

# TLHLife



Campers participate in a traditional dance exercise at Wildwood camp. The dance from England included a circle motif, a symbol of unity. AMANDA THOMPSON

# Joy of connecting

**Children dance around the world at Wildwood camp**

**Amanda Karioth Thompson**  
Council on Culture & Arts

**R**obin Stuyverson's family moved frequently during her childhood and though she faced inconsistencies, dance became the thread of continuity in her life. Her mother wisely enrolled her in dance classes when she was 4 years old and from then on, Stuyverson was involved in dance. "It has been a pivotal thing in my life that kept me grounded as I moved and gave me a community that I could be part of wherever I went," she said.

Though a hip injury derailed her dream of studying dance in college, it seems she was destined to find a different path. In 1975 while attending FSU, she was "introduced to the idea of doing dance in church which I had never heard of before and that's how I grew in using dance as an expression of faith." She has turned that revelation into a career and for the past 20 years has taught dance locally at Wildwood Ballet, a ministry of Wildwood Church.

As the founder and director, she has worked with



Hula tells a story through body and hand motions. AMANDA THOMPSON

See WILDWOOD, Page 4C



The hukilau consists of basic hula steps and arm movements that represent fishing. AMANDA THOMPSON

## Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES			
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date Arrangements
*Baker, Betty Martin	70	Gainesville	24-Jun Gail & Wynn's Mortuary, Inc
Connell, A. B. "Bill"	90	Bainbridge, GA,	25-Jun Ivey Funeral Home
Jones, Jeffrey "Jeff R.	60	Crawfordville	24-Jun Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services
*Suber, Karl Lemuel	55	Tallahassee	26-Jun Charles McClelan Funeral Home
*Venz, Gregory D.	48	Tallahassee	23-Jun Culley's MeadowWood Funeral Home
Wimberly, Hazel Gail	5 mos.	Donaldsville, GA	24-Jun Ivey Funeral Home

\* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/Tallahassee](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/Tallahassee)

### Betty Martin Baker

GAINESVILLE - Betty Martin Baker, 70 of Gainesville, Florida died Sunday, June 24, 2018. A native of Chattahoochee, Florida she was a 1965 graduate of Carter Paramore High School, she received her Bachelor of Art degree in Criminology/Psychology and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Baruch College in New York and a M.Ed. with a concentration in Organizational Development from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Betty was an employee of Alachua County as the County Manager and Chief of Staff to the City Manager of Gainesville until April 2018.

Her memories will forever be cherished by her loving children: Dexter L. Martin, Atlanta, Georgia, Glynis Baker, Midway, Florida and Monica (Ricky) Baker Gibbs, Tallahassee, Florida; Five grandchildren: Malcom Colston, Charlotte, North Carolina, Alden Bradley, Chattahoochee, Florida, Sarah Jackson, Gainesville, Florida, Brenden and Britney Gibbs both of Tallahassee, Florida; Siblings: Lenora (Curtis) Montgomery, Chattahoochee, Florida, Gail Thomas DeWitt, Orlando, Florida, Victor (Schieme) Thomas, Orlando, Florida and Beta (Yvonne) Thomas, Chattahoochee, Florida; Uncle: Eugene McMillian and Lonnie McMillian both of Chattahoochee, Florida; Aunt: Laura McMillian, Chattahoochee, Florida.

The Gainesville Funeral services will be held Thursday, June 28, 2018 10:00 A.M. at Campus Church of Christ, 2720 SW Second Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

The Chattahoochee Funeral services will be held Friday, June 29, 2018 2:00 P.M. EST at New Zion M.B. Church, 556 Lincoln Drive, Chattahoochee, Florida.

Gail & Wynn's Mortuary, Inc., 1300 Bruton Boulevard, Orlando, Florida is in charge of all arrangements. [www.gailwynnmortuary.com](http://www.gailwynnmortuary.com)

### Karl Lemuel Suber

TALLAHASSEE - Karl Lemuel Suber, affectionately known to his family as "Stump", passed away in his sleep in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 26, 2018. He was born to Pat and Adelaide Suber on August 11, 1962 in Quincy, Florida, where he developed an intense love of hunting, fishing, and all things outdoors.

Stump began his cooking career in the kitchen of The Mother Lode, in Aspen, Colorado. After stints at Grant's Ribs, the Musical Moon and Barnacle Bill's, Karl found his home as the chef for Annella's Restaurant in Village Square, Tallahassee, FL. He delighted customers and coworkers alike with his costumes, humor, ever-present bandanas and his crazy antics. If you were really lucky, Karl might slip one of his plastic roaches into your mashed potatoes or tuck it under your Snapper with Vanilla Sauce! His way of showing he liked you!

After retiring from the day-to-day restaurant business, Stump continued cooking, smoking salmon, pigs and any number of animals in between. He also founded and continued to operate "Karl Suber's Bandana Bee Company", providing honey to local businesses and friends.

Stump was a definite one-of-a-kind and will be missed by many.

He is survived by his mother, Adelaide Suber, his brothers, Jesse (Hope), Mark, Jamie (Sue), his nephews Ben, Tej, Devan and Amir, his nieces, Allie and Elspeth, his ex-wife and best friend, Elaine, and his loving dog Chica.

A very casual wake will be held for family and friends at Karl's mother's house, 426 Lacy Woods Court, Tallahassee, on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

### Gregory D. Venz

TALLAHASSEE - Gregory D. Venz, 48, of Tallahassee passed away June 23, 2018. Greg was born December 13, 1969 in Hamilton, Bermuda and attended Columbus High School in Lake City, Florida where he graduated in 1987. He graduated from Florida State University in 1991 and graduated from the Florida State University College of Law in 1993.

