

# **BALLET SAN JOSE**

S I L I C O N V A L L E Y

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2007

### **PEGGY FLEMING JENKINS AND GREG JENKINS NAMED HONORARY CHAIRS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL NUTCRACKER OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION**

August 2, 2007 (SAN JOSE, CA) –Olympic gold Medalist Peggy Fleming Jenkins and her husband, physician Greg Jenkins, have graciously accepted the positions of Honorary Chairs for the Second Annual Nutcracker Opening Night Celebration to benefit Ballet San Jose.

This festive fundraiser is sponsored by Gentry Magazine and will take place on Thursday, December 13 at the Hotel Sainte Claire in downtown San Jose.

Following a glamorous cocktail party with supper-by-the bite presentations by some of the Bay Area's top chefs, guests will be whisked over to the Center for Performing Arts for the Opening Night performance of Dennis Nahat's THE NUTCRACKER.

Nutcracker Opening Night Celebration Chair Giselle Parry Farris notes, "We are thrilled to have Peggy and Greg as part of this extraordinary event. They have long been supporters of the arts and are outstanding members of our community.

It is an honor to have them join in this festive tradition." Last year's Nutcracker Opening Night Celebration was a landmark event in Silicon Valley bringing together the technology community for a celebration of the arts.

The Grande Patron of this year's Nutcracker Opening Night Celebration will be Bentley Silicon Valley. Additional sponsors include Tiffany & Co., Jo Malone, Fairmont Residence Club San Francisco, Lancome, Sereno Group, Dr. Walter Donald Head, University Electric Home Appliances, and Il Fornaio Catering.

Culinary presentations at the Nutcracker Opening Celebration will include Il Fornaio, A. P. Stumps, Quattro Restaurant and Bar at the Four Seasons, Silicon Valley, Dio Deka, Emile's, Yankee Pier, Park Place at the Cypress Hotel, The Duck Club at the Stanford Park Hotel, San Jose Fairmont, Executive Chef Charles Lewis of Fry's Electronics, The Executive Chef of University Electric Home Appliance Center, The Dining Room at Cordevalle, and Jen's Cakes.

**EVENT:** Gentry Magazine Presents the 2nd Annual Nutcracker Opening Night Celebration

**DATE:** Thursday, December 13, 2007

**EVENT TIME:** 5 PM – 7PM

**LOCATION:** The Hotel Sainte Claire, San Jose

TICKET PRICE: \$225.00 (includes Dress Circle seating for the Opening Night of Dennis Nahat's THE NUTCRACKER).

\$150.00 for the event only (No Ballet Performance).

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: 408.288.2820 x 204; Mondays through Fridays 10 AM to 4 PM

or buy online at [www.balletsanjose.org](http://www.balletsanjose.org).

GRAND PATRON: Bentley Silicon Valley

EMCEE: Jessica Aguirre of KNTV NBC 11

CONTACT AT GENTRY: Stefanie Lingle Beasley

PHONE AT GENTRY: 650.324.1818 x.202

**ABOUT PEGGY FLEMING AND GREG JENKINS:** Greg Jenkins was raised in Dallas, Texas. A graduate of Colorado College, he earned his M.D. at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. His specialty is dermatology. In 1970 Greg married Peggy and the pair moved to Los Gatos.

Peggy Fleming Jenkins spent her early years on a small Northern California farm near Morgan Hill. Her parents built their house themselves, and their daughters grew up churning butter and tending cows, horses and chickens. The sheer beauty of the surrounding landscapes of rolling golden hills and oak trees inspired Peggy to run and jump, and, eventually, to skate - inspiration that took her ultimately to an Olympic gold medal in Grenoble, France.

Peggy's Italian coach and mentor introduced her to wine. The late Carlo Fassi was a native of Milan, and intimately familiar with Europe's great vintages and menus. When Peggy and her family traveled to competitions, Carlo encouraged them to seek out museums and architectural masterpieces, and familiarize themselves with the wines and cuisines of the regions they visited. Fascinated by Europe's myriad varieties of wine, Peggy became intrigued by the way certain wines could turn a great meal into a memorable experience.

After Greg finished his residency, they settled in Los Gatos, California, in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a coastal range with a long and distinguished history of winemaking. Greg set up his medical practice there, specializing in general and cosmetic dermatology. They raised two boys and a menagerie of animals, and involved themselves in numerous activities. And always in the back of their minds was a shared desire to be involved in making wine, whether growing grapes or turning them into that magical poetry in a bottle. Today the pair own Fleming Jenkins Vineyards and Winery. They have two sons, Andy and Todd and three grandchildren.

## ABOUT GENTRY & AND THE NUTCRACKER OPENING NIGHT

CELEBRATION: Established in 1993, *Gentry Magazine* has been serving the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay as a community publication focusing on the extraordinary people, non-profits, and businesses that make the area such an incredible place to call home. In 2006, *Gentry* partnered with Ballet San Jose to create a signature holiday event—The First Annual Nutcracker Black Tie Ball.

The event was chaired by Shellie Fry and Sherri Dohemann. Anita Del Grande served as the Honorary Chair. All three women are back this year and volunteering on the Opening Night Celebration's committee.

ABOUT BALLET SAN JOSE: Since 1986, Ballet San Jose has been providing Silicon Valley and the greater Bay Area with world-class dance performances.

Artistic/Executive Director Dennis Nahat's award-winning company of dancers have proven themselves equally at home with the classics (such as ROMEO AND JULIET, GISELLE, and this season's SWAN LAKE and FIREBIRD) to family favorites (such as COPPELIA and THE NUTCRACKER) to the extraordinary (this season's CARMINA BURANA and last's year's revival of the Emmy award-winning BLUE SUEDE SHOES). In addition to the professional company of dancers, Ballet San Jose provides a year-round not-for-profit ballet school, a series of one-hour children's ballets for audiences as young as three years old, and an outreach program that brings professional dance productions to some 10,000 children and underprivileged families every year. Ballet San Jose is truly the jewel in the crown of the San Jose-Silicon Valley arts scene.

-- end --

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

PRESS CONTACT: Lee Kopp

Ballet San Jose  
40 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

tel. (408) 288-2820 x210

email: [lkopp@balletsanjose.org](mailto:lkopp@balletsanjose.org)