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**NORTH SUBURBAN
YMCA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran YMCA Teacher Dances on to Next Stage

Northbrook, IL: September 2014 – Joni Goldstein – “Miss Joni” to scores of young ballerinas at the North Suburban YMCA – has guided two generations of students with her passion for dance. That passion drew her to a teaching position in the Y’s fledgling dance program back in 1975, and kept her motivated through the decades as the program evolved into the North Suburban School of Dance with Goldstein as its Director. She now will be stepping into the newly-created role of Director Emeritus, but she plans to maintain her role as a teacher and counselor to young dancers and their families.

“It’s just part of me,” notes Goldstein. Goldstein clearly remembers her first years at the NSYMCA, when her oldest son was a toddler and the dance recitals were held in one of the Y’s classrooms. Today, the Y’s annual recital includes over 400 dancers, ages three through adult, who perform to packed audiences at Glenbrook North High School’s Center for the Performing Arts. In the process she has become the Y’s longest-tenured employee and its most recognizable ambassador in the community.

“Every day around town I run into current students and past students. I’m always getting a wave from someone,” she laughs. “I love working with my dancers, especially when I see a mom who was in my class when she was younger.”

Goldstein has great confidence in her successor, new Director of Performing Arts Shannon Parry. Parry has been her assistant since July 2013, and shares Goldstein’s commitment to excellent teaching and strong parent relationships. A graduate of Illinois State University with degrees in Dance Performance and Business Administration, Parry will manage the school’s programs, communicate with families, supervise faculty, and produce the annual dance recital. She also assists with the Y’s H.A.W.K.S. dance program for youth with special needs.

“I know we will have a very smooth transition,” Goldstein notes. “We have wonderful new teachers joining us, and I’m looking forward to continuing my classes and helping Shannon in any way I can. I think this coming year will be very exciting for our program.”

NSYMCA Executive Director/CEO Howard Schultz reflected Goldstein's impact on the Y's performing arts program. "Joni's great legacy has been her unique ability to develop dancers and also staff members," says Schultz. "She was an outstanding mentor to past program directors like Lizzie Leopold and Erin Fitzpatrick, and will continue to fulfill that role for Shannon Parry. Shannon brings great spirit and talent to the position in her own right, and I know she will add her own special touches to one of the jewels of the Y's programs."

The YMCA's North Suburban School of Dance offers programs in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, ballroom, and many other genres. Fall classes have just begun, but registration is still available for many classes. All classes are held at the North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook. For more information, visit www.nsymca.org or contact Shannon Parry, sparry@nsymca.org.



Photo 1 Caption: Shannon Parry, left, is now the Director of Performing Arts at the North Suburban YMCA. Former Director Joni Goldstein, right, is now Director Emeritus and will continue to teach children and mentor staff at the Y.



Photo 2 caption: "Miss Joni" Goldstein has taught ballet to youngsters at the North Suburban YMCA since 1975.

About the North Suburban YMCA

The YMCA is a not-for-profit entity and relies on donations to make services available for all families and individuals in its 15-city region. All board members are volunteers, who donate their time, talents and financial resources. Located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook, the YMCA has served the northern suburbs of Chicago for over 45 years. The Y is about youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, providing programs and services that address the needs of our diverse community and are accessible to all. For more information or to make a donation, contact Barb Flanagin at 847-272-7250 or bflanagin@nsymca.org, or visit www.nsymca.org.