



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Changing Times Tap Dancing Company collection**

1943-2017 [bulk 1970-2010]

(S) \*MGZMD 497

Processed by Tara D. Strongosky, 2019.

## Summary

**Creator:** Goldberg, Jane, 1948-

**Title:** Changing Times Tap Dancing Company collection

**Date:** 1943-2017 [bulk 1970-2010]

**Size:** 7.72 linear feet (19 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

**Source:** Donated by Jane Goldberg, 2018.

**Abstract:** The Changing Times Tap Dancing Company collection documents the activities and contributions put forward by its founder Jane Goldberg. Since 1979 Goldberg has preserved, promoted, and performed the dance form while paying respect to its most important key tappers such as Charles "Cookie" Cook, Albert "Gip" Gibson, Bubba Gaines, and Ernest "Brownie" Brown. The collection contains articles written by and about Goldberg, newsletters, educational papers, tap history profiles, programs, correspondence, administrative records, publicity materials, photographs, and posters. Many of Goldberg's allies in producing original tap shows and festivals, including Brenda Bufalino and Sarah Safford, are represented throughout in interviews, scripts, and programs. Additionally, photographs and correspondence provide a portrait of the professional and personal friendship Goldberg shared with Gregory Hines during tap's "revival" of the mid 1970's through 2003. The collection also includes programs and drawings from Jane Goldberg's early life including school musicals and dance recitals, as well as personal photographs from throughout her life.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization. Electronic records are unavailable.

**Preferred citation:** Changing Times Tap Dancing Company collection, (S) \*MGZMD 497. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Tara D. Strongosky, 2019.

## Creator History

Jane Goldberg, tap dancer, teacher, director, and pioneer of the tap renaissance of the 1970s, was born in 1948 in Washington, D.C. As a teenager, she participated in school musical performances and the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in the summer of 1964. In 1973, she looked up "tap dance" in the Boston yellow pages, found her way to the dance studio of Stanley Brown, and began to study tap dance. One year later, she moved to New York City where she studied dance with the Judson Dance Theatre experimentalist Simone Forti. Lessons with Charles "Cookie" Cook, Albert "Gip" Gibson, Leon Collins, and Leslie "Bubba" Gaines soon followed. After about six months of studying the craft, she decided instead to write about tap dance. She traveled to Pittsburgh to interview Paul Draper and published her first article, "It's All in the Feet" in Boston's *Patriot Ledger* in 1974.

Five years later, in 1979, Goldberg formally founded the Changing Times Tap Dance Company, dedicated to preserving, promoting, and creating new tap performances. The company was also dedicated to the mixing of dancers who were young and old, black and white, and male and female. Within the auspices of the company, Goldberg generated many more ideas that would help bring a more enthusiastic, critical, and public response to tap dance, thus fueling the flames of its renaissance.

Teaching the rhythm tap tradition also became part of Goldberg's charge. She knew its survival required it to be passed on by the masters of tap. In 1980, Changing Times Tap Company produced *By Word of Foot: Tap Masters Pass on Their Tradition* at the Village Gate in New York City. It was a rare gathering of tap's leading dancers, where they discussed their traditions and taught their own evolved styles. *By Word of Foot* was hailed as the first tap festival, and was organized and produced again in 1982 and 1985.

In the 1990s, Goldberg continued her exploration of comedy, tapping, and talking with productions such as *Tapping and Talking Dirty*, *Rhythm and Schmooze*, and *The Rhythm Method*. Jane continues to travel with The Traveling Tap Museum, a mobile exhibition and set for presentations about tap dancing. She also delivers Tap-A-Grams™, a singing/tapping telegram service. Her team of dancers will dance and sing for a special event or occasion on request.

## Scope and Content Note

The Changing Times Tap Dance Company collection encapsulates the activities and contributions of the company which was founded in 1979 by tap dancer, teacher and historian Jane Goldberg. The collection documents over fifty years of research and archival work conducted by Goldberg with the bulk of the content ranging from 1970 to 2010, but some collected resources date as far back as 1943.

