

DanceTeacher®

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DT notes NEWS

NOTES

■ **Dr. Marion Coles**, leader of The Silver Belles and wife of the late Charles "Honi" Coles, passed away in November. She was 94. In recent years, she had taught master tap classes in NYC and all over the country at NYU, Queens College, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Tulane University's Jazz Project in 2000.

■ The North Carolina Dance Alliance Annual Award was given to **Dr. Sue Stinson**, professor of dance at University of North Carolina, Greensboro. For the past 30 years, Dr. Stinson has taught students from preschool to senior citizens. She is a founding member and former chair of Dance and the Child International, a nonprofit that brings dance education to children worldwide.

■ In November, New Mexico's **Keshet Dance Company** was awarded the 2009 Coming Up Taller Award from First Lady Michelle Obama. The award goes to outstanding out-of-school and after-school arts programs for children. Keshet has performed and conducted workshops in detention centers, youth shelters, schools and community centers all over New Mexico.

■ **Charles "Chuck" Davis** received an honorary doctorate of fine arts from UMass Amherst in December. Davis' **African American Dance Ensemble** was founded in 1984 and Davis has been an active leader in Afro-American dance since 1968. His work *Blue Grass/Brown Earth* was performed after the award ceremony.



Keshet Dance Company's Shira Greenberg (l) and Elianna Boswell (r) with Michelle Obama

■ **Ailey II** dancers **Ghrai DeVore** and **Renaldo Gardner**, both 19, received scholarships from the Dizzy Feet Foundation. They will train at The Ailey School. Both dancers appeared on a November episode of "So You Think You Can Dance" in a segment about the Foundation, which was founded by the show's producer Nigel Lythgoe, director Adam Shankman, judge Carrie Ann Inaba and actress Katie Holmes.

■ Six dancers and choreographers received United States Artists fellowships in December. They are: Cambodian dance teacher **Sophiline Cheam Shapiro**; Hokenani Holt-Padilla, hula master; contemporary dancemaker **Tere O'Connor**; African/modern choreographer **Reggie Wilson**; and **Lin Hixson** and **Matthew Goulish**, directors of performance group Goat Island. Each fellowship awardee receives a grant of \$50,000.