

FOUNDATION F RUM

Connecting Good People with Great Causes

Special Edition: Dancing with the Broomfield Stars

Broomfield Stars hit the dance floor this month

Would you believe it if you heard that Dancing with the Stars was coming to Broomfield?

Believe it! The Broomfield Community Foundation is hosting the first-ever “Dancing with the Broomfield Stars.”

Eight local celebrities will be paired with professional dance instructors. The long and tedious practices will culminate in a community performance on **Thursday, September 23** at the 1STBank Center.

Area restaurants will be serving food on the concourse. You'll also be treated to a special appearance by FACE. The event emcees are 9News Anchor, Kim Christiansen and 9News Reporter, Dave Delozier.

Just like the hit television show, **Dancing with the Broomfield Stars** is a competi-

tion. Audience members will vote for their favorite couple with monetary donations. All proceeds benefit the Broomfield Community Foundation.



“We are very excited to showcase the talents of our local community at this fun event,” said Karen Smith, executive director. “Broomfield is very fortunate to have the support of local businesses and restaurants as we raise money to be used for support programs and services that help the Broomfield community.”




This year's celebrity dancers are: Ken Brown (Broomfield United Methodist Church); Gina Coufal (F.R.I.E.N.D.S. of Broomfield); John Ferraro (City and County of Broomfield); Cindy Gerhardt (Anthem Colorado); Jennifer Kerr (Broomfield Chamber of Commerce); Dr. Bill Markel (retired, Broomfield Family Practice); Marlene

Politzer (Bal Swan Children's Center); and Beau Smith (Sil-TerHar Motors).

The professionals coaching the celebrity dancers are: Heidi Thomas and Jess Rodriquez (Dance Arts Studio); Carlee Taga and Michelle Hastings (Taps N' Toes); Marie-Jose Payannet and Sophie Payannet (Danse Etoile Ballet); Eric Freeman (Salsaville.com); Tony Trujillo, and Maggie Francucci (Instructor-Dance Connection); and Keith Forstrom.

Police Chief Tom Deland, Linda Deland, Paul Derda and Julie Baxter, will serve as judges and provide entertaining commentary.

General admission tickets are still available online at www.DancingwithBroomfieldStars.org or by calling the Foundation at 303.469.7208. Ticket prices are \$35 for adults and \$20 for students (25 and under).

For additional information, including dancer bios and sponsors, please turn to pages two and three. 



dancing
with the *Broomfield*
stars 

Thursday, September 23
5:30 p.m.
1STBank Center

General Admission Tickets: \$35 for adults and \$25 for students (25 and under)
Buy online at www.DancingwithBroomfieldStars.org or call 303.469.7208.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Broomfield Community Foundation is to develop charitable giving to support civic projects, human services, arts and humanities, seniors and education.

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Karen Smith, Executive Director

Janell Daly, Administrative Assistant



Volunteer Spotlight



Chandra Beznak
"Dancing with the Stars"
Volunteer

When the Broomfield Community Foundation decided that Dancing with the Broomfield Stars would be a great event for both community outreach, and to serve as a fundraiser, the first question was what to use as a "brand" for the event's graphics. We were very fortunate to have Chandra Beznak volunteer her talents to help with our graphic needs.

Chandra is employed by the City and County of Broomfield as the Cultural Affairs Administrative Technician. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and an Associates in Art in Graphic Design from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. The colorful logo and promotional graphics Chandra designed for the event are eye-catching.

Chandra lives in Northglenn with her husband and two girls. When asked what she would choose to do on a perfect day, Chandra responded that she would choose to paint and spend time with her family.

A very heart-felt thank you is extended to Chandra for sharing her talents and time to help the Foundation. ❤️

Corporate Corner

For this special edition of the Corporate Corner, we're recognizing the businesses, restaurants and individuals who are helping to make the first-ever Dancing with the Broomfield Stars a success.

