

# Gold Country Living

## Galena's Holiday Tapestry

By Eva Dunn

We had driven through the cold December night with rain pelting the car, over an hour away from our home, and walked the length of the auditorium outside to the front door, entering with the warm excitement of anticipation.

Our grandson Logan had been a member of the Galena troupe for one year and we were looking forward to this Christmas holiday tradition at the Hiram Johnson Auditorium, Galena's Holiday Tapestry 2009. Directed by Richard and Jeri Clinger and choreographed by Ron Cisneros, this was especially poignant for me as my own two children were once taught music by this couple when they attended Brookfield School in Sacramento.

Thirty years later, and my grandson Logan is being taught song and dance by this dedicated and innovative couple. The talent that forms this dance company is gleaned from the community, girls and boys, students, who are professionally trained by the Clingers. They perform throughout the year for conventions, social clubs, organizations and community events, dazzling audiences with highly entertaining performances.

Ballet, tap, clogging, gymnastics, chorus, and many other forms of dance make this troupe a versatile and sought-after performing touring company. The groups Allegro and East Street Gang perform for convalescent hospitals and community functions.

Richard and Jeri Clinger create the artistic concepts for the performances and the one we attended was absolutely breathtaking and complex. Beautifully done, backdrops and performers evolved to create a multi-layered show with a huge 'wow' factor.

The 'Ring the Bells of Christmas' production began with lovely, female performers in formal white dresses with sparkling blue caplets, swirling and twirling with handsome tux'd young men. What a holiday show beginning! But not a clue as to the wondrous magic that lay ahead.

The over 2 1/2 hour show was resplendent in exciting scenes, costumes, music and holiday fun. There were numerous performances, all just wonderful and many times the wee ones stole the show with their charming smiles and unbridled excitement. Some of my favorites were the following:

A nostalgic White Christmas performance was done to the 1950 song 'Sisters' from the movie *White Christmas*. The young women were dressed in a period outfit trimmed in white faux fur, sporting white, faux fur pillbox hats. It was a charming,

delightful number. My mother would have loved this one! A young Mariachi singer sang of Christmas around the world, with young performers in traditional costumes representing various countries, danced, twirled, and leapt across the stage. What energy these young dancers had, from the youngest on up, effortless maneuvers.

*The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* was delightful, the young performers' soldier stance, timing, and choreography just perfect. Entertaining the audience totally with the Toy Shop scene, all the elves onstage, and children dancing joyfully, made this one of the outstanding favorites of the night.

Jordan and Taylor Quist delivered a dynamic duet that was at once stirring and inspiring. The steady voice and good range that Jordan displayed was enhanced by Taylor's clear, strong vocals. Her voice was sterling, beautifully resonant, pitch perfect, memorable. Look for Taylor Quist to make headlines as she is a talented singer.

Singing one of my favorites, *Mary Did You Know* (...that your baby boy will one day walk on water), these two young people sang it beautifully, richly reverent, with the soft veil of pure spirits. Dancers in white gowns dipped and swirled around the stage as they sang their duet, and looked like lovely angels. One of the best numbers of the evening.

One of the joys of this show was the variety of holiday music from nostalgic oldies to beloved Christmas songs and a happy mix of feel-good seasonal tunes. One surprising and skillful number was charming ladies in white fur-trimmed blue dresses, wearing flat, white fur-trimmed hats who danced and lifted up the front of their skirts revealing a red Santa, complete with mittens, and a wide black belt on the reverse side of the skirt. Tipping their heads forward as they lifted their skirts presented the Santa face, on the top of their hats! It totally wowed us! Wonderful! Kendal Thompson sang beautifully.

A high octane number was the 'Russian' performers, doing the high leaps and skilled low floor work to fast paced music. A touching performance came when Jordan Schultz sang the soldiers' song, a black and white photo of a WWII soldier on the monitor behind him. Soldiers of the world were depicted by their uniforms, hands resting on the shoulder of the next, as he sang; it was a very moving performance and personal.

There were many talented singers in this group including Ben Mammot who sang a solo as Joseph, Mary's husband in a heart touching song accompanied by dancers in fluid gossamer gowns gracefully ...

*Continued on page 16*

## COMPUTER SAVVY My Live Signature



I'm really excited about sharing this Web site with you! My mom sent it to me after she used it to create a signature she could use for her work e-mails. I recommend starting with the Quick Tour.

The Quick Tour will not only walk you through the whole process, but it will also explain all the different ways you can make your signature. You'll want to get a static signature, because they're free! (Only the static ones created from the wizard or with the draw tool are free). To get started making your signature, click on Start Now. You'll then need to choose whether you want to use the wizard or the draw tool. I recommend using the wizard, because it was a lot more fun to select a font that matches my hand writing than to draw a deformed version of my signature with the mouse.

To use the wizard, click on the Create Signature button underneath the text that says "Create a new signature using our wizard." That will lead you to a page where you'll be presented with three options: wizard, draw or upload. You'll want to select the wizard, which is the first option.

After selecting the wizard tool, you'll be asked to type in the name or nickname you'd like to use for your signature. I put in Amanda @ WorldStart.com, which is how I sign my e-mails. In the next step, you'll select which font you want to use.

There are around 120 different fonts you can choose from

and they may take a minute or two to load. Click on the bullet of the font you want to use and then click on the Next button at the bottom of the page.

The next step is to select the size you want your signature to be. I like mine rather small, so I selected size 2.

There are ten different sizes to pick from, so you'll have plenty of options. Click on the Next button to continue. Here you'll select the color of the font you want to use for your signature. There are ten different colors to choose from. Next, you can set the slope of your signature. There are ten different slopes to choose from as well. You're finally finished!

Take the code they give you for your signature (signature ID) and copy it. Then paste it on the Start Now page under the Download a Signature heading. The other thing you can do with the signature ID is paste it under the Generate a Code section.

That will give you a choice between an HTML code and a BB code. If you want to use it on a forum, choose the BB code. If you want to use it on a Web page, choose the HTML code. Now you have a personalized signature all your very own. Yes! [www.mylivesignature.com](http://www.mylivesignature.com)

~Amanda

You probably often wonder about the meaning and/or spelling of certain words. This website is a good one to have in your favorites. It also includes a Thesaurus. [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)

*I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I had any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't need the class.*

## What is a qwerty keyboard?

If you'll look at keys 2 through 7 of the third row from the bottom of your keyboard, you will see that they spell qwerty. Why did they put in this screwy arrangement instead of alphabetical order. The following quote from: [www.straightdope.com](http://www.straightdope.com) will shed some light --

"In what is generally considered the first practical typewriter--designed by an American inventor named Christopher Sholes and a group of cohorts in the late 1860s--the type, arranged in a sort of circular basket under the carriage, was prone to frequent jamming at typing speeds in excess of hunt-and-peck. (Another problem, by the way, was that type met paper on the underside of the cylinder, so the typist couldn't read the fruits of his or her labors without lifting up the carriage.)

To solve the jamming problem, Sholes and company, who had originally arranged their keyboard in alphabetical order, decided to put the most commonly used letters (or what they thought were the most commonly used letters) as far apart as possible in the machine's innards. The next year, 1873, they turned their invention over to the Remington gun company of New York State (made Remington typewriters), and their keyboard has been standard ever since.

Grab the top of a window with your cursor and shake rapidly back and forth. All open windows (besides the one you shook) will minimize; giving you a clear view of the one you want to concentrate on! Just shake again to return!

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