

BALLET SAN JOSE

PRESS RELEASE

"Ballet San Jose kicked off its holiday season featuring its first elegant Nutcracker Black Tie Ball on Thursday, December 14th. The spectacular evening commenced with a pre-party held at the San Jose Museum of Art and ended at the Center for Performing Arts with the opening night's performance of THE NUTCRACKER. The featured sponsors of the evening were Bentley Silicon Valley and Gentry Magazine who helped bring to life a new holiday tradition with a lavish cocktail party.



Left to right: Dr. Jeff Anderson, Sandra Eldridge, Giselle Farris, Dr. Charles Eldridge & Marybeth Anderson

Greeting guests at the entrance were paiges from Cartier and Ballet San Jose Nutcracker characters. Attendees were ushered into an intimate holiday setting created by lighting designer Natti Pierce-Thomson of North American Theatre Technology. Dressed in black tie, dancers from the Company mingled with VIP guests including Barbara Campisi, Anita and Kevin Del Grande, Joan and Mike Hackworth, Karen and Walter Loewenstern, Leigh and Geri Weimers, Sal and Amy Pizarro, and Don and Susan Lucas. Some 200 guests sampled delicacies from the likes of Caviar Affair, Chef Charles Lewis, and Dio Deka, as well as many other fabulous local restaurants. The evening progressed quickly as the Peninsula Youth Carolers entertained guests while sipping wines donated by Bill and Brenda Murphy of Clos La Chance and sampling luscious desserts spread throughout the museum. A Benefit Showcase Drawing include a two-night stay at the Ritz with a Bentley for the weekend, and a fashion luncheon with 11 of the winner's closest girlfriends.

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Attendees were then whisked off to the ballet just 3 blocks away in Bentleys and Le Grande Affair limousine buses in time for the "Tannenbaum Ball", the opening scene of Dennis Nahat's THE NUTCRACKER. Co-Chair Sherri Dohemann remarked, "This event is a true example of holiday generosity both by sponsors such as Stefanie Lingle Beasley of Gentry and Mark Reeve of Bentley Silicon Valley, along with a host of Bay Area sponsors who contributed (Cartier, Medallion Rug Gallery, Silicon Capital Partners, University Electric Home Appliance Center, Out of the Envelope, and Rossi, Hammerslough, Reisch & Chuck.) And a special thanks must go to our incredible dream team: Anita Del Grande, Sydene Kober, Stefanie Lingle Beasley, Marie LoPresto, Susan Lucas, Dawn Niederman and Co-Chair Shellie Fry."

Everyone is already talking about next year!

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