

# the wooden floor

# The Rotations

Nov 14, 2012

SANTA ANA NORTH ROTARY 1959

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## “The Wooden Floor”

### PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Today, Ellen Reader, Senior Development Officer was here to tell us about The Wooden Floor. The Wooden Floor is a place that inspires youth to thrive. It is a safe place. It is a solid foundation from where kids can step absolutely anywhere they want. Because in this place, they find their confidence. They learn excellence. And they learn how to move. Forward.

### GUESTS

Susie – Wooden Floor

### MEMBER RECOGNITION

Jeff – Rotary Anniversary  
Alfredo – Happy Birthday  
David Hunt – Wedding Anniversary

### CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Membership (Catherine)

Meeting after Nov 14 meeting to discuss ways to recruit.

#### New Generations (Lisa)

Interact Club is forming at Century HS. Elections held and submitting paperwork.

#### Community Service (Lisa)

Traditional Holiday Santa Surprise at Franklin & Hoover Elementary will be Dec 19 and 20 from 8:30 – 11:00. Volunteers desired and an opening act to Santa’s arrival. We will be doing a gift stuffing party at Boy Scouts with Rita tentatively scheduled for Dec 10.



Wednesdays 12:15 PM

Antonello Ristorante

1611 Sunflower Ave, Santa Ana

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS

**Nov 28** – Dave Pastrana "Divorce Stress Syndrome"

**Dec 5** – DARK (Holiday Party)

**Dec 12** - Dick Crowell, WWII (location TBD)

**Dec 19** - Wendy Harder, Soka University

**Dec 26** - DARK

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov 14** – Board Meeting, 6pm @ Lisa S

**Nov 17** – Annual Foundation Dinner @ Hilton Irvine. Tickets \$65.

**Dec 5** – Holiday Party @ Antonello.

**Dec 12** – Board Meeting 6pm @ Lisa S

**Dec 19** – Elementary Holiday Surprise @ Franklin. 8:30 – 11:00.

**Dec 20** – Elementary Holiday Surprise @ Hoover. 8:30 – 11:00.

# Program

Speaker: Ellen Reader

The Wooden Floor: From here you can step anywhere, is a nonprofit organization created in 1983, which annually gives 375 underserved local youth the tools to live fuller, healthier lives through a unique approach grounded in dance. We make a long-term investment in each of these young people. They engage in intensive dance education supported by academic and family services that change the way they make decisions, helping them to discover and pursue their potential.

Currently, 96% of students attend free of charge. TWF offers 53 classes 5 days a week for 375 children. Children begin age 8 or 9 years of age via application (typically Santa Ana giving commute/challenge of transportation) and sign up for a 10-year program. Since 2005, 100 percent of young artists graduate from high school on time and go on to pursue higher education. This is about three times the national average for their socio-economic peers. TWF also is starting to track the students through college and do assist with scholarships if needed to ensure finances aren't a reason to drop out. The Wooden Floor has seen more than two decades of young people chart a new course in their lives from poverty to self-sufficiency. We advocate for the power of art-making and the impact it has on changing lives and building healthy communities.

2012

After assessing the needs and best interests of The Wooden Floor, Executive & Artistic Director Melanie Ríos Glaser advocated for the return to a dual leadership structure, consisting of separate Executive Director and Artistic Director roles. The Board of Directors announced the promotion of the organization's current General Manager & Chief Financial Officer, Dawn S. Reese, to Executive Director effectively partnering with Melanie as Artistic Director. Both report to the Board of Directors as Co-CEOs of the organization.

2009

Saint Joseph Ballet becomes The Wooden Floor; The Wooden Floor receives the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award.

2005

Melanie Ríos Glaser becomes the second Artistic Director. Beth Burns retires and remains involved with the organization as a Board member and later Board Emerita; 100% of graduates enroll in college for the first time.

1999

The organization opens its 21,000-square-foot home at 19th and Main streets, designed by McLarand Vasquez Emsiek & Partners and funded by a large cross section of supporters. A total of \$6.8 million is raised for construction costs and endowment.

1985

Beth Burns launches Dance Free Weeks, a community engagement effort to bring dance into Santa Ana schools. After only two years in existence, the organization is placed in the top six arts-for-youth organizations nationally and receives a grant award from the Dayton Hudson Foundation.

1984

The Ahmanson Foundation continues funding the program, which finds a home in the basement at Episcopal Church of the Messiah. The organization has a dance concert, Dreams Come True at the Santa Ana Police Annex, which becomes an annual event.

1983

Beth Burns, a sister at the time with the Sisters of St. Joseph order, founds Saint Joseph Ballet as a summer pilot program for low-income youth to gain self-esteem, self-discipline and a sense of accomplishment through dance.