

To: The Lebanon Daily News

Women In Lebanon County History

A series of articles about women past and present who have had an impact on local history submitted as a public service by the Lebanon County Commission for Women in observance of March as Women In History Month.

Judy Williams Henry

Judy Williams Henry has inspired young people to dance since 1970, taking her students to perform and study different cultures around the world.

Judy was born in 1948 in Boston, MA, blessed with a family that taught her “if you grew up knowing that in life if you tried your best and held you head up high, there wasn’t anything you couldn’t do.”

In 1970, Judy was graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Fine Arts – Choreography/Pedagogy and Dance/Drama – degree. She had the privilege of studying with Madame Fromin, Jackque D’Amboise, Muriel Stuart, Dubrovskaja, George Blanching and Gertrude Tyler at the New York City Ballet.

In 1971, Judy founded and directed The Movement Laboratory in Boston where it thrived until 1979. A part of the Boston Public School’s Performing Arts School, Judy developed and implemented an accredited curriculum in dance for high school students. She also operated The Model Magnet School for the Performing Arts program with Brandeis University at English High School while she was headmaster there.

She served as a participant in the creation of certification guidelines for Artist as Pedagogue in the Boston Public Schools with the Massachusetts State Board of Education Certification Committee and as a dance panelist on the Massachusetts State Arts Administration. She earned a Massachusetts Principal’s Certificate and Elementary and Secondary Education credentials. In 1978, she received her Master of Science in Education – Management/Education Administration – from Wheelock College in Boston.

Judy created and implemented Project Kids in the 1970s in Boston that provided disadvantaged children in Boston’s South End the opportunity to receive ballet and modern dance lessons for a quarter.

More

Take 2 Judy Williams Henry

In 1979, Judy married Doug Henry, relocated to Lebanon County, and established the Movement Laboratory's new home in Central Pennsylvania. The educational dance institute now is located in Lebanon.

Judy is dedicated to providing the best of dance instruction and appreciation along with the opportunity for performance locally, nationally and internationally. She has taken her students on tour to Hungary, Austria, Russia, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. Her students also have performed at the United Nations in New York.

Since taking up residence in the Lebanon Valley, Judy has served as an adjunct faculty member of the Fine and Performing Arts Department of Elizabethtown and Lebanon Valley colleges and developed dance curriculum for elementary and middle school programs of the Lancaster Country Day School, Linden Hall and the Lebanon School District.

Judy also has served as a Guest Master Teacher in Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Russia as well as at many educational and artistic institutions throughout the Northeastern United States. She has accepted invitations to be an artist-in-residence at many educational institutions on the East Coast.

A versatile artist, Judy has several theatre roles to her credit and has choreographed numerous musical stage productions in Boston, Mt. Gretna, Harrisburg, Lancaster and Hershey. She is credited with more than 20 stage productions for performance companies throughout the Northeast. She directed the Holiday Ice Ballet in Lake Placid that opened the 1998 Olympic trials.

Judy is the recipient of a number awards including The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Special Service Award presented by Gov. Richard Thornburgh for her work as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Committee for the International Year of the Child commissioned by the United Nations in 1980. She led a 26-member committee to study and create dialogue concerning the needs of children.

Judy's work is enriching the lives of innumerable young people not just here in the Lebanon Valley but throughout the country and the world. We truly are blessed to have such a dedicated and talented artist/educator amongst us.

- Joyce A. Dissinger
Secretary
Lebanon County Commission for Women

