



Information

Barre Belle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed to expose and provide universal access to the art of dance by way of local community centers and schools.

Barre Belle is a portable dance studio for elementary students to introduce ballet fundamentals. Classes are geared towards those with little to no previous ballet or dance training. Students will have an opportunity to learn, perform and attend a professional dance performance to reinforce what is learned during their session.

Our aim is for students to achieve an increased level of self-awareness, self-esteem and encourage movement through the art of dance whether it is ballet or any other form.

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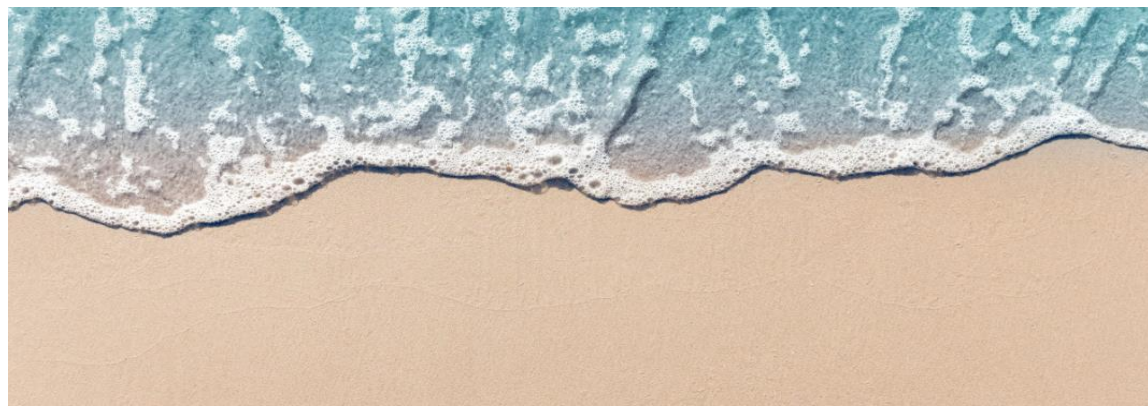
Fundraising Chair

Melissa Wentz

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BARRE BELLE newsletter

Issue 3, Volume I

Summer 2021

What's inside this edition?

• A Letter from the President	02
• Balancing Change and Serving the Community	03
• Our Community Engagement is Expanding	03
• Meet Community Outreach Co-Chair, Ashley Jones	04
• Fundraising Success	04
• Barre Belle in the News	05

Meet & Greet Registration



17 JULY 2021

933 LOUISE AVE #101 CHARLOTTE, NC 28204

A Letter from the President

Juanita Pipkin



2020 is a year that we will never forget. The world experienced a new normal of safer at home, **social distancing** and face masks. We searched for hand sanitizer and toilet paper and many of us learn to bake sourdough bread. Schools went to remote learning and students missed the **daily interactions** of peers and teachers. There was anxiety and concern for the future. These fears were also experienced by the students as adults tried to understand the situation and provide a **safe environment** for all.

Despite this, **Barre Belle** did what dancers do best. We **pivot** and turn into new directions to provide our young students a needed outlet that has been proven to improve both physical and mental health. **The Arts** make the quality of our lives better, especially during a pandemic. The world needs the Arts, in particular Dance. Dance provides the **mental escape** young minds need from the uncertainty of the moment. When in-person instruction was restricted, Barre Belle provided online **Zoom** classes to enable students to add some physical movement to their day. We continued our weekly classes and the students' instruction was not disrupted. The Barre Belle Board read books about dance on our webpage to provide **cognitive stimulation** and language enrichment for our students. Additionally, we provided our community partners with activity kits which included custom made ballet puzzles, tutu making kits and Ballet Bingo. We wanted our students to strive despite the difficult circumstances that we were all in. As a special holiday event we rented an inflatable movie screen and watched the seasonal favorite "The Nutcracker." The students were also given a wooden nutcracker to paint as a memento of the occasion.



