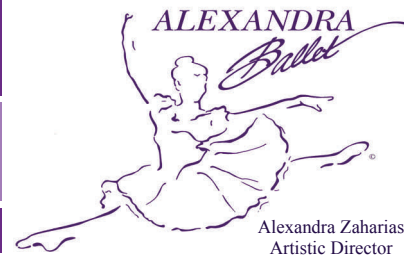


# Alexandra Ballet

*Celebrating 25 Years of Educating, Elevating, and Enriching the Community through the Magic of Dance!*

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**PRESS RELEASE - May 27, 2009**

## ALEXANDRA ZAHARIAS SELECTED AS AGELESS-REMARKABLE ST. LOUISAN 2009 HONOREE

Alexandra Zaharias, founder and director of Alexandra School of Ballet, and Artistic Director of the non-profit organization, *Alexandra Ballet*, is one of twenty honorees to be celebrated at the Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans Gala on November 1, 2009, at the Chase Park Plaza in St. Louis.

An annual award initiated in 2003 by St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors, the Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisans Award recognizes the continued achievements of dynamic older adults in the St. Louis community who have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

The honorees are diverse and outstanding: philanthropists, volunteers, business people, teachers, media notables, sports greats, community leaders, and other seniors. The evening's festivities include dinner, an honoree photo gallery, and a video featuring the honorees and their outstanding accomplishments. The gala celebration routinely draws close to 800 people, and has become a significant platform on which to promote the goals of St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors:

- Recognize the achievements of St. Louis' most dynamic citizens who just happen to be 75+;
- Transform, enhance and improve the image of aging and older adults;
- Increase awareness of St. Andrew's and generate funding to help low-income and at-risk seniors.

Alexandra Zaharias established her ballet school in 1949, which is the longest continually-run ballet school in St. Louis. She received her early training in St. Louis from Isabella Rainford, and continued her studies at the School of American Ballet in New York City under the legendary George Balanchine. Miss Zaharias attended the National Academy of Ballet, under the direction of Thalia Mara, renowned teacher, author, and founder of the International Ballet Competition, held in Jackson, Mississippi.



Alexandra Zaharias in her Chesterfield studio



Miss Zaharias educating her young dancers circa 1970.

Miss Zaharias was the National Dance Chairman for the National Society of Arts and Letters, and past president of the St. Louis chapter. She has served as co-director of the Midwestern Music and Art Camp, University of Kansas, and taught ballet at Fontbonne College in Clayton, Missouri. She was Dance Consultant for the St. Louis Board of Education Commission, St. Louis, and served as a dance panelist for the Missouri Arts Council and Regional Arts Commission Saint Louis. She also directed four seasons of *The Nutcracker*, and choreographed KinderKonzerts and Young People's Concerts for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. Miss Zaharias received the Hellenic American Achievement Award in 1991 for her work in the arts, and in 1999, she was honored to accept the Arts & Education Council's Excellence in the Arts Award. She currently serves as Historian on the National Board of Regional Dance America, and is an honorary member of Dance St. Louis.

'Dynamic', 'accomplished', and 'remarkable' are all apt ways to describe the life and work of Alexandra Zaharias. She has taught, mentored, advised, and inspired generations of students - students who have gone on to careers not only in professional dance, but in law, medicine, education, and many other areas. Miss Zaharias recognized early on that her calling in life was to teach, but she takes the opportunity to teach more than just dance steps to every student who comes into to her school. In addition to an extraordinary dance education, she teaches the important life lessons of discipline, cooperation, good manners, and the importance of always giving your best effort in everything you do.

*Alexandra Ballet* is proud to announce Alexandra Zaharias as an Ageless-Remarkable St. Louisan of 2009.