

HONORARY MEMBER MAXINE DEBRUYN
SDG PRESIDENT 1971-1974



Maxine DeBruyn, "Max", has been one of SDG's longest dancing Volunteer President's and was organized, dedicated and dynamic for 4 years in the 70's. Since then, she has continued on with her passion for Sacred Dance. For many years, she has led, taught, and choreographed Sacred Dance through a Sacred Dance performing group in Holland Michigan and through Hope College.

Forty years ago, dance at Hope College was born. Maxine DeBruyn came to Hope College with a vision that as a liberal arts college Hope needed to provide the full spectrum of the arts. She began with one physical education course in modern dance and has developed it into one of the top undergraduate programs in the nation.

Hope students have experienced Maxine as a professor, advisor, choreographer, creator and chairperson of the dance department. Maxine has been a trail blazer in dance education. She has served in multiple leadership capacities for The American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Association of Schools of Dance as well as many other organizations in her field at the state, national and international level.

She has been awarded time and again for her dedicated service with awards such as the United States Congressional Record, a joint concurrent resolution from the State of Michigan Legislature, an honor award from The Midwest District of AAHPERD, their highest award for leadership, and Hope College's Ruth and John Reed Faculty Achievement Award, as well as in 2004 receiving the Life Time Achievement Award in Dance Education from the Michigan Dance Council.

IN MAX'S OWN WORDS

I am a professor, active choreographer, and the past dance department chairperson at Hope College. I have served as president of (NDEO) National Dance education organization, as the USA representative to the International Board of Dance and the Child International (daCi), as a director on the boards of the National Association of Schools of Dance, National Dance Education Organization, Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, as vice-chair, and ArtServe of Michigan. Over the years, I have chaired symposiums for Michigan artists, educators and administrators for advancing art and education. For over 20 years, I have lead exercise classes at Warm Friend and Evergreen Commons. I am currently serving on the board of OAR and the Holland Area Arts Council.

I have a background in the K-12 dance curriculum, continue to promote dance opportunities for children, and I have an interest in research in this area. I believe children need a chance to dance and share their culture, artistic ideas, and build new friendships in an ever changing world.