April 2015 Volume 15, Issue 4

## **Houston Repertoire Ballet's The Nutcracker will feature Cypress Mill resident Journey Rasmussen!**

#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR THE APRIL 25 & 26 PERFORMANCES

WHO: Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB), Northwest Houston's premiere pre-professional ballet company, featuring guest artists from Ballet Idaho: HRB Alumna Elizabeth Keller and Andrew Taft.

WHAT: Houston Repertoire Ballet proudly presents the 2015 Celebration of Dance, a celebration of life, of beauty, of childhood simplicity – a true celebration of the art of dance and its unique ability to express and walk us through all of what life can lay before us! Included in the show are: Storybook Fantasy by Victoria Vittum, a favorite among children and a special trip down memory lane for the adults; Paquita, an energetic classic with Spanish flair; Shostakovich Suite by Steve Brule, celebrating the famous ballerinas of painter Edgar Degas; and two new works by emerging choreographers Leah Smith and Rebecca Webb, commissioned specifically for HRB dancers.

WHEN: Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm & Sunday, April 26 at 2 pm

WHERE: Tomball High School Theatre 30330 Quinn Road Tomball, Texas 77375

TICKETS: Reserved seating. Tickets: \$15 adults and \$12 students/ seniors. For ticket information, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721) or visit www.hrbdance.org. For community groups, call the box office to ask about our group discount.

OUTREACH: Each year, the dancers of HRB perform excerpts and make costumed appearances at various nursing homes, group events and at Arts & Education performances. Also, HRB will perform for the Tomball ISD fourth grade students fulfilling the arts component of their curriculum. To schedule an outreach event for your organization, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721).

GUEST ARTISTS: Elizabeth Keller was born in Dubai, UAE, and began her training at the Royal Academy of Dance in London, England. She then moved to Houston, TX where she trained with Victoria Vittum and Gilbert Rome at the Ballet Center of Houston and danced with the Houston Repertoire Ballet. At age 15, Ms. Keller was invited to train at Rock School of The Pennsylvania Ballet on full merit scholarship. There she was coached extensively by "Prima

Ballerina Assoluta," Ms. Violette Verdy, and danced with the Pennsylvania Ballet for two seasons. In 2002, she attended the Miami City Ballet School summer intensive and trained with the Miami City Ballet School for the year before joining as a fulltime company member in 2003 under the direction of the founder and Artistic Director Edward Villella. Ms. Keller danced with the Miami City Ballet for ten seasons. Her fondest memories of dancing with MCB include Symphony in Three Movements, Symphony in C, Lilac Garden, Serenade, Who Cares?, Donizetti Variations, Four Temperaments, Balanchine's full length Jewels, Giselle, Mercuric Tidings, Tarantella and Paquita. Elizabeth moved

nationally acclaimed choreographer, Trey McIntyre. Ms. Keller was a part of the uniquely talented and

to Boise, Idaho in 2012 to join Trey McIntyre Project and work with the internationally and Photo By: Steven O'Connor forward-thinking organization for two seasons. She now calls Boise, Idaho home. Elizabeth will be joining Ballet Idaho

for the 2014/2015 season.

Ms. Keller also has a passion for teaching. The last 10 years, she has taught summers in Houston, TX at Ballet Center of Houston; Saratoga Springs, New York, where she ran and was on faculty at The New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA); and was on the fulltime ballet faculty at Miami City Ballet School for two years. Ms. Keller was appointed the Children's Ballet Mistress for Balanchine's

"The Nutcracker" at Miami City Ballet from 2009-2013. She will be joining the faculty at Eagle Performing Arts Center and Ballet Idaho Academy for the 2014/2015 school year. Ms. Keller also is thrilled to announce that she will be starting the very first Dance for Parkinson's classes in Boise, ID this fall.

(Continued on Page 3)

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## **Important Numbers**

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### **Newsletter Deadline**

Peel, Inc. .....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

The deadline for the newsletters is the 9th of each month. Please email articles to: <u>cypressmill@peelinc.com</u>

Remember: The Speed Limit throughout Cypress Mill is 30 MPH!

## **Albion Hurricanes FC Soccer Evaluations** & Tryouts

Albion Hurricanes FC (AHFC), established in 1989, is leading the way in South Texas youth soccer by inspiring and developing young men and women through world class coaching and innovative techniques, as well as instilling the proper framework, self-esteem, confidence and sportsmanship within our athletes.

Players will be evaluated to determine their technical and tactical abilities by the highly-qualified staff at AHFC. AHFC is proud to offer you various locations in the greater Houston area. Please visit www.albionhurricanes.org for specific times and dates and to pre-register for our Evaluations & Tryouts.

