

## Autobiography of Pat Gosch, CCI

I began dancing 38 years ago as an adult. I was sitting in the waiting room while my 2½ year old daughter was taking her lesson and thought “I can do this”. I was fortunate to be able to study tap, ballet, acrobatics, jazz, lyrical, and voice. There have been many years of joy, fulfillment, aches and pains, and heart ache associated with my career. During this time I have had the privilege of teaching hundreds, if not thousands, of children and adults. I taught for other studios and 23 years ago, I finally had the nerve to open my own studio. About 19 years ago, a young dancer, Barry Welch, came into my studio and asked if he could teach clogging. I was amazed and instantly hooked on this form of dance. Thanks to Barry, I have been constantly learning and teaching clogging and it has been a great addition to the studio curriculum. My students have competed in clogging at Knott’s Berry Farm and at Showstoppers. Clogging is one of the most popular forms of dance with my students and they attend many conventions.

A few years ago I was able to go to Las Vegas for the CCI (Certified Clogging Instructor) accreditation program. It was hard work but well worth the effort. It is a privilege to teach at the NCCA (Northern California Cloggers Association) Convention and I am looking forward to many more opportunities to teach and be a part of this motivating group of dancers.