

## Dance in Asylum Hill

Dance instruction, and the performances that come with it are an important part of the culture here in Asylum Hill. Holiday performances are a common part of that. This year it all started on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with Studio 860's performance of *The Gift*. Staged at the nearby Charter Oak Cultural Center, this company who recently moved into their new studio at 256 Farmington Ave (the site of the old Mark Twain Branch Library) has been growing and expanding recently. More on that in another piece to follow.

The music performed to was a mix of everything from Stevie Wonder and John Coltrane to Kendrick Lamar and Kanye West. The story was classic Christmas as the name might suggest, but the performance was a variety of styles that show off the wide array of styles offered at the studio, everything from breakdance and hip-



hop to modern and ballet. Photos of the performance are available at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/JrtUY4AviJluKKNo2>

The next day, on the 10<sup>th</sup> Hartford City Ballet staged their annual performance of *The Nutcracker* at Kingswood Oxford School's Roberts Theater. This was another excellent performance with nearly all of the dancers coming from the School of Hartford City Ballet. The part of Clara was again danced by Sydney Alleyne, with Neriad Barrett, Serena Van Der Hulst and other long time students dancing prominent roles.

This year's performance was different in that students from Miss Porter's School who had been studying with HCB this year joined in the performance as Snow Flakes at the end of the first act and Flower at the end of the second act. Photos from this event are

available at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VcNvpcIRUHHtTkYm1>

Then on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Spectrum In Motion presented their year-end performance A Winter Sharing at Drew Hall in Asylum Hill Congregational Church. It was a wonderful end to a great year of dance and building community. Photos from that event are available at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ijhkv4Q6ergV1bt82>

Finally Grace Lutheran Church hosted a Christmas Eve afternoon celebration for the neighborhood that included a puppet show for the children and a ballet performance of several of the solo dances from *The Nutcracker* By Natasha Robinett, a Russian ballerina, who



has performed at Grace in the past. Also entertaining that Night was David Eberly, a member of the parish and an accomplished jazz pianist.

Photos from that event are available at

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/fliQnJkivFPzcILq2>

All in all there were a lot of opportunities to enjoy beautiful dance in many different styles from Asylum Hill neighbors.

