

NO FOOD OR
BEVERAGES IN
THE AUDITORIUM

From left, Kelly Chen, 14, and Isabel Robles, 12, students at the Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon welcome guests to their annual Ballet and Bordeaux fundraiser Saturday, March 24.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Dancers On The Move

NEWS, PAGE 3

County
Takes
Aim at
Bullying

NEWS, PAGE 8

Promoting Arts and
Music at Mosby Woods

NEWS, PAGE 4

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARTINSBURG, WV
PERMIT #86



From left, Sydney Sasser, Peter Bacenet and Kaley Thornton perform the Hungarian Variation from "Swan Lake" during the Classical Ballet Theatre's annual Ballet and Bordeaux fundraiser Saturday, March 24.

Dancers On the Move

Classical Ballet Theatre hosts annual fundraiser, move to Reston.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When Cynthia Donavin, executive director of the Classical Ballet Theatre, was searching for inspiration to find a new location for the studio, she turned to one of the area's most famous patrons of the arts: Reston founder Robert Simon.

"I gave Mr. Simon a ride to our studio, he checked it out and said he knew the perfect place to relocate," Donavin said. "And sure enough, the spot he picked will be our new location. He said he chose it because of its proximity to two future Metro stops."

The Classical Ballet Theatre, a nonprofit dance studio dedicated to providing education, performance and outreach throughout the area, will be moving August a little more than a mile east in Sunset Hill Road, next to the Plaza America shopping center. To help facilitate their expanded facilities, the theatre hosted their annual Ballet and Bordeaux fundraiser at the Center for Innovative Technology in Herndon Saturday, March 24.

"We exist for one reason, and that's to raise young dancers in a way that not only prepares them to



Sonia Boroday, 13, a student at the Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon introduces guests to items up for auction at the theatre's annual Ballet and Bordeaux fundraiser Saturday, March 24.

dance well, but to succeed in many aspects of life," said Richard Thayer, chairman of the CBT's board. "This is where you can get the best regional training in the Mid-Atlantic."

Thayer said he was "thrilled at the possibilities" of the new space, which will feature a third studio to help the CBT increase their program offerings.

"We're bursting at the seams at our current location, and the move to Reston will ensure the continuation of our quality programs," he said. "We want to continue everything positive we do, which includes reaching out to dancers, students, families and the community at large."

The CBT hopes their new location will encourage people to take a look and see what happens on a daily basis.

"We're growing by leaps and bounds, and this move will help us provide more offerings to the communities of Herndon, Reston and beyond," said Patricia McCabe, the CBT's director of development. "We want to open ourselves up more to the community, so we'll have a lot of windows and open space."

The CBT was founded in 1991, and since then more than 30 of its alumni have gone on to professional dance careers around the country, on Broadway and around the globe in Russia and Germany.



Shanna Gayer, an alumna of the Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon, performs the Variation from "Carmen".



Hannah Markowitz, a student at the Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon performs as the Black Swan.

Jimmy Cirrito, owner of Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon, serves as auctioneer during the last year's Taste of the Town at Worldgate Center. This year's event will take place April 19.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Arts Council Offers Taste of Spring

Taste of the Town brings restaurants to the forefront.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

This Spring, the annual Taste of the Town festival will celebrate many of Herndon's signature restaurants by giving visitors a chance to sample their signature items. Hosted by the Council for the Arts of Herndon, the 21st annual event has long been known as a showcase for destination dining.

"Taste of Herndon is sort of how I keep up with the latest places that have opened over the past year," said Peter Neeson of Herndon. "I don't consider myself to have a particularly brave palette when it comes to trying a new place, much to my wife's chagrin, but the festival is a great way to get the feel of places."

More than 20 restaurants will be present at this year's event, including newcomers Jimmy John's, McAlister's Deli and old standards like Jimmy's Old Town Tavern and O'Sullivan's.

"I like seeing new places at Taste of the Town because if the family is thinking about going to a new place, or we happen to pass by one of the places I recognize, we're more likely to stop in," said Samantha Nguyen of Herndon. "I like supporting



From right, Jeff Sinclair of Herndon greets Mayor Steve DeBenedittis and Councilmember Jasbinder Singh at the Taste of the Town festival, which will take place this year on Thursday, April 19.

restaurants that I know are willing to get involved in a community event and support something like the Council for the Arts."

This year will feature celebrity bartenders (often members of the Town Council and other officials) as well as a full compliment of auction items that include golf packages, wine tastings vacations and more.

The Taste of the Town will take place at the Worldgate Center on Thursday, April 19 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 per person for non-Arts Council members, \$15 for members. More information can be found at www.herndonarts.org.