

TESTIMONIALS - 2011

A CASE FOR DANCE at the new Tahawus Lodge Center, Au Sable Forks



I really enjoyed the dance classes. It was a new experience for me. Ballet makes a great way to stretch and improve balance, etc. I look forward to the next classes. Darrell

Darrell Austen, Certified Arborist
Tri Lakes Tree & Landscape
252 John Bliss Rd.
PO BOX 127
Wilmington, NY 12997
austens@frontiernet.net, www.trilakestree.com

Janine Kemp – Keeseville, NY, 8/11

My family's business ventures positively impacted the early history and growth of Au Sable Forks. I could never have imagined that at the Tahawus Lodge Center my skills as a trained dancer and teacher of dance would find a place alongside the hard work and devotion my grand-parents and great-grandparents gave their hometown. Walking into Tahawus Lodge in AuSable Forks, New York and having the opportunity to take a dance class in this small Adirondack town was like coming home... I'll be coming back again...

Annie Scavo, 44 Scenic Point Lane, Jay, NY 12941

September 2011

I was very fortunate this summer to have the opportunity to take an adult ballet class with Rebecca Kelly at The Tahawus Lodge in AuSable Forks. I can't express how much it meant to me to be able to take a class of this caliber in my own hometown. As a member of the Screen Actors Guild and a professional mime I have studied at Alvin Ailey and Martha Graham in New York City and as a Drama teacher I have partnered with the Mark Morris Dance Company and the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and this class was on an artistic par with the best of them. The only difference was that I've never had such a beautiful setting for a class. Studios in the city are functional, perhaps even attractive at times, but never offer the breathtaking natural view of The Tahawus Lodge. To be able to take class in this space that is so inspiring is in itself a gift.

Classes were held on the top floor in the newly restored studio that was flooded with light from huge windows that overlook the Ausable River. As the highest building in town, the lodge has a bird's eye view of the beautiful new plantings on Main Street and of the mountains beyond.

Although we ranged in ability from rank beginner to professional dancer, Rebecca crafted a class that spoke to each of our needs and challenged all of us. We were inspired by music from traditional classical ballet music to Middle Eastern to jazz to show tunes. In a two week intensive I could feel my body responding and my spirits lifting. Rebecca is a wonderful teacher. She knows how to train your muscles to enable you to complete movements that you thought were beyond your reach and she watches each student so she can correct with a touch or offer a word of praise for a beautifully executed step. She manages to treat you with professionalism and respect while creating an atmosphere of trust and sheer enjoyment in the pleasure and beauty of dance.

It was such a joy to take a class of this quality in the small town of AuSable Forks. With more offerings like this, The Tahawus Lodge will be the centerpiece of a revitalization of this beautiful town.

#

A CASE FOR DANCE at the new Tahawus Lodge Center, Au Sable Forks

Sue Pulitzer, PO 728, Palmer Hill Rd, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912

September 22, 2011

This Summer I had the pleasure of participating in the Adult Ballet Class taught by Rebecca Kelly at the Tahawus Lodge Center in Au Sable Forks, New York. At age 64, and not having been near a ballet barre for well over 50 years, I was a little apprehensive but looked forward to experiencing again the joy of dance and the sheer exhilaration of moving again in ways I had long forgotten.

I wasn't prepared for the quality and intensity of the instruction. Rebecca conducts class, as she does everything—with 100% commitment and dedication to quality. She knows quality—she IS quality. And I knew I'd experienced quality after taking one of her classes. It was challenging. It was exhilarating. And it was fun! We had all levels of age and ability in our group but she managed to make the class enjoyable for everyone by addressing each student's individual capacity and finding ways to convey her expectations with the proper mix of discipline, humor and creative use of music and expert combination of barre and floor work.

The Tahawus Lodge Center is in its infancy and far from its finished state yet Rebecca proved what I already knew-- that a really great teacher works with the available space and material, improvises and doesn't make excuses. Even in its relatively "raw" state—with paneless windows, unpolished floors, no mirrors and makeshift barres, she made us believe for an hour that we were dancers in New York City, not Au Sable Forks. (It was probably good that we didn't have the mirrors to dispel that illusion!)

Even leaving the building was a joy because we could look in and see the young children enjoying their Kids Co-motion classes with Craig Brashear. The seeds of cultural life in Au Sable Forks were planted on a modest scale this summer but it was wonderful and left us anticipating the growth that will surely come when the community and area at large discovers the "gold" in the TLC.

A CASE FOR DANCE at the new Tahawus Lodge Center, Au Sable Forks

Elizabeth Sanpietro
43 Fir Street
Jay, New York 12941
518-641-2232

lizbrowneyedgirl@hotmail.com

August, 2011: This year, Tahawus Lodge Center (TLC) in Ausable Forks, NY was home to an opportunity we don't normally find in our town. In addition to their adult dance classes, Rebecca Kelly Ballet (RKB) introduced us to their kids' program, Kids Co-Motion.

When I heard that RKB would host **Kids Co-Motion** in Ausable Forks, I was delighted! In the past, when I wanted to enroll John in an enrichment program, it meant traveling to Plattsburgh or Lake Placid. While we are willing to travel for our child's enrichment if necessary, taking a 30 mile trip for a 45-minute kids' music class is out of reach for some families. But, I must admit, it was much nicer to travel a mere six minutes. Plus, having the classes nearby means that local kids who might not normally meet can form relationships with friends in their neighborhood rather than those who live forty minutes away.

For my 4-year old son, John, this was a chance for him to be exposed to various music and movement combinations. Through Kids Co-Motion, John learned genuine dance steps without realizing he was learning them. Yet, when he's home, he'll say, "Let me show you my passé step;" so, I know he was paying attention. And, we want to make the various props that Craig uses in his classes.

The Tahawus Lodge Center itself is an asset to our town. The space, while still in its developmental stage, offers a large room for energetic kids to dance, romp and roll with Craig. We need the TLC to offer this opportunity on a regular basis. I know my son was disappointed to see the sessions come to an end and he's looking forward to next summer when he can attend again.