

# BALLET SAN JOSE

DENNIS NAHAT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October, 2009**

**EVENT: Gentry Magazine presents the 4th Annual Nutcracker Opening Night Celebration**

**DATE:** Thursday, December 10, 2009

**EVENT TIME:** 5:00PM – 7:30PM

**LOCATION:** The Tented Pavilion at San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Boulevard in downtown San Jose.

**TICKET PRICE:** \$250.00 (includes Dress Circle seating for the Opening Night of Dennis Nahat's The Nutcracker).

\$165.00 for the event only (No Ballet Performance).

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS:** 408.288.2820 x 204; Mondays through Fridays 10 AM to 4 PM, or download an order form from the ballet website at [http://www.balletsj.org/save\\_date.html](http://www.balletsj.org/save_date.html)

**GRAND PATRON:** Del Grande Dealer Group

**EMCEE:** Leigh Weimers, columnist and commentator

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Starlight & STOCtet will perform.

Silent Auction and a Donation Drawing. A showing of Bollywood gowns designed by SWATI Couture Indian Fashions.

**DRESS:** Cocktail Chic

**CONTACT AT GENTRY:** Stefanie Lingle Beasley **PHONE AT GENTRY:** 650.324.1818 x.202

**BALLET SAN JOSE CELEBRATES OPENING NIGHT OF "THE NUTCRACKER" WITH A GRAND PRE-CURTAIN PARTY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (SAN JOSE, CA) Ballet San Jose will presents its fourth annual "NUTCRACKER OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION" with local celebrity journalist Leigh Weimers serving as Master of Ceremonies. This festive fundraiser is presented by Gentry Magazine and will take place on Thursday, December 10 in the Tented Pavilion next to the Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. The evening will include live entertainment, Donation Drawings, a Silent Auction and a showing of Bollywood gowns by Bay Area design house SWATI Couture. Following a glamorous cocktail party with supper-by-the bite presentations by some of the Bay Area's top chefs, guests will enjoy the Opening Night performance of the 30th Anniversary Production of Dennis Nahat's THE NUTCRACKER.

Grande Patron: Del Grande Dealer Group

Celebration Sponsors: Gentry Magazine, Enterprise Trust and Investments, Wells Fargo, W. Donald Head, Old Grandview Ranch

Celebration Sponsors-in-Kind: Team San Jose, A Memorable Event, Citti's Florist, Dustin David Salon, SWATI Couture.

Winery Sponsors: Charles Creek Vineyard and Joseph George Wines

Supper-By-The-Bite

Birk's Restaurant, Santa Clara

Cin-Cin Wine Bar & Restaurant, Los Gatos

Cordevalle, San Martin

Dio Deka, Los Gatos

Madera at Rosewood Sand Hill, Menlo Park

Mint Leaf Cuisine, Saratoga

Paolo's, San Jose

Park Place Restaurant at the Cypress Hotel, Cupertino  
Yankee Pier, Santana Row

Celebration Committee: Giselle Parry Farris, Chair. Marie LoPresto, Co-Chair.  
Stefanie Lingle Beasley, Juliette Davis, Anita Del Grande, Sherri Douville, Sharon Gustafson, Beth Johnson,  
Sydene Kober, Arlene Noodleman, MD, Michelle Rose and Andrea Gregory-Schoen.

## **ABOUT OUR EMCEE**

### **LEIGH WEIMERS**

Leigh Weimers retired Nov. 11, 2005, as dean of Bay Area newspaper columnists, concluding a 47-year career with the San Jose Mercury News. He presently writes a monthly column in Gentry magazine and contributes weekly commentaries to KLIV-AM. He is a native Californian who was born in the Napa Valley in 1935. He was graduated from Napa High School, Napa College and San Jose State College (now University), from the latter with a B.A. in Journalism in 1958. He has worked for newspapers in California, including the Napa Register and Napa Journal, and contributed articles to Stars & Stripes, Europe, while serving with the United States Army in Germany. After joining the staff of the Mercury News in 1958, he served in such varied capacities as general assignment reporter, assistant city editor, founding editor of the newspaper's lifestyle section and, beginning in 1965, columnist. He also has contributed articles to regional and national magazines, is the author of "Leigh Weimers' Guide to Silicon Valley," published in 1986 and 1993, and co-author of "Silicon Valley: A 110-Year Renaissance," published in 2007.

Weimers has served as founding chairman of the San Jose Police Foundation, as well as a member of the boards of directors of the San Jose State University Alumni Association, Rotary Club of San Jose, Silicon Valley Capital Club, San Jose Trolley Corporation, O'Connor Hospital Foundation and Villa Montalvo Center for the Arts. He is the recipient of numerous awards for journalism and civic involvement, including the Spirit of the Arts Award from Arts Council Silicon Valley, the international Significant Sig award from Sigma Chi Fraternity, and the Tower Award, San Jose State University's highest service award. He is married, the father of two grown daughters and grandfather of three, and lives in Redwood Estates.



**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 has continued to grow in popularity and is now a "herald of the season" for Ballet San Jose and the downtown San Jose arts scene.

**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 Director Dennis Nahat's award-winning company of dancers have proven themselves equally at home with the classics (such as *GISELLE*, *SWAN LAKE* and *THE FIREBIRD*) to family favorites (such as *COPPELIA* and *THE NUTCRACKER*) to the extraordinary (this season's *PIRATES OF PENZANCE* and *ROMEO AND JULIET*.) 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.

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Photo Caption: Characters from THE NUTCRACKER will make an appearance at the party.

Left to Right: "Nutty" (Michael Bena) Maria (Jennifer Allie) and Mrs. Tannebaum (Vivian Wood).

Photo by Robert Shomler

Photo Caption: Leigh Weimers  
Special to Ballet San Jose

PRESS QUESTIONS?

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