Jane Goldberg incorporated her non-profit organization to support her efforts to preserve, promote, and perform the art form of tap dance. The collection emphasizes materials relating to African American tap dancers based mainly on the East Coast of the United States, such as Chuck Green, John Bubbles, Gregory Hines, Charles "Cookie" Cook and others. The collection also includes her writings about tap history and significant tap figures, including her newsletter, "Footprint: News on Tap."

The collection is arranged into two series, Papers and Audio, Video, and Film Recordings. Goldberg provided a detailed inventory of the collection with item-level description that will be made available electronically as an additional resource.

Series I, Papers, comprises articles and clippings written by and about Jane Goldberg; "Footprint: News on Tap" newsletter; subject files pertaining to various Changing Times Tap Company projects and

shows; photographs from both Goldberg's professional and personal lives; educational material; profiles of key tappers and companies; documentation of the history of tap; show programs; and oversized posters and mock-ups.

Series II, Audio, Video, and Film Recordings, are arranged into sections based on their event type. The series includes over 350 original recordings in a variety of media, dating from the late 1950s to 2010s. The recordings include Goldberg's Early Tap Recitals; Changing Times Tap Company Performances; Excerpts; Individual and Group Performances; recordings from Goldberg's teaching fellowship in India; Interviews and Conversations on television, radio, and with fellow tap dancers; Teaching Sessions and Lectures; Festivals and Conferences; Rehearsals; Promotional Material; Changing Times Tap Company Archives; Commercial Recordings; and Memorials.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American dance  
African American dancers  
Dance companies -- United States  
Dance festivals  
Jazz dance  
Tap dancers  
Tap dancing -- History  
Theater -- Study and teaching  
Women dancers

### **Names**

Brown, Ernest, 1916-2009  
Bufalino, Brenda  
Cook, Charles, 1917-1991  
Gaines, Bubba  
Gibson, Bert  
Goldberg, Jane, 1948-  
Hines, Gregory  
Safford, Sarah

## Container List

### Series I: Papers 1943-2017 [bulk 1970s-2010] (19 boxes, 1 oversize folder 9.38 linear feet)

Series I comprises materials that document Jane Goldberg's involvement and contributions to the world of tap dance through the Changing Times Tap Dance Company founded in 1979. The materials date from 1943 to 2017, with the bulk ranging from the 1970s to 2010.

This series includes articles and press clippings; journals and newsletters; educational material; accumulated tap history resources; tap dancer profiles; show programs; subject files that include correspondence, interview transcripts with tap dancers, company administrative records, background information on Goldberg's life and history, memorials and obituaries; promotional material; photographs; and posters.

Goldberg's mission was to educate the public about tap's historical roots, its intrinsic value to the African American community, and its connection to jazz music. She forged relationships with some of tap dance's most notable "hoofers" as evidenced in correspondence spanning twenty five years. She also wrote and provided countless memorials and obituaries for dancers which were featured in both local and national newspapers and magazines.

To further her mission, Jane created *By Word of Foot*, a festival designed to gather tap's leading figures to pass on their tradition through interviews, workshops, classes, parties, and daily "cocktail hour" interviews. The organization of this festival is fully documented within this series through promotional materials, correspondence, and press, as well as companion audio and video recordings from Series II.

In addition to records pertaining to Changing Times Tap Company, there is an extensive section documenting Jane Goldberg's history, both personal and professional. These include annotated writings; articles from her early life; designs and drawings; correspondence; collected ephemera; photographs; and programs from Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival where she performed as a teenager.

There are also three boxes that comprise photographs documenting Jane's early life as a teenager through the 2000s with the Changing Times Tap Company. Included are many pictures with legendary tap dancers such as Charles "Cookie" Cook, John Bubbles, Marion Coles, Charles "Honi" Coles, Gregory Hines, Albert "Gip" Gibson, and Ginger Rogers among dozens more.

