



FIRST ANNUAL

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*Dancing  
with the Stars  
of Bryan County*

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RICHMOND HILL CITY CENTER

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019



RobbieWard

RICHMOND HILL CITY COUNCIL ★ *POST 2*

# WELCOME TO THE FIRST ANNUAL



## FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE COTTAGE & SERENITY HILL, INC.



Housed in “The Cottage,” Serenity Hill, Inc. is Bryan County’s first and only non-profit, certified victim service organization. Located in the heart of Richmond Hill, The Cottage is a free-standing, community-based, victim service center providing high-quality, evidence-based, trauma-informed, sub-specialty forensic-medical care, crisis intervention, advocacy, and referral services to victims of abuse and their families. Our trauma-informed staff and volunteers are trained and experienced in providing a person-centered response to trauma and violence, and our medical providers are highly trained, experienced, and certified in the provision of sub-specialty, forensic-medical care to patients across the lifespan. The Cottage also offers internships to undergraduate and graduate-level students and serves as a training center for nursing and medical students and professionals across the country seeking sub-specialty training in forensics. Currently, The Cottage receives no public funding, and services are provided free of charge to victims and their families. Your financial support is greatly needed and very much appreciated. We could not fulfill our mission without your continued support and generosity. Thank you for coming out to support our efforts to care for our community!

**For additional information, please visit our website: <https://www.thecottagerh.org>**

**Find us on Facebook: @thecottagerichmondhill**

# *Mistress of Ceremonies*

## *Deborah Valis-Flynn*

A native of Charleston, SC, Deborah Valis-Flynn has served the Federal Government as a Program and Management Analyst for the US Military. Her work includes leading projects and instructing courses for the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Corps of Engineers. Deborah has served across the US, including at the Pentagon Annex in Washington, DC. She holds a Master Certification from Villanova University in both Project Management and as a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt. Deborah has held several titles in pageantry as well, to include Mrs. Alabama International 1997, Mrs. Southeast International 2007, Ms. US America 2010, and Ms. International 2016. She has volunteered and been a strong advocate for several children's charities, including the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center in Dothan, AL and the Boys & Girls Clubs Of America across the Southeastern US. We are honored to have Deborah serve as our Mistress of Ceremonies for our First Annual Dancing with the Stars of Bryan County!

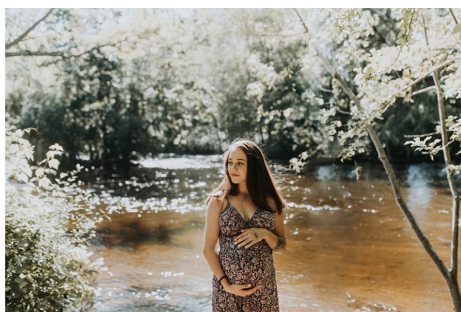


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# *Tonight's Line-Up*

Welcome

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies

Recognition of Event Sponsors

Introduction of Judges

How It Works

Couple #1: Douglas & Polina Washington

Couple #2: Benji Miles & Karolina Fitzer

Couple #3: Jamie & Karla Hillen

Couple #4: Kyleigh & Alexis Reed

Intermission

Announcement: 2019 Winners



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## *How It Works...*

YOU have the power to help decide the 2019 Dancing with the Stars of Bryan County Champions! Dance couples are competing in three categories: Sponsorship, People's Choice, and Judge's Choice.

The sponsorship award winner is the couple with the total number of pre-sold votes, ads, and sponsorships before tonight's event.

Our dance couples will be passing their buckets around during tonight's event, and this is your opportunity to vote for your favorite couple! \$1 = 1 vote! When your favorite couple comes by, drop some money in their bucket. That money will determine tonight's "People's Choice Award."

Our judges will be scoring each couple in several areas tonight, including but not limited to, execution of their routine, music selection, and their costumes. The couple with the highest score awarded by the judge's will win tonight's "Judge's Choice Award."

Scores from all categories will be combined, and the couple with the highest score will be the 2019 Dancing with the Stars of Bryan County Champions!

