



"Waltz of The Flowers."



"Winter Spirits."



Taking bows. From left are: front row, Melanie Hoffmann, Sharon Rudda, Sierra Scott, Bridget Ansinn and Caitlin Hoffmann.

WEEKENDS

"Clara's Winter Dream"

Joe Zogorski

In organizing Ballet Arts of Bucks County's fifth annual performance of "The Nutcracker," Artistic Director Bridget Ansinn endeavored to create something unique.

The production moved to several venues through the season. The photographs were shot at Plumstead Christian School

"As the traditional version is already beautifully performed by many area dance schools and companies, I wanted to offer something different, perhaps a bit shorter, so our youngest audience members don't get too restless. We arrived at 'Clara's Winter Dream, a slightly New Age, spiritual rendition, incorporating the haunting music from George Winston's album, 'Winter,' as well as many pieces from the animated film, 'Snowman.'

"Clara gazes into her snow globe and sees the Winter Spirits who deliver the Nutcracker to her by leaving him in a basket outside in the snow. The Winter Fairies then bring the magic as Clara awakens in the Land of Sweets, where she is crowned and all of the confections dance for her."

While all of the students work hard, the bulk of the dancing is done by The Studio Ensemble. They rehearse Saturdays and Sundays beginning in September.

"This is our fifth year of holiday performances, and it is truly wonderful to see the level of commitment in the students, their increased strength and technical abilities, as well as the kinship that has developed among them," Ansinn said.

All of the age groups, young and old, work together to tell the story. "The older students help the younger ones - for example, in not missing their entrances- this spirit of cooperation is so impressive."



"Clara's Winter Dream" Finale.



"Tea from China in the Land of Sweets," Katy Dearborn, left, Allison Ansinn, right.



"Marzipan Kitties" from left, Sarah Betancourt, Charlotte Neal, Caroline Kassas, and Nicole Cook.



Sharon Rudda, "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy."



Pennsylvania Ballet Arts owner and dance instructor Bianca Agnew leads her young performers.



Youngsters get ready to make their debut.

Tiny dancers

Young students from Chalfont's Pennsylvania Ballet Arts took to the stage for the first time for a holiday performance at the Montgomeryville Mall in North Wales Dec. 18.

Owner and dance instructor Blanca Agnew left corporate America to pursue her passion for dance and opened the dance studio in September.

Photographs by Margaret McLaughlin



Performing at the Montgomery Mall, young students from Pennsylvania Ballet Arts dance a holiday-themed performance.



Debbi White offers appetizers to Amanda Kramer and Latoya Charleston, 95.7 BEN FM representatives.

Children's museum

Network Now sponsored the Ladies Night Out Holiday Trunk Show to benefit The Bucks County Children's Museum Dec. 2 at the future home of the museum in Union Square, New Hope.

The evening, sponsored by 95.7 BEN FM and Fulton Bank, raised nearly \$4,000 for the Children's Museum, which is slated to open in this winter.

Ladies shopped 20 vendors, tasting appetizers from Max Hansen Caterer, wine samples from Wycombe Vineyards, beer samples from New Hope Beverage and desserts from Doug's Cakes.

DJ's the radio station played music and games throughout the evening.

Shirley Scratna of the International School of Shiatsu gave free chair massages. Photography was provided by Terree Yeagle of The Moment Photography. Many Network Now members donated items to the basket raffle and silent auction, volunteered at the event, sponsored the refreshments, sold tickets, promoted the event on social media, participated as vendors and contributed to the goody bags.

The proceeds were presented to Kelly Krumenacker, president of the Children's Museum, Dec. 8 at the meeting of her board of directors.

Photographs by Gordon Nieburg



Gianna Rubel and her mother, Gina, sample gourmet pastries.



Lyndsay and Justin Fraser of Wycombe Vineyards serve Rhonda Heffern.



Doug Reasoner displays his gourmet cakes.



Karen Gruener displays her display of handbags and purses.



Kelly Krumenacker, president and founder of the Bucks County Children's Museum, and event organizer Jamie Broderick of Network Now.



Artist Karina Raude discusses the mural she created for the event with shoppers Alison Dudick, Roxanne Apparies, Kristi Michael and Jacqui Sornstein.