Other photographs include Changing Times Tap Company sponsored performances; individual dancers (as well as duos and groups); documentary photographs from *By Word of Foot*; documentation of Jane's teaching fellowship in India; and a series of "pictorial histories" of Jane's peers, shows, and larger dance community. Of special note are behind-the-scenes photographs from the 1989 movie *Tap* (starring Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis Jr.) in which Jane Goldberg performed as a tap dancer.

#### Articles and Press Clippings 1970s-2016

- b. 1 f. 1-4 By Jane Goldberg 1970s-2016
- b. 1 f. 5-7 About Jane Goldberg 1970s-2010
- b. 2 f. 1-7

#### Journals and Newsletters 1988-2008

- b. 3 f. 1 International Tap Association Journal, Volumes 2-3 1990-1991
- b. 3 f. 2-5 International Tap Association Newsletter, Volumes 1-10 1988-2000
- b. 3 f. 6-8 On Tap Newsletter, Volumes 11-19 2000-2008
- b. 4 f. 1-6

#### Education 1980-2010

- b. 5 f. 1 Teaching Moments 1979-2003
- b. 5 f. 2 Articles 1980-2003
- b. 5 f. 3 Teaching Promotion 1984-2010
- b. 5 f. 4 Tap Festivals and Intensives 2000-2002
- b. 5 f. 5 Global Teachings 1983-2012

Series I: Papers (cont.)  
Education (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 6 Business Letters 1991-2006
- b. 5 f. 7 Teaching Contracts 1979-2005
- b. 5 f. 8 Tap Advisory 1980
- b. 5 f. 9 Syllabus
- b. 5 f. 10 Publications 1980-2005
- Academic Dissertations 1990-2002
- b. 5 f. 11 *Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates: Monoped Master of the Art of Tap Dance by Carol B. Vaughn* 1990
- b. 5 f. 12 *Tap Dance: Memories and Issues of African-American Women Who Performed Between 1930 and 1950 by Cheryl M. Willis* 1991
- b. 6 f. 1-2 *Will the Real Jazz Dance Please Stand Up? A Critical Examination of the Roots and Essence of Jazz Dance with Implications for Education by Jill Flanders Crosby* 1995
- b. 6 f. 3 *Moved By The Spirit: Illuminating the Voice of Mura Dehn and Her Efforts to Promote and Document Jazz Dance by Kimberly A. Chandler Vaccaro* 1997
- b. 6 f. 4 *Hollywood Hoofers: Gender, Race, and the Culture of Performance, 1930-1950 by Maire I. Vieth* 1997
- b. 7 f. 1-2 *Hearing the Dance: Learning the Community Aesthetics of Rhythm/Jazz Tap by Patricia Ann Howard* 2002
- b. 7 f. 3-9 India Fellowship 1992-2002
- Tap History 1962-2017
- b. 7 f. 10 Significant Events 1978-2017
- b. 7 f. 11 National Tap Dance Day 1988-1997
- b. 7 f. 12 Tap Histories 1962-2007
- b. 8 f. 1
- b. 8 f. 2-3 Film, Dance, and Book Reviews 1963-2014
- b. 8 f. 4 Tap Festivals 1990-2017
- b. 8 f. 5 Tapper Profiles 1980-2011
- b. 8 f. 6 Tap Programs 1975-2011
- b. 8 f. 7 Tap Trivia 1991-2017
- Tap Dancer Profiles 1943-2014
- b. 8 f. 8 Astaire, Fred 1973-1987
- b. 8 f. 9 Atkins, Cholly 1980-2002
- b. 8 f. 10 Baby Laurence 1960-1978
- b. 8 f. 11 Bethel, Pepsi 1973-1979
- b. 8 f. 12 Bojangles 1989-2001
- b. 8 f. 13 Briggs, Bunny
- b. 8 f. 14 Brown, Buster 2002
- b. 9 f. 1 Brown, Eddie 1987
- b. 9 f. 2 Brown, Ernest "Brownie" 2008
- b. 9 f. 3 Brown, Stanley
- b. 9 f. 4 Browne, Harriet 1997
- b. 9 f. 5 Bubbles, John 1974-1984

