

BALLET GALA RAISES OVER \$150,000 TO BENEFIT BALLET SAN JOSE

Society luminaries, business and political leaders, and lovers of dance gathered on Saturday night, March 5th in a celebration of East meets West as Ballet San Jose Silicon Valley celebrated their 19th season in San Jose. The event, "Gateway to Ancient China" was hosted by the Ballet SJSV Council. Held at the New Dolce Hays Mansion, which was decorated in spectacular ballet set pieces created in Beijing, over 300 people attended dressed in formal and Chinese attire. Dancers from Ballet San Jose and guests from Chinese Performing Artists of America performed scenes from a recently completed world premiere ballet entitled MIDDLE KINGDOM--ANCIENT CHINA. The event, which included both live and silent auctions, raised over \$150,000 for Ballet San Jose. Over the past 18 years, the Ballet Council has raised over \$2 million for Ballet SJSV.

For the second year in a row, Beshoff MotorCars was the Presenting Sponsor of the Gala. Sponsor Tables were purchased by Comerica Bank, Sigrum and Wilf Corrigan, Anita and Kevan Del Grande, Fry's Electronics, Heritage Bank/Richard Conniff, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Karen and Walter Loewenstern, Pam and John Stringer, Charmaine and Dan Warmenhoven and by Harriet and Steve Zelencik. Testarossa Vineyards provided the wines for the event. The dinner menu included a Heart of Palm, Mango and Papaya Salad with Wasabi Crust Seared Ahi Tuna, Furikai Spice Salmon, Sesame Crusted Filet Mignon with Wild Mushroom Jus, Quinoa Pilaf with pickled Ginger and Spring Vegetables, and Passion Fruit Mousse with Pistachios and Hazelnuts.

Emcees for the evening were Kimun Lee (member of the Board of Montalvo Arts Center) and Dr. Cheemin Bo-Linn (IBM Vice-President and Client Director of Sales and Distribution.) Music was provided by L'il Big Band. A special donation drawing was held for a gold ladies' bracelet and earrings set provided by Tiffany & Co. and a 42" Samsung Plasma TV donated by Fry's Electronics.

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