AHFC office: 713-939-7473 Website: www.albionhurricanes.org Questions? Boys: Mark Rufo at mrufo@albionhurricanes.org or call 979-453-1933 Girls: Danny Hill at dhill@albionhurricanes.org or call 713-818-7529



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Newsletter Publisher

## CYPRESS MILL

(Continued from Cover Page)

Andrew Taft was born in Miami, Florida where he began his classical training at the age of nine with Ruth Wiesen at the Miami Conservatory. He also studied with Thomas Armour, Robert Pike, Nancy Raffa, as well as other professional guest artists. He trained in both Limon and Graham technique at the New World School of the Arts. His ballet training continued in New York City with private coaching by Johan Renvall and David Howard.

Mr. Taft has danced leading roles with Michael Uthoff Dance Theatre, Miami Ballet, Francis Owen/Cox Dance, Ballet Hawaii and

Miami City Ballet. Notable roles include Franz in Coppelia, Soloist in Theme and Variations, Prince Charming in Cinderella and The Bluebird in The Sleeping Beauty. In 2011, Andrew had the honor to perform for Michelle Obama and her daughters in Ballet Hawaii's The Nutcracker. This is Mr. Taft's fifth season with Ballet Idaho and his first as a Principal. He has danced leading roles in Yes, Virginia, Another Piano Ballet, The Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, Pulcinella, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Piano Concerto in G, Firebird and many others.

SYNOPSIS: Storybook Fantasy: Victoria Vittum's light-hearted tale of a young girl who falls asleep while reading, only to find that the characters from her book have come to life and begin to dance with her and the toys in her room. Reunite with Mickey &

Minnie Mouse, Cat in the Hat, Snow White, and many more!

Paquita: A fiery, energy-filled classic by famous choreographer Marius Petipa, Paquita will delight with its Spanish flair, its grand corps de ballet, and guest artists from Ballet Idaho, HRB alumna Elizabeth Keller and Andrew Taft.

Shostakovich Suite: Playful yet elegant, like the paintings, this ballet celebrates the famous ballerinas brought to life by Edgar Degas.

Plus two new pieces by emerging choreographers Leah Smith and Rebecca Webb.

ABOUT HRB: The Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), founded in 1995 by Victoria Vittum and Gilbert Rome, both nationally acclaimed teachers and choreographers who served as its co-artistic directors. Today, Ms. Vittum oversees training and programming with an equal eye to serving the needs of the community. Although Mr. Rome is now retired, he maintains his interest and affiliation with HRB as a guest teacher.

For two decades HRB has contributed to the cultural fabric of Harris and Montgomery Counties by providing excellent dance training to the area's young ballet stars and dance educators of

> tomorrow, while also presenting two highquality productions annually at affordable prices. The Nutcracker and HRB's spring program, Celebration of Dance, introduce area children and their families to the world of classical and contemporary ballet. Today, HRB is considered to be the premiere preprofessional ballet company in the Houston region, and is recognized for sharing its gifts with the community and beyond.

> The program attracts and develops some of the finest young dancers in the greater Houston area, with many of the dancers advancing to professional ballet companies throughout the country. HRB graduates can be seen with New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre and other

prestigious companies. For more information, please visit: www. hrbdance.org.

MISSION: HRB's mission is dedicated to providing the finest classical ballet instruction, education and performance experience to local gifted students, and to preparing them for a professional career in the world of dance. HRB also is committed to serving the suburban Houston region with high-quality theatre productions that educate, engage and entertain residents of all ages and perpetuate their appreciation of dance as an art form.





Sunday Service at 10:45 AM Wednesday Youth Service at 7:00 PM







16620 Cypress Rose Hill Road | 281-246-7700 | cypressfellowship.org



## The Cypress Symphony

The Cypress Symphony hosts its 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala and Season Announcement Dinner presented by Clearwater Utilities at 5pm on April 26, 2015 at the Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre. The evening will include revealing all major works for the 2015/2016 season with introductions by season conductor Jerry Hou, returning after his enthralling performance in January.

Richard Dowling will perform an exclusive recital for gala attendees that will elegantly (or subtly) match the theme of the evening "Stardust" with an emphasis on evening jazz. A Texas native, Dowling is known best for his recordings of American Music and has won the hearts and recognition of many for his performances, including the Houston Tuesday Musical Club Competition and a sold out debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Dowling was the first soloist to appear with the Cypress Symphony in September 2013 at the inaugural concert.

Founder Caroline Ewan comments that "I am thrilled that the symphony is about to embark on its third season. Our mission to enrich and educate the community has the support it needs to expand not only the size of our orchestra, but also the number of communities that we are reaching. Our third season will be our first entre into these two areas. It is a historic and exciting time at the Cypress Symphony."