Series I: Papers (cont.)  
Tap Dancer Profiles (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 6 Bufalino, Brenda 1982-1989
- b. 9 f. 7 Butterfly, Roxanne 2002-2010
- b. 9 f. 8 Callaway Williams, Karen
- b. 9 f. 9 Casel, Ayodele 1998-1999
- b. 9 f. 10 Castle, Nick 1954-1964
- b. 9 f. 11 Ciroli, Kathleen 1999
- b. 9 f. 12 Coles, Charles "Honi" 1979-1996
- b. 9 f. 13 Coles, Marion 1994
- b. 9 f. 14 Collins, Leon 1981-1988
- b. 9 f. 15 Condos, Steve 1983
- b. 9 f. 16 Conrad, Gail 1983-1992
- b. 9 f. 17 Cook, Charles "Cookie" 1977-1992
- b. 9 f. 18 Copasetics 1974-1990
- b. 9 f. 19 Cromer, Harold "Stumpy" 1976-1980
- b. 9 f. 20 Dancing Dave 1993-2008
- b. 9 f. 21 Daniels, Danny 1980
- b. 10 f. 1 Draper, Paul 1961-1962
- b. 10 f. 2 Edwards, Omar
- b. 10 f. 3 Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire
- b. 10 f. 4 Gaines, Leslie "Bubba"
- b. 10 f. 5 Gibson, Albert "Gip" 1975-1983
- b. 10 f. 6 Green, Chuck 1969-1996
- b. 10 f. 7 Grimes, Jared 1997
- b. 10 f. 8 Huber, Melba 1994
- b. 10 f. 9 Kramer, Katherine 1990-2005
- b. 10 f. 10 Lee, Mable 2004
- b. 10 f. 11 Levy, Ted 1991
- b. 10 f. 12 Lyons, Carnell 1984-1992
- b. 10 f. 13 Nealy, Frances 1984-1996
- b. 10 f. 14 Nicholas Brothers 1988-1999
- b. 10 f. 15 Payne, Jimmy 1984
- b. 10 f. 16 Peckett, Donna 1977-1985
- b. 10 f. 17 Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates 1997
- b. 10 f. 18 Phillips, Thaddeus 2001
- b. 10 f. 19 Raven, Jackie 1997-2003
- b. 10 f. 20 Reggio the Hooper
- b. 10 f. 21 Rogers, Ginger 1943
- b. 10 f. 22 Safford, Sarah 1987-1996
- b. 10 f. 23 Smith, Jason Samuels "Sam J" 2009
- b. 10 f. 24 Sims, Howard "Sandman" 1977-1992
- b. 10 f. 25 Slyde, Jimmy 1982-2005