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Old Chicago - Broomfield
Buca DiBeppo
Corona Mexican Grill
CB & Potts

Meet the Broomfield Stars...

Gina Coufal and Eric Freeman – Salsa

Gina Coufal has lived most of her life in Colorado. She raised her three grown children in Broomfield. Gina has always had a love for the performing arts and has participated in a variety of show choirs and musical theater. She also sings regularly at Nativity of Our Lord Church.

Special Education is Gina's passion. She has worked for both Adams Five-Star and Boulder Valley School Districts in the multi-intensive classrooms and as an interpreter for the deaf. Today she is the Executive Director for FRIENDS of Broomfield – a local non-profit organization providing services for adults with developmental disabilities, which she founded, and was inspired by, her son.

Eric "El Cubanito" Freeman is an internationally recognized salsa instructor and videographer. He has taught salsa in the US, Europe, Latin America, and at the Puerto Rican Salsa Congress. Although Eric loves to mix all the major salsa styles – NY, LA, Cumbia, and Cuban – his heart lies with Cuban style. Hence, his nickname: "El Cubanito." Eric specializes in teaching students how to integrate different salsa styles into their dance repertoire.

Cindy Gerhardt and Keith Forstrom – Western Swing

Cindy Gerhardt graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver with a degree in Recreation Administration and a minor in Management. She has been in the recreation field for more than 15 years. For the last 2-½ years she has worked for Anthem Ranch Community Association Active Adult Community in Broomfield as a Lifestyle Director.

Cindy is also the proud mother of two boys. She has volunteered with Cub Scouts for many years and loves to camp with her sons, be outdoors and as active as possible.

Keith Forstrom grew up in southern Minnesota and attended the University of Minnesota where he majored in vocal music and minored in speech and drama. Upon graduating in 1952, Keith began his career as a vocal music teacher in Wisconsin. In 1955 he and his wife June moved to

Colorado where Keith earned his Master of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado and continued his career as a public school music teacher. He then went on to receive his Master of Education degree in guidance and counseling from Colorado State University and worked in that field for many years. Now retired, Keith and his wife June enjoy cruising, dancing two or three times a week and traveling.

Marlene Politzer and Jess Rodriguez – Argentine Tango

What is an 80 year old lady doing learning the challenging Argentine Tango to dance in the Dancing with the Broomfield Stars? Marlene Politzer says the best answer is "having lots of fun!" Marlene was born and raised in Greeley and attended the University of Northern Colorado. She taught kindergarten for 10 years before teaching at Bal Swan Children's Center. She continued her educational pursuits and received her Special Education Endorsement. Her 45 years at Bal Swan Children's Center have been extremely rewarding. She taught for 10 years; was the Director for 27 years; and is currently the Director Emeritus – with plans to stay another 45 years!

Jess Rodriguez has been dancing Argentine tango for more than 13 years and has been teaching for the last four years. He has danced country, ballroom, salsa/Latin, and even Blues, but years ago fell in love with the Argentine tango. This is a dance with many layers and levels – there is no other dance like it. Jess has thoroughly enjoyed working with Marlene and is awed by the dedication and work she has put into the effort.

Beau Smith and Carlee Taga – Jazz

Beau Smith began his career at Sill-TerHar Motors as a lot technician. After earning a degree at Mesa State College, he returned to serve in a variety of positions and is now taking on the new role of co-owner and vice president.

He has always had a passion for basketball and has played, coached and organized large youth basketball camps.

Another passion is community involvement. Beau has served on boards for the Chamber, the Workforce Center, and the City and County of Broomfield. He has volunteered to help with activities that benefit Broomfield and Legacy high schools, CU athletics, the Broomfield Community Foundation and cancer research. Having a positive impact on children is very important to Beau and he is actively involved in the lives of his three sons. His wife, Candice, says that he is also on track for husband of the year for 2010!

