise above us, munching on the highest branch, looking down from above. The giraffe's incomparable beauty comes in its perfect posture, long neck, strength, and large, sparkling eyes. Not that dancers are giraffes, but Nancy's love of dance seems a natural extension – there is a similar beauty and grace, an ability to soar, lean, muscular limbs, and an utterly elegant sportiness.

For more than 30 years, Nancy has been both an adoring audience member and volunteer in the world of dance. She has worked with the American Repertory Ballet since 1980, serving as Chair of the Board and Treasurer. With Master's degrees in Finance and Economics, Nancy brings to organizations an awareness of some of the hard financial realities associated with sustaining non-profits.

She has been publisher of Princeton Alumni Magazine for the last 21 years, a volunteer at Princeton Medical Center, and on the board at the Institute for Advanced Study.

So her aesthetic love for ballet is only part of the story and perhaps the smaller part. For Nancy, dance is also about an intense work ethic and enviable level of discipline, about athleticism, passion, commitment to a craft. With her love for dance, business savvy, and appreciation for difficult adjustments to shifting opportunities, Nancy became involved with Career Transition For Dancers, where, since 2004, she has served on the Board of Directors and the Executive, Finance, and Fundraising/Development committees. Nancy knows that there are incredible opportunities out there, but change often requires a community to help facilitate inevitable transitions.

So the living room has a few giraffes, even some Nutcrackers and photos of Fred Astaire, but more, it has a woman who recognizes that the kind of grace, commitment and discipline found in dancers can translate smoothly into a new phase of life, especially with support from organizations like Career Transition For Dancers.