# *Meet the Dancers!*



*Couple 1: Douglas & Polina*

## *Douglas Paul Washington*

Born in Germany, Douglas has always had an affinity for sports and fitness. He is a personal trainer and has played professional football in Germany. Douglas began dancing in 2011, taking lessons from Bill Ezzedine. In 2012, while living in California, he joined a dance team, Paso De Oro, and competed all over Southern California. Douglas realized that his best dance partner is his wife, Polina, and no dances without her are ever good enough. He is a recruiter for the Army ROTC programs and is a frequent guest speaker at high school programs in the Southeastern US. Douglas graduated from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In his free time, he loves road cycling and introducing his daughter, Ludmilla, to athletic activities.

## *Polina Washington*

Polina began her social dancing career in November 2011, when she met Douglas at a dance spot in Oceanside, CA. Since then, they have become life-long dance partners, preferring the Latin beats of Salsa and Bachata. Polina thanks her Russian background and parents for enriching her life by moving to the US, the land of opportunity. This has made her open to new cultural experiences, and in part, led her to discovering, and falling in love with, the world of Latin dancing.

Polina is a graduate of the University of Richmond, School of Law. She currently works in Financial Management and was previously the Community Ambassador for Yelp in Savannah. Polina and Douglas have a two-year old daughter, Ludmilla.

## *Benji Miles*

Benji Miles is husband to the most beautiful wife and the father of two perfect children. He is a Realtor with Re/Max Accent, but comes from a very broad background. Benji served in the US Army as an Air Traffic Controller. He has also worked in every aspect of the home building industry. Benji is driven to be involved in his community through volunteering. He has participated in several habitat for humanity events, served to educate builders and trades when new building codes have been implemented, volunteered with the Seafood Festival, and most recently, coordinated a volunteer day for the "Tiny Houses for Homeless Vets" project in Savannah. Establishments like "The Cottage" inspire Benji to get involved, and he tries to help bring attention to such a worthy cause.

## *Karolina Fitzer*

"Karo" was born and raised in Costa Rica. She has lived in Richmond Hill for 5 years with her husband Rick and their 3 fur babies. Karo holds a law degree from UMCA Costa Rica. She is also a licensed Realtor and is currently working with Integrity

Real Estate. Karo has been dancing for more than 25 years, beginning in high school, and she especially enjoys the Latin rhythms. For her, dancing is a passion that comes from her heart and she couldn't live a day without it. In her free time Karo loves roller skating, boating, reading, and spending time with her dogs.



*Couple 2: Benji & Karolina*



# *Meet the Dancers!*



## *Jamie Hillen*

Jamie Hillen was the chorus teacher at Richmond Hill High School for twelve years, until his resignation at the end of the 2019 school year. Prior to that, he spent twenty three years in the US Army Band, performing for audiences all over the US and Europe. Jamie started dancing because his wife, Karla, told him to, and much to his surprise, he didn't hate it! He agreed he didn't want to look foolish at his daughter's wedding! Jamie came to love dancing so much that he never stopped!

## *Karla Hillen*

Karla Hillen is the owner of Richmond Hill Family Counseling Center. She has been helping families in our community for fifteen years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Karla, who has been married to Jamie for 35 years, gets the most joy from her five grandchildren who are all between the ages of two years old and eight years old. Karla and Jamie started dancing in 2008 so they wouldn't look like middle school kids at their first dance when they attended their daughter's wedding! Most recently, they studied dance with Rachel Moore at Salon De Baile in Pooler.

## *Couple 3: Jamie & Karla*

## *Kyleigh Reed*

Kyleigh, a Richmond Hill Middle School 6th grader, discovered her love for dance at age three. She has trained with Life Moves Dance Studio, The Ballet School, and The Joffrey Ballet. Kyleigh currently trains with The Bradley Academy in Richmond Hill and The Studio in Thunderbolt. She has performed twice with The Moscow Ballet in "The Great Russian Nutcracker" (2016, 2018) and with The Columbia City Ballet in "The Nutcracker" and "Dracula." When she is not dancing, Kyleigh is drawing, studying, practicing piano, spending time with her church youth group, or hanging out with her friends. She currently plans to attend the University of Georgia and become a Veterinarian. Kyleigh is the twin sister of Alexis Reed.

