



STAFF

Sherry L. Ashton, *Founder and Managing Director*

Ms. Ashton has over 20 years experience in special event planning, grant writing, marketing, public relations, annual and direct mail appeals, training, customer service and public affairs. She has won various awards and accolades for her work. Ms. Ashton won the American Heart Association 's (AHA) "Achievement Award: Most New Dollars Go Red For Women 2007-2008" by nationally raising the most new dollars for the Go Red For Women campaign in a Major Market. AHA's National Benchmark Award 2007-2008 and AHA awarded her the "Times Feeling and Focus Award" in 2007 for extraordinary customer care and service to their new National Partner, Merck.

Ms. Ashton is a consummate professional who has a unique ability to build consensus and manage relationships with diverse companies and individuals. Her realistic understanding of what the market will bear enables her to maximize the goals of her clients.

One of Ms. Ashton's larger events, "Ithaca Festival," a five-day event, brought in over 30,000 attendees to the festival. She wrote, produced and hosted a four- part program for cable television to promote the festival. She made festival appearances on other television, radio and news shows, as well as gave interviews for several newspaper articles. Ms. Ashton worked with over a 100 volunteers along with the: Commons Business Association; Ithaca Fire and Police Departments; 75 food and retail vendors, 25 bands; a variety of visual artist; and 30 dance and theater companies. While at the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), Ms. Ashton travelled to various RID affiliates to train the officers in grantsmanship (grant writing, research, fund raising, etc.). Ms. Ashton, along with the National Committee, designed the curriculum for a four day Affiliate President and Vice President training conference in Washington. She wrote the RID lobbying manual; selected the conference site and negotiated all meeting, sleeping and meals packages for the conference.

A love of the arts has always played an important role in Ms. Ashton life. She started her professional career in the performing arts as a dancer and went on to become an actor, teacher and choreographer. She has had principle roles in several movies, toured internationally with a dance revue and performed in a national tour with a children's theater ensemble. She has belonged to several dance and theater companies, the most notable being the 127th Street Repertoire in New York City. She taught classes for and directed several Summer Arts Enrichment Programs, as well as ongoing year long performing arts programs. She is also the Director of Allens Lane Art Center Summer Arts Program.

Ms. Ashton received her Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA) in Dance with a minor in Psychology from Point Park University and her Masters Degree (MSIS) in Information Science from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus. She is a member of the International Concierge and Lifestyle Management Association (ICLMA), Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and Mt. Airy Business Association.

Deborah E. Johnson, Grants and Fund Raising Consultant

Ms. Johnson has been instrumental in building the recruitment and executive leadership committees for several organizations. In the position of Development Director for the Rhythm & Blues Foundation Ms. Johnson Coordinated a campaign to successfully raise over \$750,000 for their annual fundraiser and secured the Foundation's first major gift of \$500,000. She created educational programs to introduce rhythm and blues music to young urban audiences, incorporating historical data, legends of rhythm and blues and technical production skills.

During her tenure at the American Liver Foundation, Ms. Johnson increased fundraising revenue for the Walk/Run & Ride for Liver and the Annual Gala and culinary event by 50% in her first year with them. She served as liaison to the Mercedes Benz Company for one of the American Heart Association's national fundraising initiative. Ms. Johnson has served as a consultant for major development and special event initiatives for: The National Comprehensive Center for Fathers, The Amooore Group/ REDI Program, The National Medical Association, Community College of Philadelphia, The Barnes Foundation and the Annual ODUNDE Festival.

Ms. Johnson is a member of the Board of Directors for the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund (Philadelphia Foundation) and YMCA Columbia North and Jubilee School (K-6th)

Ms. Johnson's has a BA Degree from Caldwell College and a University Certification in Non-Profit Management from The Non-Profit Center of LaSalle.

Maurice T. Hoard, Concierge and Special Event Associate

Mr. Hoard has an extensive background as a customer service and sales representative for Time Life, Reese Brothers and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. He worked as an inventory clerk at the Stetson Convention Center organizing and keeping track of the equipment being shipped all over the country. At Stetson he acquired the skills of setting-up and breaking-down exhibits, stages and special event displays. Mr. Hoard honed his data entry and document delivery skills at Engineering Information in New York where he was part of a team that shipped proprietary documents to research and development clients around the United States.

