



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

NOTE: Don't let the cold weather deter you from our meeting! Big Thank you to Past President Greg Hatcher. Greg will be providing a driver and van to shuttle you from the parking lot of Clinton Center to the front door before Rotary and back to the parking lot after. Shuttle times: at 11:15A - 1:15P

Ballet Arkansas

Michael Fothergill, Executive & Artistic Director; Dr. Ann Patel, President, produced and moderated by Debby Davis.

Ballet Arkansas is kicking off its 2025 season. Join Michael Fothergill, Executive & Artistic Director, and Dr. Ann Patel, President of the Board, as they discuss their vision for Ballet Arkansas and the upcoming season. Produced and moderated by 99er Debbie Davis.



Michael Fothergill was introduced to dance as a student at the Betty Hill Dance Studios in Des Moines, Iowa, furthering his training under the guidance of Robert Thomas and Miyoko Kato at the Robert Thomas Dancer. His studies continued on full scholarship at the Milwaukee Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, and ultimately at the School of American Ballet.

Michael completed his training at American Ballet Theatre and embarked upon a performing career that spanned two decades. His artistic pursuits took him across Asia, Europe, and the United States, performing leading roles in the classics and in works by Ashton, Balanchine, Bahr, Baryshnikov, Christensen, De Mille, Dow, Duato, Fokine, Fosse, Gamonet, King, Kylián, Massine, MacMillan, Nureyev, Prokofsky, Robbins, Tharp, Tudor, Van Fletteren, and others. He performed extensively throughout the US, Europe, and Japan as a principal guest artist and was a member of the Charleston Ballet Theatre, City Ballet of San Diego, Milwaukee Ballet, and Alabama Ballet, among others. While employed in Japan, Michael was awarded the prestigious title of "Artist of Extraordinary Merit", a seldom granted honor. Michael retired from performing in April 2017 and was appointed Executive and Artistic Director of Ballet Arkansas the following July. Ballet Arkansas has since evolved into a dynamic institution, curating an eclectic repertoire that includes the classics, masterworks of American Dance, and original works by distinguished choreographers such as George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon, Gerald Arpino, David Bintley, Tsai Hsi Hung, Agnes De Mille, Ma Cong, Madison Hicks, Simon Kuban, Alia Kache, FLOCK, Yuka Obata-Muschiana, Maddie Falconer, Yury Yanowsky, Yoshito Sakuraba, Ashley Green, Mariana Oliveira, Lorenzo Di Loreto, and Thang Dao, among others.

As Executive and Artistic Director, Michael oversees all aspects of Ballet Arkansas's professional company and its affiliated school, the Ballet Arkansas School for Dance, which he co-founded with his wife, Catherine, in August 2022. In fewer than 5 years, Michael transformed the organization's vision and programming, eliminated its debt, and doubled its gross operating budget to exceed \$1.3M. Today, the organization is ranked among the Largest 75 Ballet Companies in America by the Dance Data Project and has been twice named Best Performing Arts Organization in Arkansas by the Arkansas Times. The organization's innovative pandemic-era holiday programming garnered national attention from CBS, and its steady growth has been profiled by *Pointe Magazine* and *Broadway World* in recent years.

In addition to his work at Ballet Arkansas, Michael is a sought-after choreographer whose work has been performed professionally and academically across the United States and internationally in Iceland, Australia, France, Romania, Dubai, Spain, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Japan. His choreography for film was featured in *Dance the Dream at 50*, an international documentary produced by acclaimed filmmaker Richard Karz. Over seven seasons, Michael has created several full-length productions for Arkansas audiences, including *Dracula*, *Sleepy Hollow*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Nutcracker*, *Wonderland: Alice's Epic Adventure*, *Cinderella*, and *Carmen*, all of which received rave reviews.

Michael is a dedicated educator and the founding director of the Cecchetti Council of America's Enhanced Men's Training Program. He frequently serves on the faculty of CCA's International Summer School and Teacher Training Seminars. His teaching experience spans numerous professional companies and schools both in the USA and internationally. Notable institutions include the Japan Ballet Association, STEPS on Broadway, Peridance Capezio Center, Ballets des France, Ballet Austin, Ballet des

Étoiles, Noriko Koizumi Ballet, Kuniyuki/Sahara Dance, Ballet Des Moines, Ballet Theater of Maryland, Alabama Ballet, Arova Contemporary Ballet, California Ballet, City Ballet of San Diego, Milwaukee Ballet, Scripps Performing Arts Academy, Southold Dance Theater, Takako Classical Ballet, Chida Toshiko Ballet, Hiroko Masuya Classic Ballet, Midorigoaka Ballet, Samford University, and Belhaven University, where he was recently a guest artist in residence. Michael has lectured for the Cecchetti Council of America, UA-Little Rock, the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, the Walton Arts Center, and UA-Pulaski Technical College's Center for Humanities and Arts. Michael has adjudicated for the CCA Classical Ballet Competition and representing the United States, he has served on multiple juries of the Hokkaido Ballet Competition. Michael is an adjunct faculty member of arts and humanities at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

In recognition of his business acumen, he has received accolades such as being named one of the Top 100 Professionals in Arkansas in 2020 and one of the Top Influencers of 2022 by Arkansas Money & Politics Magazine. He was inducted into Who's Who in America in 2022, and Soirée Magazine further acknowledged his impact by naming him one of only 25 Men on a Mission statewide in 2023. In his spare time, Michael is an avid runner and freelance nonprofit consultant. He enjoys music, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Ann Schneider Patel grew up dancing ballet in Pueblo, Colorado. She spent summers dancing with Ballet West in Snowmass, Colorado & with the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. While ballet was a passion, so was science. She attended Creighton University and graduated with a Biology degree. From there, she attended medical school at the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City and graduated in 2004. She completed her Family Practice residency and Board Certification in 2007 and went on to practice Emergency Medicine and private practice in Columbus, Ohio.

