



Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance



* The New Facility Newsletter *

December 31, 2009

As the year 2009 draws to a close, it is with great excitement and anticipation that we look forward to a new year, and a new decade, of traditional music, song, and dancing, especially now that our new dance facility is nearly ready. What a remarkable achievement by our dance community to bring this long-held dream into reality! After nearly a decade of hard work, commitment, and perseverance by many dedicated members of our dance community, this project evolved from brainstorming and long-range planning of what an ideal dance space should be, to a real dance facility that is now owned and operated by AACTMAD. Many bold steps were taken by many AACTMAD boards, committees, and individual dancers to get to where we are now. It involved years of planning and dreaming plus innumerable hours by many, many volunteers. Momentum for the final steps for realizing our dream of the dance community owning and controlling our very own dance hall really ramped up at the "Bare Walls" Fundraising Party on October 2: we raised the funds to go forward with the project. Congratulations to everyone!

Many of the milestones along the way have been described in previous newsletters and on documents on AACTMAD's website. The latest accomplishments include completing the final legal steps for AACTMAD to purchase 50% ownership of the Concourse Drive building. All the documents were signed on November 30, including the contract with the builder for the renovation work to create the dance space in the building. The AACTMAD Board expresses sincere thanks to all our donors and supporters who helped make this happen. They are listed below, as of October 2009, and we'll have more names to list in our next newsletter.

The dance space is nearing completion. The last of the maple floor is being laid the last week of December, and final installation of light switches, doors, our kitchen, etc. will be completed in January. An oil finish will be applied to the floor before it can be used for dancing, and this should be completed for dancing to begin in March. Stay tuned for dance event announcements at the new dance hall.



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Work has also begun by the Operations Committee, which is developing the procedures and policies for the scheduling of AACTMAD activities and the other rental of the space by third-party renters. The Operations Committee has been communicating and meeting with our dance organizers, callers, and musicians to discuss how best to work out the logistics. For more information on scheduling and the operation of the dance space, please contact Hal Breidenbach at hal@breidenbach.net.

Many tasks remain before us. We need to continue to raise to funds for the initial operation of the building during this first year. We already have tables and chairs, kitchen equipment, a stage, and file cabinets, but we will need to raise funds to purchase sound equipment and other items as we launch the operation of the new dance facility. Please make a donation using the attached pledge form, below. Thank you to all our donors and supporters!

Donors:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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Individuals and AACTMAD Committees who have made funds available for the New Dance Facility:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Kathy Weiland† | Dawn Dance Weekend† |
| Khalid Motaw† | Pittsfield Open Band |
| Louise Tamres & Brian Forester† | |
| Nawal Motawi & Glen Dong† | |

"Bare-Walls" Fundraising Party Supporters:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| A&L Wine Castle | Sam's Club |
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†Investors in Wagner Waters LLC, who helped launch AACTMAD's New Dance Hall Project; other investors were Brad Batty, Sr., Martha & Hollis Showalter, Mike Duffey, Shirley Harden, Ray Nollert, and Robert Zimmerman.

Questions? Send an email to Hal Breidenbach, AACTMAD Operations Committee, at hal@breidenbach.net, Nawal Motawi, Facilities Committee, at nawalandglen@tds.net, or Mark Hillegonds, AACTMAD President, at mhillgonds@comcast.net.