Carlee Taga is a junior at Regis University. She has been teaching dance for seven years at Taps 'N Toes Dance Studio. Carlee has choreographed the Broomfield High School musicals for the past four years and participated in theatre throughout high school. She continues to participate in the musical theatre troupe at Regis University.

Carlee danced competitively for the Taps 'N Toes team for 10 years and has won various awards for choreography at competitions throughout Colorado.

In addition to dance, Carlee is an active member of the Regis Honors Program, Tri-Beta (a program for biological research), and Alpha Epsilon Delta (the pre-healthcare honor society). She is also a certified scuba diver.

Jennifer Kerr and Tony Trujillo – Cha Cha

Jennifer Kerr is a Colorado native and grew up in Broomfield. A Kohl "Colt" and BHS "Eagle," she is a proud member of the Class of '84! Jennifer began working at the Broomfield Chamber in May 2005. As Chamber President, she loves the opportunity it provides to work with so many in the business community.

Jennifer is married to Mike Kerr, also a graduate of BHS. She enjoys music, photography, crafts, collecting cookbooks, going to the mountains and watching way too much television!

Tony Trujillo grew up in Broomfield. He graduated from Broomfield High School and Fort Lewis college. He began dancing four years ago after watching "Dancing with the Stars." Tony competed in his first amateur



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Broomfield Stars... *(continued)*

dance competition in the spring of 2009 at the Denver Turnverein.

Tony and Jennifer have been receiving instruction from Maggie Francucci of Dance Connection. Maggie trained extensively with the Arthur Murray Dance franchise before opening her own studio. She has been an award-winning choreographer, performer, entertainer and competitive ballroom-dancer but her passion is teaching.

Ken Brown and Sophie Payannet – Paso Doble

Ken Brown was born in North Carolina and is a huge fan of Carolina and Duke basketball (graduate of both schools). He moved to Broomfield from Fort Lauderdale to serve as pastor of the United Methodist Church of Broomfield where he has been for seven years. Married to Bridgette for 23 years, they have three daughters – Kenly, Katelyn, and Kristina. Ken's greatest joy as a pastor is to see members of his congregation make a difference in the lives of others.

Sophie Payannet started ballet at age four at the Huntsville Ballet and continued

her training at Ballet Nouveau Colorado and at Danse Etoile Ballet. Every fall she studies at the Conservatoire of Avignon, France. She is also a competitive figure skater. Since joining Danse Etoile Ballet, Sophie has performed challenging and fun roles both in the ballet, contemporary and modern repertoire. She loves acting, choreographing, and teaching. Sophie is a sophomore at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she is majoring in Marketing and Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology.

Dr. Bill Markel and Heidi Thomas – Swing

Dr. Bill Markel was born and educated in Chicago. In 1958, he and his wife, Jean, moved to Broomfield where he established the Broomfield Family Practice.

Bill and Jean have four grown children and 13 grandchildren. Dr. Markel lists his life and career highlights as: living and practicing in Broomfield; having a loving wife and family; skiing; rafting; hunting and fishing; and working part-time as a ship's doctor on exotic cruises.

Heidi Senatore Thomas moved to

Broomfield in 1965 and started her dance career with Jane Morrow Spain. She received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Dance Education from Colorado State University in 1980. She has been the Artistic Director of Dance Arts Studio since 1983. She continues to live in Broomfield with her husband, Lance and daughter, Kalia.

John Ferraro and Michelle Hastings – Hip Hop

John Ferraro has worked for the City and County of Broomfield for 35 years and is currently the Director of Recreation Services. An avid golfer himself, John also is a volunteer coach for both the girls and boys golf teams at Broomfield High School.

John, a native Coloradoan, and his wife Nancy have three children who all graduated from Broomfield High School.

Michelle Hastings has been dancing for Taps 'N' Toes Dance Studio since the age of three. Her main interests are hip hop and jazz. In addition to being a dance teacher at the studio, Michelle is a sophomore at Regis University. ❤️