Ann and her husband, Ashay, moved to Little Rock in 2011 when he accepted a job at Arkansas Children's Hospital. They have three children: Deven (15), Annalise (13) and Kiran (7), whom Ann homeschools.

Ann joined Ballet Arkansas's Board of Directors in 2022 and became President in 2023. Ann believes in the transformative power of dance and the importance of giving back to young dancers by volunteering with Ballet Arkansas and helping promote dance within our community.

Debbie Davis, director of marketing at Baptist Health, has 25-plus years of experience in communications and marketing and is responsible for covering corporate branding, digital marketing, advertising, service line growth, and publications and collateral materials for the Baptist Health system.

Debbie has a B.S.B.A. in Marketing Management from the University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business and an M.A. in Management from Webster University. She enjoys serving nonprofit organizations in the Little Rock community. Rotary Club 99, Ballet Arkansas and the UAMS College of Medicine are a few of the organizations where she dedicates her time.

Zoom Login: 01.21.25

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89500640000?pwd=fymcNjhTXejP1nEqPC4tGHNg0VRbJb.1>

Meeting ID: 895 0064 0000

Passcode: 326949

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,89500640000#,,,,*326949# US

+19294362866,,89500640000#,,,,*326949# US (New York)

Special Events and Meetings

New Member Orientations

Chair: Melissa Hendricks

Time: 12 Noon - 1 PM - Lunch Provided

Location: Rotary Office, 425 W. Capitol Ave. (Simmons Tower), Suite 735

Dates:

Monday, January 27, 2025

Monday, April 28, 2025

Affinity Group: Club 99 Book Club

March 2025

Host: Steve Straessle

May 2025

Host: Jamie Griffin

July 2025

Host: Kristina Bolhouse

Affinity Group: Women of Rotary

Chair: Kim Kirkman

Time: 8:15 AM

Via Zoom

Dates & Topics:

Friday, January 31, 2025, Speaking Well

Friday, February 28, 2025, Softer Side of Leadership

March, 28, 2025, Enneagram

April, 25, 2025, Designing Your Life

May, 30, 2025, Wrap up: Life to the Fullest

Service Opportunities:

Arkansas Food Bank Friends & Family Night, 4301 West 65th Street, Little Rock

Tue, Jan 21, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Look for more information closer to dates, but mark your calendars for additional service opps:

March 8, 2025, Keep Little Rock Beautiful, City Wide Clean Up Day, Coordinator Capi Peck

April 5, 2025, Habitat for Humanity Build, Coordinator, Rob Delaney

May 10, 2025, Miracle League Club 99 Buddy Day, Coordinator, Charlie Kreps

April/May, TBA, Dunbar Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Coordinator Dan Parker

May, TBA, Dunbar Celebration Assemble, Coordinator, Dan Parker

Upcoming Programs

January 2025

January 21: Michael Fothergill, Executive & Artistic Director; Dr. Ann Patel, President, Ballet Arkansas

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January 28: Mark Bremer, VP, Industrial Programs, Dassault Falcon Jet

Dassault Falcon's facility in Little Rock finishes and maintains Falcon private jets, among the finest private aircraft in the world. Workers there work with fine leather and wood cabinetry to finish out the interiors of the planes, which arrive as unfinished "green" aircraft from France. The one-million-square-foot facility, Dassault's largest facility in the world, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in June and recently announced a \$100 million expansion. Join us as Mark Bremer, Vice President of Industrial Programs for Dassault Falcon, discusses the facility's history in Arkansas and its current expansion, already underway. Produced and moderated by Art Squire and Chris Mangum.

Club Leaders



[Jason Chacko](#)
President



[Mitc Bettis](#)
President-Elect



[Molly McNulty](#)
President-Nominee



[Natalie Ghidotti](#)
iPast President



[Drew Harper](#)
Treasurer



[Greg McCarroll](#)
Treasurer-Elect



[Amy Meins](#)
Secretary



[Rachel O'Neal](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Juli Brandenberger](#)
Club Director



[Nate Coulter](#)
Club Director



[Becky Finney](#)
Club Director



[Lena Hayes](#)
Club Director



[Tanya James](#)
Club Director



[Viji Kuruvilla](#)
Club Director



[John Monroe](#)
Club Director



[Kevin Newton](#)
Club Director



[Wendy Wood](#)
Club Director



[Ross Burnett](#)
Membership Chair



[Chris Mangum](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Jamie Higgins](#)
International Service Chair



[Dan Parker](#)
Club Service Chair