Terry Brennan, Performing Arts Instructor

Mr. Brennan is a professional actor, puppeteer, director and teacher based in the Philadelphia area. He is the drama teacher at Allens Lane Art Center's Summer Art Camp Lane.

Mr. Brennan is a founding member of Tribe of Fools, a physical theatre collective that produces original work for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival each year. Last year he directed *Armageddon at the Mushroom Village* for Tribe of Fools which received both critical and audience acclaim. Terry performed in three national tours with Enchantment Theatre Company and is currently the company manager for Enchantment's national tours. He has performed with various theatre companies around Philadelphia including, BRAT Productions, EgoPo Theatre Company, Simpatico Theatre Project, Philadelphia Children's Theatre and Theatre Ariel.

Mr. Brennan is a graduate of The University of Nebraska and The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

Nsiah Oparebea, Performing Arts Instructor

Ms. Oparebea's professional dance career spans 40 years. She began her professional dance career with the Arthur Hall Dance Ensemble at the tender age of five. As a child performer with the senior and junior companies, she traveled with the group and was featured in "Fat Tuesday and All that Jazz" and "Orpheus". She received her early dance training from the Civic Ballet, Dance Theatre of

Harlem, Freedom Theatre and Alvin Ailey Dance Company before graduating from the High School of Creative and Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

In her adult dance career, she has become a well known teacher of modern, jazz, African and ballet at various dance studios which include Brenda Lee Dance Studio, D'Shay School of Dance and currently the lead female dancer for the Arthur Hall Dance Ensemble. Nsiah loves her dance art form and she gets great joy out of sharing it with others whether performing on the stage or teaching in the classroom. She has been a Dance Specialist at the Allen's Lane Arts Camp for the past three years and looks forward to creating choreography for the summer camps end productions each year. Ms. Oparebea is currently pursuing her Bachelor's of Science degree in Behavior Health and Human Services and a minor in Dance Therapy.

Tiffany E. Williams, Performing Arts Instructor

Ms. Williams began dancing at the age of 3 under the instruction of her mother a talented dancer and gifted teacher. At 12 she was accepted into Rodgers CAPA Middle School and went on to attend and finish school at the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts High School. While in high school Ms. Williams performed in a professional company under the leadership of Grier Reed Jones. At the age of 16 she auditioned for and was accepted at Alvin Aileys' Summer Intensive Dance Program. Currently she is a Junior at Temple University, majoring in dance. She is also a member of Philadanco's 2nd Company.

Ronie Gabrielle Lubin, Performing Arts Instructor

Ms. Lubin is a dramatic Mezzo- Soprano, known for her lush, warm, velvety sound and extraordinary vocal giftedness, is a native of Montclair, NJ. Ms. Lubin began her musical studies at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Al, where she earned a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Education. She has been the recipient of many scholarships and awards such as the Alama Blackmon Scholarship (2006), the Warren-Mosley Scholarship (2005), The Music Award (2004), the Lymon T. Johnson Scholarship (2008), and the most prestigious being the Bill Gates Millennium Scholarship (2001-2006). Her operatic roles include the '2nd Lady' of Mozart's Die Zauberflöte and Opera Scenes from Le Nozze di Figaro as Cherubino. As a member of the Oakwood University Aeolians she has she has performed as a soloist in Handel's Messiah, in the Wratslavia Cantans Music Festival in Warsaw, Poland, as well as toured the island of Bermuda. Her recordings include *Make a Joyful Noise (2001)*, *The Aeolians Wratslavia Cantans (2003)*, *USM HOPE (2004)*, *Aeolians Spring Tour (2005)*, and *Terry O'Neal and United Praise (2009)*. She is also a member of classical touring group the *Lloyd Mallory Singers*, and performed with the *American Spiritual Ensemble*. of Lexington. KY.