

Don't PAWS on This; Unique Fundraiser Coming to the Lafayette Reservoir

By Diane Claytor



Lafayette's Shelly Valerio and her dog, Curry, will be marching in Saturday's PAWS de Tutu PAWRADE.

Photo provided

In the ballet world, a pas de deux is a dance performed by two dancers. In the world of dogs and the humans who love them, a PAWS de Tutu is a fun-filled beautiful June morning, replete with a dog PAWrade, costume compAWtition, music, celebrities, prizes and a stroll around the picturesque Lafayette reservoir.

On Saturday, June 18, dogs and their human companions are invited to the Lafayette Reservoir stage at 10 a.m. to walk the red carpet and kick off the PAWS de Tutu event, which benefits Diablo Ballet's PEEK (Performing Arts Education and Enrichment for Kids) outreach programs. Charley Kayle, KOIT radio personality and self-professed dog lover, will emcee the PAWrade of pups and the costume compAWtition which follows.

"People are encouraged to think 'outside the box,' perhaps even be a little outrageous," said Kerry Silverstone, former Diablo Ballet board member and event chair. While costumes are certainly not required – even dogs are not required – "we're hoping to have an incredibly visual spectacle of creative costumes. People can – and hopefully will – go a little crazy" when coming up with costume ideas, Silverstone added. Her dogs, Ricky and Lucy, will be there and "you can guess how they'll be dressed," she stated, with a twinkle in her eye.

"We plan to start promptly at 10 a.m.," Silverstone explained, and suggests participants arrive at the Reservoir by 9:30 a.m. to check in and get ready to PAWrade in front of the judges.

Judging the compAWtition will be Renel Brooks-Moon, public address announcer for the SF Giants (and Major League Baseball's only female public address announcer); Pam Kessler, publisher of Walnut Creek Magazine, and Scott Ostler, the San Francisco Chronicle sports columnist for the last 25

years. Prizes will be awarded, with the grand prize winner receiving a \$500 VISA gift card and \$250 gift basket from Pet Food Express. Refreshments will be available and all human participants will receive a tee-shirt and goodie bag.

Following the compAWtition, everyone is invited to take a walk around the reservoir before returning to the stage area to learn which innovative and adorable canines get to take home one of the three PAWards.

Coordinated by Diablo Ballet's Teen Board with input and help from Silverstone and Diablo Ballet's Artistic Director, Lauren Jonas, this unique fundraising event benefits PEEK, the only arts education program of its kind offered by a local professional dance company. PEEK provides in-school movement curriculum and free dance performances for students and families in underserved areas;

last year it began a program within the Contra Costa County juvenile justice system bringing creative movement classes to incarcerated young women.

Teen Board president Marissa Lapointe is so excited about PAWS de Tutu. "Everyone loves dogs," she said. "Who isn't going to want to watch dogs in cute costumes and then walk around the reservoir on a summer morning?"

This feeling is echoed by Isabella Gravano, secretary of the Teen Board and a Miramonte sophomore. "It's a beautiful venue, a fun and unusual event with fantastic prizes and PEEK, which makes a huge difference in the community, will benefit," Gravano said. "It doesn't get much better."

Don't PAWS another minute. To register, go to diablo ballet.org. The cost is \$30 for adults, \$20 for those 17 and under.



Edward Stegge, Diablo Ballet's PEEK Outreach Associate Director, and his dogs Tess and Zina, are ready for June 18's PAWS de Tutu.

Life in LAMORINDA

Floral Arts Florist

Flowers for all occasions



Have a colorful 4th Of July

3584 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 284-5765 www.floralartsflorist.com



"THE KNOT"

BUGATCHI



BUGATCHI SOCKS

Fine Mens Cotton Blend Dress Socks
Made In Italy

19.95 PR

FREE GIFT WRAP

McCaulou's

Lafayette • Moraga • Danville • Montclair • Orinda
Countrywood • Clayton Rd. • Sonoma • Auburn
Stockton (Now at Lincoln Center)



Free Sunday Concert Series

Sunday, June 26th | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
1580 Geary Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Award winning Baritone, **Zachary Gordin**, is renowned for bringing masterful singing and strong physicality to a wide variety of roles: from baroque heroes, to contemporary works written specifically for him. For his performance of Schumann's *Dichterliebe* at the Olympic Music Festival, the Seattle Times hailed him as "a singer already capable of some arresting musical insights". Gordin's celebrated vocal technique has won him numerous awards including the Ibla Grand Prize, Baroque Music Competition. **He was a finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council, Pacific Region, and World Finalist for the Academia Cantanti Lirici at Teatro alla Scala.**

A fundraising raffle will be held with proceeds benefitting Memory Walk. **Walk to End Alzheimer's** is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Reservations Suggested.

(925) 243-7592 | www.VintageKensington.com | Lic 075601405



Summer Session Enrolling Now!

Make it a Mathnasium Summer!

WE MAKE MATH MAKE SENSE VISIT US TODAY

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

GRADES K-12 • PRE-ALGEBRA • ALGEBRA 1 & 2 • GEOMETRY • PRE-CALCULUS & CALCULUS • SAT/ACT PREP
HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS

BBQs, Beaches, and Better Grades

Whether your child's goal is to get ahead in the fall, or to avoid the Summer Slide - give your child a clear advantage. Reserve a place in our summer session.

Flat Monthly Fee.
Drop-in any time during regular hours, no scheduling needed.

1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP
Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)
(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com