Series I: Papers (cont.)  
Tap Dancer Profiles (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 26 Spina, Peggy 1993
- b. 10 f. 27 Stanley, Jack
- b. 10 f. 28 Sunshine, L.J 2011
- b. 10 f. 29 Tamango (Herbin Van Cayseele) 1994-2001
- b. 10 f. 30 Tune, Tommy
- b. 10 f. 31 Walker, Dianne 1999
- b. 10 f. 32 Wasserman, Dorothy 1989-1991
- b. 11 Young Tappers 2006-2014
- b. 11 f. 2 American Tap Orchestra 1986-1996
- b. 11 f. 3 Jazz Tap Ensemble 1979-1991
- b. 11 f. 4 Various Jazz Musicians 1974-1999
- b. 11 f. 5 Jerry Ames Tap Dance Company 1976-1977
- b. 11 f. 6 Manhattan Tap 1986-1992
- b. 11 f. 7 New Jersey Tap Ensemble 2002
- b. 11 f. 8 New York City Tapworks 1981-1987
- b. 11 f. 9 Philadelphia Tap Dancers 1985
- b. 11 f. 10 Tappers with Attitude 2001-2003
- b. 11 f. 11 Young Hoofers 1998-1999
- b. 11 f. 12 Austin on Tap 1983-1984
- b. 11 f. 13 Tap-Tronics 1984
- Programs 1970s-2017
- b. 11 f. 14 *By Word of Foot* 1980-2013
- b. 11 f. 15 Changing Times Tap Dance Company 1979-2008
- b. 11 f. 16 Flo-Bert Awards 1991-2015
- b. 12 f. 1 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 1978
- b. 12 f. 2 *Old, New, Borrowed and Bluesy* 1982-1983
- b. 12 f. 3 *Rhythm and Schmooze* 1990-2017
- b. 12 f. 4-5 Festivals and Revues 1973-2016
- b. 12 f. 6-9 Programs (general) 1970s-1990s
- Subject Files 1948-2017
- b. 12 f. 10 Awards 1982-2003
- By Word of Foot* 1979-2003
- b. 13 f. 5 Questionnaires 1983
- b. 12 f. 11 Background Information 1984
- b. 12 f. 12 Promotional Materials 1982-2000
- b. 12 f. 13 Support Letters to National Endowment for the Arts 1979
- Letters of Agreement 1980-1985
- b. 13 f. 1 Financial Documents 1983
- b. 13 f. 2 Press 2003
- b. 13 f. 3 Videotape Documents 1982
- b. 13 f. 4 Letters 1982

Series I: Papers (cont.)  
Subject Files (cont.)

Changing Times Tap Dancing Company Administrative Records 1979-2017

- b. 13 f. 6 Background Information 1979
- b. 13 f. 7 Budgets 1982-1985
- b. 13 f. 8 Donors and Board of Directors 1983-1987
- b. 13 f. 9 Income Statements 1985-1987
- b. 13 f. 10 Grant Proposals 1982-1983
- b. 13 f. 11 Footprint: News on Tap Newsletter 1983
- b. 13 f. 12 Production Budgets
- b. 13 f. 13 Tap Museum 2017
- b. 13 f. 14 *By Word of Foot*
- b. 13 f. 15 Agreements and Contracts 1979-2008
- b. 13 f. 16 Contract Templates 1979
- b. 13 f. 17 Colorado Dance Festival, Tap Summit Evaluations 1986-1987
- Correspondence 1972-2017
- b. 13 f. 18-22 Letters of Praise 1972-2012
- b. 13 f. 23 Letters Requesting Advisory 1980-1988
- b. 13 f. 24 Hooper Letters 1980-1995
- b. 13 f. 25 Guralnick, Peter 1993-2007
- b. 13 f. 26 Hinckley, David 1991-2004
- b. 14 f. 1 Johnson, Joyce
- b. 14 f. 2 McQuade, Molly 1987-1995
- b. 14 f. 3 "Slice of Life" 1983-2005
- b. 14 f. 4 Letters of Recommendation 1977-2006
- b. 14 f. 5 Celebrity Letters 1975-2017
- b. 14 f. 6-9 Interview Transcripts 1979-1996
- b. 14 f. 10 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 1964
- Jane Goldberg's Story 1948-2017
- b. 14 f. 11 Annotations 1984-2005
- b. 14 f. 12 Articles and Clippings 1963-2015
- b. 14 f. 13 Branding and Design 1979
- b. 14 f. 14 Correspondence 1978-2017
- b. 14 f. 15 Ephemera 1948-1997
- b. 14 f. 16 Photographs circa 1970s-1998
- b. 15 f. 1 Programs 1962-2005
- b. 15 f. 2 Writing and Interviews 1966-1998
- b. 15 f. 3-5 Memorials and Obituaries 1980-2014
- b. 15 f. 6 Music Charts
- b. 15 f. 7 Press Releases 1978-2001
- b. 15 f. 8-10 Promotional Materials 1978-2012
- b. 15 f. 11 Scripts 1979-1990
- b. 16 f. 1
- b. 16 f. 2 *Shoot Me While I'm Happy book* 2008-2009



Series I: Papers (cont.)

