



Discovering Dance in the STEAM Classroom: Moving Math and Surprising Science

Bios of Karl and Laurel:

Karl Schaffer is a dancer and choreographer who co-directs the Santa Cruz-based dance company MoveSpeakSpin, which has performed internationally for over thirty years. He is also a math professor at De Anza College, received a Ph.D. in mathematics from UC Santa Cruz, and his writings on dance and mathematics have been published widely. He and co-director Erik Stern are on the Kennedy Center Teaching Artist Roster, and have taught hundreds of workshops throughout the United States to teachers, students, artists, and mathematicians on how to integrate dance and mathematics in the classroom, the studio, and on stage. His recent concerts include *The Daughters of Hypatia*, on the lives, work, and struggles of women mathematicians, and *Mosaic* on culture and conflict in the Mideast. See www.mathdance.org.

A lifelong love of learning, science, and dance coalesced when **Laurel Shastri** (MS in Geology) became a teaching artist twenty-five years ago. Her creative mission to integrate dance authentically yielded a number of unique units, including 'The Scientific Dancer', 'Meaningful Movement', and 'DANCE as ACTIVism.' Her work is featured in the college text 'Creating Meaning Through Literature and the Arts,' by Claudia Cornett. Her school residencies have inspired thousands of students through the Arts Council Santa Cruz County Artist-Teacher Partnership, Montalvo Teaching Artist Program, and Tennessee Art Commission arts education programs. Her interactive workshops for educators are well received and include presentations with Monterey Bay Area Math Project STEAM conference, Marion Cilker Conference for the Arts in Education, National Association for State Arts Agencies, and Southeast Center for Education in the Arts. At Ballet Tennessee, she served twenty-five years as Associate Director, dancer, faculty, arts education coordinator, and grant writer. Prior to that she worked as project geologist and chemical technician for environmental firms at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She is currently faculty of Dancenter and performs with MoveSpeakSpin.