



Barbara Jordan

Chronicle Profile

Specialist Brings Art To The People

"Dance originated out of religious ceremonies involving groups of people expressing their spiritual ties with God and the Universe. Today it helps us release mental and physical tensions thru spiritual expression in movement. But, because of its trend of development, dance has been removed from the norm and placed in a specialized position away from the people. It came from the people and it must return to them."

The Chronicle profiles Sister Barbara Gordon, dance specialist with the City's Recreation Dept., who brings the art of dance to the people. She teaches senior citizens, youth, housewives, and pre-school children. Her classes are designed to revitalize the spirit, tone up the structure and widen creative scope in every field of labor, she says.

Barbara Gordon's dance career began with a fascination for music in North Carolina. She studied dance at the Katherine Dunham School of Cultural Arts in New York.

The technique she learned was both modern and primitive, creating a new avenue of communication for the Negro dancer and a definite booster for the entire modern dance world.

She has also studied Russian dance. She performed and toured in Europe and Africa for nine years. She returned to New York and worked with Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Olatunji, Massie Patterson, Buddy Phillips, Talley Beatty, Miriam Makeba, Pearl Primus, Percival Borde, and others. She taught dance in New York for 10 years at the Pearl Reynolds Studio of Dance and the Syvilla Fort School of Theatre dance.

Three years ago Sister Gordon returned to her roots to work as dance and music specialist with the city Recreation Dept. She has involved herself with various types of dance; Folk, contemporary, square dance, and ballet.

Physical fitness and exercise is a part of her program. The classes are held in various recreation centers, senior citizens Towers and YW-YMCA's. Sister Gordon has assistants in square dance and ballroom from Ms. Jessica Davis, Ms. Hilda Canady and R. Bellare. "These persons have done so much for our programs."

The graceful lady finds time to volunteer at one of the local hospitals, raise two daughters, and find new mediums of dance communication such as the Africa Folk Festival and the steel band which are becoming annual events.

Barbara Gordon is a master teacher and dancer. Our readers are invited to enroll in one of her classes day or evening. Any Recreation Center, YWCA or Senior Tower accepts enrollers for children and adults. Having consulted with the state university system, she has become one of the leading dance instructors in the state and nation. The City of Winston-Salem has a gem in Sister Barbara Gordon. We would do well to watch her work, perform or learn from her.

Shedrick Adams

Dear Liz

Is Love Really Blind?

Dear Liz,

I saw somewhere that love is blind. Doesn't that mean that when you're in love, your mate can do no wrong? Well, I thought I was in love, but if that's true, I must only be experiencing a mild emotional sensation. What do you think, Liz?

Confused

Dear Confused,

My advice to you is don't believe everything you see! To believe that a mate can do no wrong is a gross misconception! You'd better wise up and

fast. What you felt was probably just infatuation, which occurs much more often than love.

Dear Liz,

What can you do about a jealous girlfriend? She is so jealous until she makes herself mad. There's no apparent justification, yet she takes off on the smallest things. It's really making me suspect something of her. I just don't know how to deal with it. Can

you help, Liz?

End of the Rope

Dear End,

If you are positive that there is no reason for your friend to be jealous and she is extremely jealous just because of her nature, then, I suggest you drop her. This kind of person will only make trouble for you. Before you drop her though, check yourself thoroughly and make sure you are not doing something to bring about her actions.

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