Subject Files (cont.)

- b. 16 f. 3 *Sole Sisters* 1986-1990
- b. 16 f. 4 Tap-A-Grams 1983
- b. 16 f. 6 *Tap the movie* 1988
- b. 16 f. 7 Women in Tap Conference 2008
- Photographs 1950-2004
- b. 16 f. 8 Jane Goldberg Solo Performances 1973-1986
- b. 16 f. 9 Jane Goldberg's Favorites 1979-1989
- b. 16 f. 10 Jane with Hoofers 1979-1995
- b. 16 f. 11 Jane and Charles "Cookie" Cook 1975-1989
- b. 17 f. 1 Cook, Charles "Cookie" 1983-1985
- b. 17 f. 2 City Hall Visit with John Bubbles 1980 October 21
- b. 17 f. 3 Other Hoofers, A-W 1950-1985
- b. 17 f. 4 Other Hoofers, Duos 1977-1985
- b. 17 f. 5 Other Hoofers, Groups circa 1970s-1990s
- b. 17 f. 6 *By Word of Foot* 1980-1982
- b. 17 f. 7 Tap Shows 1977-1985
- b. 17 f. 8 *Tap the movie* 1988
- b. 17 f. 9-10 India 1994-1998
- b. 18 f. 1 Pictorial History of Jane's Peers and Confidantes 1977-1995
- b. 18 f. 2-3 Pictorial History of Jane's Shows 1976-1998
- b. 18 f. 4 Pictorial History of Jane's Dance Community 1974-1996
- b. 18 f. 5-6 Jane Goldberg Personal circa 1980s-2004
- b. 19 f. 1-2
- o. 1 Oversized Posters 1980-2013  
Included are promotional posters for various Changing Times performances including *Talking Tap: Rhythm and Schmooze*, *It's About Time: An Evening of Jazz Tap Dancing*, and *Sole Sisters*. Other posters include one from the 1985 Chicago Jazz Festival and one from Goldberg's residency at the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation in Maine.

**Series II: Audio, Video, and Film Recordings** circa 1958-2011 (9 boxes 8 linear feet)

Series II consists of audio and moving image recordings that demonstrate both the prolific performing activity of Goldberg, and her commitment to the documentation of hoofers' legacies. Dating from the early 1960s to 2011 are over 350 original media items. Goldberg's archives include recorded performances, interviews, memorials, teaching sessions, and lectures.

This Series is arranged into eight sections including Early Tap Recitals; Performances; Excerpts; Individual and Group Performances; India; Interviews and Conversations; Teaching Sessions and Lectures; Festivals and Conferences; Rehearsals; Promotional Materials; Changing Times Tap Company Archives; Commercial Recordings; and Memorials.

Performances and shows from the Changing Times Tap Company oeuvre are well-represented in both moving image and audio formats. These shows include *Rhythm and Schmooze*, *Shoot Me While I'm Happy*, *Sole Sisters*, *The Tappin' Talk Show*, *The Tap Goddess Speaks* and Goldberg's first show *It's About Time* from February 1978. Other shows from the company include *Depression's Back And So Is Tap*, excerpts from *By Word of Foot 2*, *Topical Tap*, *Rapping and Tapping*, and untitled performances with other hoofers such as Leon Collins, Harold Cromer, Marion Coles, and Buster Brown among many others.

In addition to the Company's performances, Jane also recorded many individual (and often informal) performances by tap dance greats such as Cholly Atkins, Charles Cookie Cook, Brenda Bufalino, Bubba Gaines, Honi Coles, and Sandman Sims. Some of these performances also include candid conversations among the subjects.

The interviews in the series include those of Goldberg being interviewed on radio, TV, during festivals and conferences, and by students. Many of the interviews and conversations of other dancers were recorded by Jane herself and include transcriptions that are present in Series I of this collection.

Audio, video, and film recordings are unavailable pending digitization. Electronic records are unavailable.