



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2011

**RESOLUTION (the definition):** The act or process of resolving; the act of answering; the act of determining; analyzing a complex notion into simpler ones; a formal expression of opinion, will or intent.

Sometimes a New Year's Resolution simply means putting into words something that you subconsciously do on a semi-regular basis. Putting your resolution into words and repeating it to yourself often can help you realize your goals.

*WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S DANCER RESOLUTION?  
MAKE A RESOLUTION AND REAFFIRM IT EVERYDAY!*

Anonymously post your dance resolution in our "resolution fish bowl" in the studio. Read other dancer's resolutions and be inspired by each other's goals!

## A LITTLE RECAP AS WE HEAD INTO THE NEW YEAR

2010 was a year of new projects and ideas at SBC. 2011 is an exciting year for all of us as we kick off the year with our first full-length ballet production—*The Snow Maiden*—at the Sebastiani Theatre. We have more performing opportunities "in the works" and are excited to make 2011 a year of growth, exposure to new things and, of course, MOVEMENT!

Many thanks to an anonymous donor, whose generosity made it possible for us to purchase a new CD player, bulletin board and carpet for the lobby. In order to keep our new carpet looking fantastic, please remember that NO eating or drinking (except water) is allowed inside the studio.

Thanks also to Herb and Magrita Klassen for donating the two benches now outside the studio—a great place to have your snacks and beverages!

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Our next holiday will be Friday, April 22–Thursday, April 28 for our Spring Break.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy January Birthday to Kate Bolling, Olivia Cole, Josie Eubank, Eli Fucile, Anika Ljung and Jamie Melendy.

## 2011 WALL CALENDAR RECAP

We hope that you are enjoying starting off the year with our first-ever calendar on your wall! We would like to apologize for not making our intentions and goals with the calendar project clear from the start.

Our intention was and is to make modeling for the calendar a reward that all dancers receive when they achieve the level of Intermediate II. This makes sense for logistical reasons as well because the photo shoots are hard work and require a certain amount of physical stamina and an advanced level of muscle control to make the photos as professional as possible.

Our intention also was to produce a high-quality, professional end-product that ANYONE would be happy to purchase—even people not associated in any way with Sonoma Ballet Conservatory.

It was never our intention to exclude dancers but rather to make being featured in the calendar a goal to aim for.

Our goal is to replace our aging black Marley floor covering with a new marble gray Marley.

Our goal was and is to sell all 1000 of the 2011 Wall Calendars and place all profits from these sales into the fund that was started in late 2010 for this purpose. The replacement of the Marley has been on our wish list of studio improvements for quite some time. Professional Marley flooring is expensive, and tuition income alone is not sufficient to cover the cost.

*You can still sell calendars into January  
because it is a 13-month calendar!*  
**THANK YOU DANCERS AND PARENTS FOR ALL  
YOUR SALES EFFORTS!**

Here's a great idea that has worked well for some of our dancers: Going door-to-door wearing a simple ballet costume. If you are interested in trying this idea out for yourself, talk to Patty or Kelly about borrowing some costume pieces. We're happy to support you . . . and remember, the contest is still happening!! There's still time to qualify for some great prizes!!

### *Some inspiring notes:*

- If we do sell all 1000 calendars, we would have all the funds necessary to replace the Marley!!
- A local Sonoma resident was so impressed, she bought 12 to give away as gifts
- Our "door-to-door" sales-dancers have sold 20 in about 2 hours.
- At least 2 dancers have sold over 30 each.

## VIEWING POLICY & JANUARY DATES

Viewing Days for January will be Tuesday-Monday, January 25-31. These dates represent the last class of the month. Our viewing policy is as follows:

Parents and others wishing to observe a student's lesson may do so during the **last week of classes every month**. This policy is in place to ensure the progress of students. Students are easily distracted by what is happening in the waiting area (including talking, clapping and photo taking) and so we limit observation in order to allow pupils to fully concentrate on their class work. Also, in this way, you will better notice your child's progression from month to month and observation class can become a special occasion for the students to practice their performance skills. Relatives visiting from out-of-town will be welcome to view classes at any time during the month (please limit to no more than 5 at a time).

## NEW YEAR'S DANCER CHECK POINTS

For Elementary II-Advanced level dancers, Patty would like to do individual dancer "check point" reviews this month and into February. Your dancer will bring home a personalized review with a space for dancer and parent comments. Please do comment if there is something you don't understand about the review, or if you or your dancer would like to schedule an in-person conference. There will be a conference sign-up sheet on the studio bulletin board, or you can call Kelly in the studio Monday-Thursday from 4:00-7:00PM to schedule a conference. In-person conferences are NOT mandatory.

## 2011 SUMMER DANCE WORKSHOP

An early reminder to put our 2011 Summer Dance Workshop on your calendar! Please note the date change:

**JULY 5-AUGUST 6, 2011**  
"Bach to the Future"

Our usual mix of Classical Ballet, Character, Flamenco, Jazz and Modern returns with a new theme this summer: Baroque music. Look for many—though not all—of the dances to be choreographed to Bach and his contemporaries. As always, this workshop promises to be creative and entertaining. Jonathan Burnett returns from Scotland, and Brooke Byrne, our *The Snow Maiden* choreographer, contributes as well.

## SUMMER INTENSIVE AUDITIONS AND RAD EXAMS

PARENTS: Please keep your eyes open for a comprehensive list of Summer Intensive auditions for other programs throughout the country to consider for your dancer. For the serious dancer, exposure to other schools and teachers is invaluable! The act of auditioning is also a great learning experience. Most auditions are for students in Intermediate I-Advanced with a few available for Elementary II level dancers. Don't hesitate to ask Patty or Kelly for more in-depth information on the audition process.

Those students in their second year of Intermediate I through Advanced who wish to enter the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) exams, please see Patty to complete your enrollment form as soon as possible. The deadline for entering is quickly approaching; the exams themselves will be held in late February or early March.

## JANUARY IS THE SNOW MAIDEN MONTH!!

After months of hard work and dedication, we have arrived in January—our last month of rehearsal time before our January 29 and 30 shows! It is extremely important that everyone makes it to every rehearsal this month! We would like to thank all of the parents for making *The Snow Maiden* a top priority and getting your dancer(s) to the studio every weekend!

REMINDER: Thursday, January 27, is our dress rehearsal day. We are doing two dress rehearsals at the Sebastiani Theatre at 9:30AM and 1:00PM. Your child will need to be absent from school on this day.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP FOR THE SHOWS: We still need parent volunteers for certain tasks on performance weekend. Look for the sign-up sheet on the studio bulletin board. Remember: you can volunteer for one of the show days and buy tickets for the other show day so you can enjoy the performance as an audience member.

And don't forget—We are also performing *The Snow Maiden* in Berkeley at the Julia Morgan Center on Sunday, February 6, at 3:00PM.

*To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak.*

*Hopi Indian saying*