As the country begins to open, we are hopeful that we will continue to impact the lives of these precious students. Years from now when our students are asked "How did you remain encouraged during the pandemic?" We want them to be able to say, "**We Danced.**" Because of you our little dancers have hope.

We are thankful that you helped to make this possible.

Sincerely,

Juanita Pipkin, President

Balancing Change and Serving the Community

A Highlight of the Last Year in Photos



Our Community Engagement is Expanding!

For the very first time we partnered with the **Ronald Mc Donald House of Charlotte** and the **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Rho Psi Omega Chapter** to provide workshops for their students.

We expanded our reach to individualized instruction for students whose families opted for total remote learning during the pandemic. We even offered a class of individualized instruction for adults interested in exploring ballet in their homes via Zoom.

We continued to partner with the **Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club** for virtual and in person classes. We submitted pre-recorded classes for **Freedom School Partners' scholars** for their summer program which was restricted due to the pandemic



Meet the Community Outreach Chair

Ashley Jones

Ashley Jones serves as the **Community Outreach Co-Chair** for Barre Belle since June of 2019. Ashley is the owner and lead speech language pathologist for **Speech Tx PLLC**.

She is currently serving as a contract speech-language pathologist with the Mallard STEM Academy serving students with speech articulation and language deficits. She works closely with **Autistic, Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy**, among other disorders students to meet their communication needs. She also practices with skilled nursing facilities, assisted living and hospitals across the Charlotte and surrounding counties serving the geriatric population in the areas of stroke, dementia, traumatic brain injuries and dysphagia. She currently holds membership with **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**, the governing organization of speech language and audiologists whose purpose is to make effective communication, a human right and accessible and achievable for all. She received her Bachelor's of Arts with a concentration of mass communications from the University of South Carolina and a Master's of Arts with a concentration of speech-language and audiology from South Carolina State University.

Ashley is currently a member of community services organizations such as **Junior League of Charlotte and Delta Sigma Theta sorority Inc.** She is also an active member of **St. Paul Baptist Church** serving as a choir member, young adult bible study teacher and board member. Ashley is also a fellow dancer and got her start at the **Christiana Culture Arts Center** in Wilmington, DE. She continued her training in ballet at the University of South Carolina and currently takes classes at **Charlotte Ballet**. She recently got married to the love of her life Dr. Antonio Rozier on February 27, 2021.

Fundraising Success

Thanks to your support, our **Double Good Popcorn Fundraisers** were a surprising success. We were able to purchase additional speakers, ballet slippers and leotards for the students. We netted 50% of the sales for a total of **\$1,556** from popcorn sales.



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Facebook.com/barrebelleballet

Barre Belle in the News

Shoutout Atlanta





Barre Belle was nominated and featured in **Shoutout Atlanta's** Tech and Culture section! Shoutout Atlanta is built on **recommendations** and **shoutouts** from the community; if you or someone you know deserves recognition, click the link below to **nominate** them.

[Shoutout Atlanta \(Click Here\)](#)

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SHOUTOUT ATLANTA


 

WORK & LIFE | LIFESTYLE | UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES | TECH & CULTURE

LOCAL STORIES

Meet Noel Pipkin: Founder, Barre Belle

June 8, 2021 • [Leave a reply](#)



We had the good fortune of connecting with Noel Pipkin and we've shared our conversation below.

Hi Noel, what was your thought process behind starting your own business?

Over the last few years, I have referred to Barre Belle as my passion project. Ballet has always been a huge part of my life. Many of my high school afternoons were spent in class and rehearsals for studio performances and pre-professional competitions. It is not a secret that the ballet world lacks diversity. We now have Black principal dancers at renowned companies who have shared their experiences as what Shonda Rhimes describes, "First. Only. Different." My desire to cultivate a space for low-income students and children of color to learn classical ballet grew from my own experiences as a Black ballerina. I wanted to build a studio that supported a communal pursuit of the arts regardless of access to resources. With the encouragement of friends and family I developed