The Cypress Symphony, founded by 26-year—old Caroline Ewan, is receiving great support from the northwest Houston community for its energetic performances. The next concert is May 9th at 7PM at the Centrum under the baton of Bohuslav Rattay, Conductor of the El Paso Symphony. Kathy Winkler, violin professor from Rice University, will perform the wonderful "Lark Ascending" by Vaughan-Williams as well as "Appalachian Spring."

During the fundraising gala, there will be a silent auction presenting items from some of Houston's best cultural institutions and local artisans. Ms. Ewan and the administrative team will highlight the current status of the Cypress Symphony and present exciting new developments for the 2015/2016 season.

The gala will be held at Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre at 826 Town & Country Blvd, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77024. Tickets for the gala can be purchased online at www. CypressSymphony.org or by calling (832) 766-0529. Individual seats for this exclusive event are \$60 with discounts for table purchases or priority seating. Additional tickets and upcoming concert information can be found online at:

#### www. Cypress Symphony. org

The Cypress Symphony is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization and member of the League of American Orchestras.





## UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY

#### FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Submitted by David Renniger

**Question:** What is the most common pollutant in the urban waterways of Harris County, Texas? (Answer below)

#### WATERSHEDS AND WATER QUALITY

Water quality describes physical and chemical parameters of surface water that impact both human and ecological health within a given watershed. A watershed is a geographic area where flowing water (and everything we put in it) drains into a larger common body of water. It can be the gutter system around your house that flows to the storm sewer, or an entire river basin that collects runoff from surrounding towns, roadways, and green spaces. Everyone lives in watershed. In Texas alone, there are 23 major river basin watersheds, each ultimately flowing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Understanding the relationship between water quality and human activity is the cornerstone of my own transformative experience in becoming NatureSmart. You see, I spent the majority of my career liberally applying pesticides and chemical control products to keep my demanding landscape clients happy and their gardens as green and pest-free as possible. Little did I know that most of these chemicals would eventually find their way into watersheds where they negatively affect everything from contact recreation and fishing areas, stream ecology, human health, and the safety of our drinking water.

#### **IMPROVING WATER QUALITY**

Water quality is determined by comparing levels of pollutants like sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and man-made chemicals against baseline levels in a watershed. While this monitoring activity is performed by regulatory agencies and trained experts, here are four areas where you can make a significant contribution to improving water quality in your watershed:

#### 1. Landscapes

- Choose sustainable landscape practices
- Minimize exposed soil with vegetative cover
- Plant vegetative barriers to filter runoff and trap sediments
- Mulch lawn clippings
- Stop using pesticides and chemical fertilizers

#### 2. Car Care

- Regularly check for fluid leaks
- Recycle used motor oil
- Wash vehicles at the car wash and not in the driveway

#### 3. Paved Surfaces

- Sweep/blow driveways, sidewalks and roads
- Don't sweep/blow debris into storm drains
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces

#### 4. Home Care

- Never pour anything down storm drains
- Carefully store and dispose of cleaners, chemicals, and oil
- Pick up pet waste
- Pump and inspect septic systems regularly

Unfortunately, most major streams in Harris County, Texas are listed on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's 303(d) list, which identifies impaired waters with higher than acceptable values for pollutants. The good news is that implementing the recommendations in these four areas of focus can make a difference and cost nothing more than a simple change in behavior.

*The answer to our question:* E.coli bacteria from fecal contamination is the number one cause of impaired waterways in Harris County, Texas. The bacteria is carried by stormwater runoff that flows into our creeks and streams. You can make an immediate impact by cleaning up pet waste and not allowing them to defecate near stormwater drainage areas.







## Cypress-Tomball Democrats April Meeting

The next Cypress-Tomball Democrats monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the meeting and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to all, and always feature great fellowship and informative guest speakers. For more information, visit the website at www.cytomdems.com; contact Glenn Etienne at cytomdems@yahoo.com; or "Like" the club on Facebook.





The next meetings of the Cypress Texas Tea Party will be on:

Saturday, March 21, 2015

- Dr. Kyle Scott, Lone Star College Trustee

Saturday, April 11, 2015

- Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller

- Dwayne Bohac, Texas Representative, District 138

Saturday, May 2, 2015

- Donna Bahorich, State Board of Education, District 6

The Cypress Texas Tea Party meets every three weeks on Saturday

Noon until 2:00 PM at: Spring Creek BBQ 25831 Northwest Freeway Cypress, Texas 77429

Map: http://goo.gl/maps/OoNjY

A schedule of our meetings and confirmed speakers can be found at our website, www.cypresstexasteaparty.org

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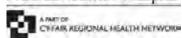


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\$176,000\$200,999	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	0	0
\$151,000\$175,999	4	4	2	2	4	3	5	2	0	3
\$141,000\$150,999	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$121,000\$140,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$101,000\$120,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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