



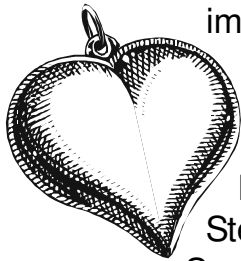
# *the pointe!* news from berkeley ballet theater

September 2009

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2640 COLLEGE AVE BERKELEY CA94704 TELEPHONE 510-843-4687

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Occasionally members of our community face particularly immense and unexpected challenges and reach out for help. One such family is the Tumas.



Perhaps you know Sterling (Level 7), Savannah (Level 5), or Sophia (Pre-Ballet). Their mother, Vivien, was diagnosed with stage 4 Lymphoma at the beginning of the summer and started treatments immediately. They have continued to move forward as a family by using this circumstance as an opportunity to educate people about the disease. (Visit <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/teamtuma> to find out more). The girls have been studying here for several years and are definitely a part of the BBT community, as demonstrated by their exemplary manners and behavior in the classroom and by the participation by the whole family in the Fun-raiser each year. Apparently Sophia, at age 4, is already recruiting new members by inviting friends to Pre-Ballet.

While Savannah and Sterling are eligible for financial aid to cover their ballet tuition, BBT does not extend financial aid toward pre-ballet tuition. In

addition to Sophia's pre-ballet tuition, there are a myriad of expenses such as pointe shoes and tights. If you feel inspired to help the Tumas specifically, please send a check to BBT with Tuma in the subject line. The greater BBT community always tries, as friends, to help members of our student body and faculty face unforeseen and challenging situations. Unfortunately, these offerings are not tax deductible and will not apply to the Level participation chart of donations to BBT (see Financial Aid item below).

Thank you very much for your big hearts, hours of volunteer work, and your talent. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Ilona McHugh

## RETURNING FACULTY MEMBERS



Beloved former BBT faculty members Alice Gray, Corinne Jonas, and Denise Collins will all return this fall. Miss Alice will teach Level 7 pointe when her medical school rotations allow; Miss Corinne will teach Level 6 pointe and Level 4, and Miss Denise re-joins our Pre-Ballet Division. Welcome back, wonderful teachers!

## **SOLANO STROLL "COMING TOGETHER"**



2009's unifying theme is perfect for BBT's corps of multi-age dancers. We would love to have some of our adult

students joining our younger dancers. Please sign up at the BBT stairway. Members of the Board of Directors will staff a booth while students march alongside Miss Ilona. The one-hour parade begins at 10 AM.

## **FINANCIAL AID DOUBLES:**

100% Participation Needed to Reach December's \$5000 Goal

The economic climate has probably affected us all. We at BBT hope that each and every member of our community is financially secure, however the fact is that some of our students need help in order to continue their training and to benefit from the grace, poise, confidence, and community that BBT offers. As our mission statement proclaims, we are devoted to being a facility where all can dance, and in addition to welcoming all ethnicities and body types, we are dedicated to accepting students from all income brackets and financial situations. To that end, the BBT Board has this year doubled the funds available for financial aid! We need your help to make our wonderful program possible for many children.

We know that everyone's situation is different - please give what you can. Check out Berkeley Ballet Theater's website to see how many people in your

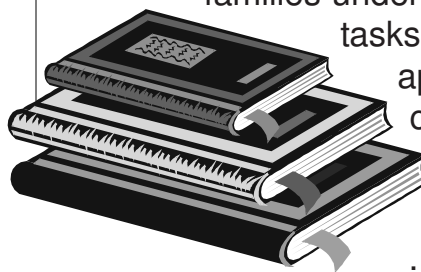
Level have helped out so far. There is no pressure to contribute large dollar amounts, however we hope everyone will give at least one dollar. If you would like to contribute to the financial aid fund (and to be included in our Level competition), helping our ballet thermometer raise to our goal of \$5000 by December, please send a check to BBT or contribute through our website at <http://www.berkeleyballet.org>. You will be helping BBT more than just financially. Your contribution will make it easier for us to qualify for grants, which can help us meet our goal of offering the wonderful benefits of our community to as many students as possible.

If you feel able to give more, please do. Our goal is to raise \$5000 by the end of December. We already have \$500! Check back online to see the pointe shoe fill up and mark BBT's progress toward our fundraising goal! Thank you for all your support.

