

Dear Friends in the Happendance Community:

From the banks of the Red Cedar to our home in the ‘old barn’ at the corner of Jolly and Hagadorn in Okemos, I have had the joy and privilege of developing the many programs that are now embodied in Happendance. It doesn’t seem like 37 years have passed since I started with a small group of men and women, indulging our passion for dance by creating what is now Happendance Professional Company and, through the development of the Happendance School, an anchor for dance education in the heart of Michigan. I am proud of our accomplishments and both astonished and humbled by the support given the Company and School throughout the years.

It is with a sense of pride and firm belief in the future of Happendance that I begin my new journey – transitioning to retirement, leaving behind some of the day-to-day responsibilities of managing the organization but without intent of abandoning it. As many of you may be aware, I have served as both Executive Director (since 1995) and School Director at Happendance (since 1993) and I also teach a Non-profit Management class at MSU. Earlier this year, I presented a five year ‘pre-retirement’ plan to the Happendance Board of Directors which outlined how I plan to reduce my daily workload while continuing to contribute to Happendance. The first phase of the plan is my retirement as Executive Director, retaining my responsibilities as both School Director and Master Teacher. To that end, Happendance has posted the part-time Executive Director position, which you can view at [Happendance.org](http://Happendance.org). It is the intention of the Board to hire a new Executive Director by the end of 2012, allowing me time to work the transition with the new ED throughout the first quarter of the year. In no way will this affect my teaching responsibilities at the school, which I expect to continue at some level for the rest of my life.

This is a wonderful time in my life – knowing that Happendance is strong enough to allow me to retire without risking the future of the organization. I want to thank you for all the support you have shown me and for your continued support of all Happendance programs. This is an exciting time for Happendance, too, offering new opportunities for the whole organization and everyone involved. I encourage you to take a look at the position posting and if you are interested, to apply, or encourage anyone you think might be a good fit for the organization to apply. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [diane@happendance.org](mailto:diane@happendance.org).

Warmest regards,

Diane Newman