## *Alexis Reed*

Alexis is a 6th grader at Richmond Hill Middle School. Her love for dance began when she was three years old. Alexis has trained with Life Moves Dance Studio, The Ballet School, and The Joffrey Ballet. She currently trains with The Bradley Academy in Richmond Hill and The Studio in Thunderbolt. Alexis has performed with The Columbia City Ballet in "The Nutcracker" and "Dracula" and twice with The Moscow Ballet in "The Great Russian Nutcracker" (2016, 2018). When she is not dancing, Alexis plays the piano, draws, and spends time with her church youth group. At the ripe age of 11, she has decided that she will be a Marine Biologist specializing in turtles and dolphins. Alexis is the twin sister of Kyleigh Reed.



## *Couple 4: Kyleigh & Alexis*

# Meet the Judges!

## *Patti Bedgood*

Originally from Savannah, Patti began her dance training with Doris Martin's School of Dance. Later, she studied classical ballet with Shannon Kelly, Dagoberto Nieves and Tara Minkovitz Sadler. In 2002, Patti and her family opened The Performing Arts Academy of Savannah and began teaching all areas of dance. In 2003, she became a member of the Rising Stars Dance Company and opened a second studio, The Star Struck Performing Arts Center located in Beaufort, SC. Patti is currently teaching Ballet for Abbey Pride at the Glorna Daire School of Irish Dance. She has also studied and performed with The Savannah Dance Theatre and has competed regionally and nationally at Access Broadway, NYCDA, LA Dance Magic and DTI. Her Ballet repertoire includes "The Nutcracker" as The Sugar Plum Fairy, Snow Queen and Dew Drop Fairy, Coppelia, Don Quixote and Swan Lake.



## *Dr. Daniel Kiene*

An educator for more than 25 years, Dr. Daniel Kiene is the Director of Bands at Richmond Hill High School (RHHS). He holds degrees from Armstrong State University, Georgia Southern University, and the Shenandoah Conservatory. Under Dr. Kiene's direction, the RHHS band program has grown from 100 to well over 200 students, offering a highly competitive marching band, 3 concert bands, a jazz band and a guitar program. The Marching Wildcats have won more than 14 Grand Championships in the last 10 years. Dr. Kiene was named "Teacher of the Year" for RHHS and the Bryan County School (BCS) System for the 2010-2011 school year, "Star Teacher" for RHHS and the BCS System in 2015, and he received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence in 2013 during the band's performance as a Georgia Band of Distinction at Georgia State University. He was also named as a quarter-finalist in the Grammy Foundation's 2015 Music Educator Grammy Award Program. Dr. Kiene has served as adjudicator for multiple concert and marching events, as a clinician for the Savannah Chatham School District and the Armstrong Chapter of the college National Association for Music Education, and as a student teacher supervisor for both Armstrong and Georgia Southern Universities.



## *Carie Magill*

Carie Magill comes to us from Dothan, Alabama. After serving 8 years in the US Army as a Military Police Officer, she began her Civilian career in community service, where she found her calling in public housing. Ms. Magill holds Bachelor and Master's Degrees from Troy University, and she is the Executive Director of Public Housing for multiple agencies in the State of Alabama. She serves on multiple non-profit Boards of Directors and scholarship committees, assisting people in need in their pursuit of higher education. Ms. Magill serves on the coordinating committee for the annual "Dancing with the Stars Dothan Style" fundraiser for the Dothan/Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership. In the summer of 2019, her committee raised nearly \$50,000 in proceeds at their 10th annual event! Carie is the mother of 2 adult sons and the grandmother to 2 young grandsons.







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**Karla Hillen, LCSW**



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**Richmond Hill, GA 31324**

**Phone: (912) 756-7505 Fax: (912) 756-7514**



**Good Luck,  
Jamie & Karla!**

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## THE PROPERTY

Located on over 300 acres of serene natural wetlands. The facility itself is a two-story venue with over 10 meeting rooms, and a Grand Ballroom to accommodate up to 400 guests

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## EVENTS

From Corporate Function to weddings & everything in between, we have you covered. With our own Award-winning Chef & Culinary Team we handle all aspects of your event.

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VOTE



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