

Dancer Spotlight: Brian's Song @ DTP-Tarzana



DTP-Tarzana Participant Brian Tagamori

Brian Tagamori dances with DTP at the Tarzana site, LA Star Dance Studio. He has been playing guitar since he was 11 years old. Brian and his roommate Whitney Lepon collaborated in composing and recording "The Ostrich Song". He shared the song with the Tarzana class and the DTP dancers were inspired to create a dance performed to his acoustic work. This is the first collaboration of its kind at our Tarzana site!

Although Parkinson's has affected the dexterity and endurance of Brian's left hand, he hasn't let this stop his artistic passion. He went from playing casually a couple of times a week to playing relentlessly every single day. Because Brian feels that his days playing may be numbered, he cherishes his time with his guitar. "It's both my escapism and my reality check. When I'm playing guitar, I feel transported to living out that young dream of worry free rockstardom. But It's also grounding as I discover I can no longer play along to songs that I used to play with ease -- making the progression of the disease for me measureable". It is Brian's hope that continuing to play guitar will help to keep his small motor functions from deteriorating.



Heidi Buehler teaching DTP-Tarzana

The fact that the DTP-Tarzana class worked for weeks toward creating a dance and performing his song made Brian tearfully happy. Not only did the lyrics take on a whole new meaning for him and the participants, but they were also able to connect as a community on a new artistic level. Brian gets inspired by his classmates on a weekly basis and he's happy they were willing to be a part of the piece and to share his passion.

Thank you from us all to Heidi Buehler for your teaching and your leadership on this project!

Walk with a Doc

November 16, at 8:45am, Veterans Park. Dr. Jeffrey Penso is handing over his leadership of this program to Rebecca Rodriguez, Chief Medical Officer at Westwood Family Health Center. Come and meet her at this month's Walk.

Moving Day LA: Saturday November 16

Across the country people are walking to fight Parkinson's and celebrate the healing power of movement. The Parkinson's Foundation mobilizes communities to team up and help fundraise for better care and advancing research to improve the lives of people with PD.

LA State Historic Park Registration: 8:30am, Walk start: 10:00am

For more info contact Bernice Detig: 562-317-4866 or bdetig@parkinson.org

Thank you - this program is funded in part by:

DTP-Beverly Hills: Accessibility & the Arts at the Wallis

Dancing Through Parkinson's was invited to present at the Southern California Access Network's (SCAN) forum on promoting accessibility in the arts and educational programming. The event was hosted by the Wallis Annenberg's Mark Slavkin (Director of Education) and Jennifer Castillo (Education Associate) on September 24th. The presenters were Linda Berghoff of DTP, The Miracle Project, a theater arts program for children and teens with autism, and the Segerstrom's Center for the Arts' School of Dance and Music for Children with Disabilities. Though each program is geared to a different demographic and age group, what was universal was the program's shared passion for providing an inclusive, fun, and rich dance experience for students by making dance accessible to all, regardless of ability. As we at DTP all know, dancers are empowered to explore movement and music in ways that are enjoyable, stimulating, and creative, and in doing so, they become a connected community that defies the isolation which so often plagues those dealing with motor issues, aging, or autism spectrum disorders. The arts are, indeed, pivotal in creating positive transformations, to many, at any age.



DTP's Linda Berghoff presents at the Southern California Access Network's forum

Parkinson's Community Los Angeles (PCLA)

On Sunday November 3rd, PCLA presents an education conference "Life Beyond the Basics." This is a free seminar for Parkinson's patients, families, care partners and healthcare professionals. The seminar includes breakfast and talks by Dr. Petrossian and Dr. Feigenbaum! (To register, see info below).

DTP was invited to present so our teaching artists are offering "Dancing Through Parkinson's Shake Out!" -- a fun, engaging DTP-style exercise session. We will also be there tabling at the Sponsor Expo. We're excited to team up with PCLA and create more visibility for DTP as we build our community. We hope you can join us!

Event details: Sunday, November 3, 2019, 10 am-1 pm (registration & Sponsor Expo start at 9am) at the Los Angeles Athletic Club in downtown Los Angeles: 431 West 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014.

To register, call PCLA at 310-880-3143.

Or google PCLA Life Beyond the Basics, or use this link:

<https://pcla.org/life-beyond-the-basics-parkinsons-community-los-angeles/>.

Dancer Day of Health

On November 9th, The Dance Resource Center presents its annual Day of Dancer Health. As "the Hub & Voice for Greater Los Angeles Dance" DRC offers a day of workshops, talks, and PT screenings with guest artists Kylie Shea, Liana Blackburn and restorative movement specialists along with a health fair marketplace. The program runs 9:15am - 5:30pm at the Music Center. Invertigo teaching artists are attending, and we'd love to see you there if you can attend!

For info on the schedule and tickets see: dancerresourcecenter.org

NO CLASSES ON

11/25-11/29 Thanksgiving Week
12/23-1/3 Winter Holiday

DTP CLASS SCHEDULE

Mondays, 1:30pm-2:30pm at The Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, **Venice**, 90291

Tuesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts,
9390 N Santa Monica Blvd, **Beverly Hills**, 90210

Tuesdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm at LA Star Dance Studio, 19320 Ventura Blvd, **Tarzana**, 91356

Thursdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm at Culver Palms YMCA, 4500 Sepulveda Blvd, **Culver City**, 90230