Greg had a passion for serving, and this was demonstrated by his many professional achievements throughout his life. For over 23 years, he served the State of Florida as an attorney for the Department of Financial Services and the Department of Children and Families before retiring in 2017. Under his direction with the Department of Children and Families, he was the first Director of the Florida Sexually Violent Predator Program. In 2009, he was named "Outstanding Assistant General Counsel of the Year" by the Florida Government Bar Association. Greg was also a member of the Board of Directors of Florida's Americans with Disabilities Act Working Group.

In his spare time, Greg was an avid fisherman, a Seminole booster, a trail-bike rider and a member of the Tallahassee Dart League. He was also a proud fan of the University of Alabama.

Greg is survived by his parents, Donald R. and Nancy Hanks Venz; sister, Kathryn Venz Curtis (Jason); 3 nieces, Sabrina Curtis, Julia Curtis, and Emma Curtis; uncles, Sherman Venz, Edward Venz (Virginia), and Carl Hanks (Velma); aunts, Faye Martin (Odell) and Alice Paladin. He is also survived by a host of cousins, nieces and nephews and leaves behind many near and dear friends, as well as several lifelong buddies who will miss him dearly.

A visitation will be held Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 10am at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with a funeral mass to follow at 11am. Interment will take place at a later date in Lake City, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

### In Memoriam



Express your  
condolences...  
[tallahassee.com/obituaries](http://tallahassee.com/obituaries)

### OBITUARY POLICY

The Tallahassee Democrat does not charge a standard death notice. An extended obituary is available for a charge. The Tallahassee Democrat reserves the right to republish all obituaries. Obituaries originally submitted to the Tallahassee Democrat may be published, distributed, re-purposed and otherwise used in print, digital and other media platforms. Deadline for publication for the following day is 2:30 p.m. After that time no new submissions, changes or cancellations may be made.

LOBBY HOURS:  
Monday-Friday 8:30am- 5:00pm  
CALL CENTER HOURS:  
Monday-Sunday 8:30am- 6:00pm  
Email obituaries to [obits@tallahassee.com](mailto:obits@tallahassee.com). For more information on placing an obituary, please contact the obituary team at 888-516-0060.

[tallahassee.com/obituaries](http://tallahassee.com/obituaries)

## Wildwood

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hundreds of young dancers and she's quick to point out that "98 percent of our students come from outside of this church family. Though some of our students are here because we're faith based, they're kids so I'm just wanting them to enjoy who they are as themselves and to hold on to that."

Stuyverson has built an environment where all are accepted and while students are working on technical ability, the emphasis at Wildwood is more about expression, collaboration and inclusion. "I've noticed that students who get too much in the mindset of perfection, and ballet just breeds that, they become real closed up. I went down that route where perfectionism became my standard," Stuyverson confessed. "I've seen what that does versus an environment where students can just feel free to be who they are."

Outside of Wildwood, Stuyverson fosters opportunities for others to experience the joy of dance. As an American Ballet Theatre certified teacher, she has become involved in Project Plié, an outreach effort featuring the famed ballerina Misty Copeland as the program's spokesperson. When Stuyverson learned about Project Plié, she recalled, "I was like 'oh my goodness, this is my heart,' taking this gift into the community that might not be able to come to us financially or geographically."

Students at the Nims Middle School Boys & Girls Club and the Miccosukee Boys & Girls Club have directly benefited from Stuyverson's master classes, camps and weekly instruction as a Project Plié partner. Her commitment to sharing her art form doesn't stop there. Stuyverson works with the local senior community and has partnered with Chelsea House, a residential program for women, to offer creative movement sessions to clients.

The idea of connecting with others is what inspired Stuyverson to develop the Around the World summer camp. One of many summer offerings at Wildwood, this camp focuses on traditional dance from across the globe. Currently a graduate student in FSU's American Dance Studies program, she said "I've learned so much more about folk dance and that so much of it is rooted in sacred rituals. It's this idea of community and looking to this other world for strength and protection. Every culture has their folk dance. It's as old as man."

Twenty-two campers got a taste of that history. Grouped by age level, students from four to 10 years old had the opportunity to explore China, England, Ghana and Hawaii through traditional dance. Along the way, they learned about technique, artistry, music, instruments, geography, culture and spirituality.

Five-year-old Mercy Rubino danced the hula and especially enjoyed the dance from England "because we scallop in circles." Mercy admitted though that her favorite part of dancing is the costumes. "I have so many that my closet overflows," she said. Her 10-year-old campmate Sophia Alzheimer agrees about the costumes and echoed many of Stuyverson's sentiments.

"When I was 2, my mom signed me up and I grew into dance," Sophia said. "Now it's a part of my life." She most enjoyed performing the dance representing China and said that learning more about the choreography can be tricky. "That's part of what I like about dance, it takes more dedication than the rest of my life. It gives me an opportunity to create something special for other people. I like looking out into the audiences and seeing people's smiling faces."

That moment of connection is what Stuyverson wants her students to experience.

"Through moving our body, specifically with intentionality, the movement gives shape to what's inside so that others can see it, feel it, sense it and recognize, 'oh yeah, I can see that way too.' Just like all art, the purpose is to make visible what is invisible and that causes us to connect and build community," Stuyverson said. "The idea is about appreciating others' expressions through their dance. Not through appropriation, not to take it and use it for our gain but to truly appreciate it. To delight in another culture and actually be enlarged in our human experience."

Amanda Karioth Thompson is the Assistant Director for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture ([www.tallahassearts.org](http://www.tallahassearts.org)).



Robin Stuyverson passes along her knowledge of and passion for dance to campers. AMANDA THOMPSON