

# FREE WORKSHOP

## Teaching Ballroom Dance to Those Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Sunday, September 10, 2023

2 - 3 pm at Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield

Led by Gene Lapierre of Lapierre Ballroom

Sponsored by Dance Haddonfield

We in the dance community know the joy of ballroom dance and wish everyone could share this experience. But aren't there limitations? Can those who are blind or visually impaired learn ballroom dance? Could you, as an experienced dance instructor, teach those who cannot see, how to dance? Perhaps one-on-one? Could you teach a group?

What are some considerations? Everyday things such as describing the layout of the room or the location of bathrooms, providing water for the dancers, etc. What do you do when a dancer has a guide dog? How much information is enough? You can't expect the dancers to bumble through! How much is too much? These are adults - you don't want to patronize. Signage and gestural clues "the drinks are over there" are not sufficient.

Is there a market for this? Where do you find interested students? Where do you find volunteers who can help?

These are valid questions. **Dance Haddonfield**, working with the **Haddonfield Lions Club** and **Ballroom Dancing for a Better You**, has investigated and will share our experience and recommendations with you. In April - June 2023, we successfully completed an initial 10-week series of ballroom dance lessons for a group who were blind or visually impaired. They enjoyed learning how to dance to different types of music, an activity that they had originally thought they could never experience. Some of the students have come to the regular, Dance Haddonfield Sunday evening public dances.

Our instructor, Gene LaPierre, who has deep experience in this area, has offered to share this experience with you in a workshop that explains, when dealing with the blind and visually impaired:

- 1) How to reach these potential dancers
- 2) How to teach them ballroom dance individually and in groups
- 3) The complications and solutions for arranging and running a group program.

We are offering this lecture workshop to experienced dance instructors. Light refreshments will be provided.

Date/Time/Location: Sunday, September 10, 2023  
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Please respond to Bonnie Harvey ([b5harvey8@gmail.com](mailto:b5harvey8@gmail.com)) or Phil Zoebisch ([pszoebisch@gmail.com](mailto:pszoebisch@gmail.com))

- Yes, I plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_ [name(s)]
- I am interested by cannot make this date/time.

Please send me information if additional workshops are scheduled  
\_\_\_\_\_ [name(s)]