## **SENIOR FAMILY COLLEGE PLANNING SEMINAR - NOTE TIME CHANGE**

On Wednesday September 23rd from 6:30-7:30 (15 minutes earlier than previously announced) in Studio B, Associate Artistic Director Susan Weber will lead a meeting for high school seniors and their parents. A certified college counselor, Miss Susan will help

families understand the required tasks, consider appropriate colleges, and create sensible timelines.



## YOUTH COMPANY NEWS



**Audition Saturday  
September 12th 12-2 PM:** Youth Company positions, apprenticeships, modern class placement as well as major "Nutcracker" roles are determined in Studio A.

**Q & A Clinic  
Wednesday September  
16th 6:30-7:30 PM:** Miss Ilona and Miss Susan will work with Youth Company dancers to set goals for the year and address questions about training and performing.

**Mandatory Parent Meeting  
Saturday September 19th 12-1 PM  
September 22nd Master Class with David  
Leventhal:** From 4-6:30 PM, David will teach a technique class which will include phrases from Mark Morris' beloved "V." Try to see this beautiful work during the company's visit: September 17, 19, and 20 at Cal Performances.

## PIANIST CHRIS HOUSTON WINS THEATER AWARDS

Long-time BBT accompanist Chris Houston, who plays for Miss Sally's Wednesday and Friday morning classes, has won two awards for his work in theater during the 2008 season. The only artist nominated for four Bay Area Critics' Circle Awards, Chris won for Best Original Composition. In addition, he won a Sacramento-area "Arty" award for Best Sound Design. Congratulations, Chris!



## DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE PROGRAM

Against very stiff competition from fifty-four other worthy proposals, BBT's Dance for Parkinson's Disease Program was one of only sixteen projects to be sponsored for 2009-2010 by the University of California Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund. Thanks to Maria Winston for her terrific grant-writing skill! The \$10,000 award will allow us to continue offering free classes each 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday morning to people affected by Parkinson's disease. A year ago, David Leventhal and John Heginbotham of the Mark Morris Dance Group trained teachers Private Freeman, Megan Low, Kate Mitchell, and Susan Weber, program administrator. Regular classes began last October and have been inspiring, therapeutic, joyful, and well-attended. If you know people affected by Parkinson's disease, please alert them to this wonderful BBT offering. Flyers are available in the office.



## HAS YOUR STUDENT BEEN PROMOTED? PLEASE DONATE LAST YEAR'S UNIFORMS!

We maintain a leotard and shoe library for students who arrive without their uniforms. Please bring any outgrown uniforms and shoes to the office. Thanks

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- \* Apparel Sales Coordinator (ordering and distributing BBT gear)
- \* Access Wizard (create an Access database of BBT's costume inventory)
- \* Grant Writer or anyone interested in helping with BBT's grant proposals.

## ITEMS NEEDED:

- Big plastic bins (20-gallon)
- Under-bed plastic bins
- Shimmery pink, purple, or blue fabric to cover the bulletin boards

## IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, 9/12	12-2	Youth Company audition
Wednesday, 9/16	6:30-7:30	Q & A Clinic for Levels 7 and P-P
Saturday, 9/19	12-1	Mandatory Youth Company Parent Meeting
	1-5	First Youth Company rehearsal
Wednesday, 9/23	6:30-7:30	College Planning for seniors and parents
Wednesday, 9/30	5-9	Senior DVD taping
Saturday, 10/31	12-6	First Full-Call Nutcracker rehearsal
		Nutcracker ticket sales begin
Saturday 11/7		Nutcracker parent volunteer sign-ups
Thursday, 11/26		Thanksgiving, no classes held
11/27-29		Thanksgiving Holiday - no children's classes
12/21-1/3		Winter Break - no children's classes

## NUTCRACKER REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

### Full-Call Saturday Rehearsals

12-6 PM 10/31, 11/7, 14, 21, 28, 12/5

### Dress Rehearsals

4-8:30 PM 12/9, 10, 16, 17

### Sugar Plum Parties

4 PM 12/12, 19

### In-Studio Performance

3 PM

### Outreach Performances

10 AM 12/15, 17

### Added Outreach Performance Tuesday 12/15, noon

### Performances

7 PM 12/11, 12, 18, 19

2 PM 12/12, 13, 19, 20