

Executive Director's Report  
Fall 2008

As fall, school starting and "Nutcracker" are upon us, I hope the memory of summer days and a slower pace, give all renewed energy! It is time for Dance Kids of Monterey County's largest production of the season, "Nutcracker"!

This year's production is made even more exciting by our return home to Sunset Center! For four years, we have produced the ballet at the Morgan Stock Stage, Monterey Peninsula College and have great memories. Our audience at MPC could only be 348 while Sunset Center has a capacity of 750! Seating capacity was only one reason for our decision, but a BIG one!

In the past few years, members of the community, the business sector and Sunset Center board of directors have urged us, to consider a return "home". The increase in organizational fees after the renovation was daunting. Former Mayor Ken White spearheaded a group of individuals and organizations including Executive Director Peter Lesnik of Sunset Center, to solicit grants to help defray expenses. Dr. Amy Roth and Roberta Bialek deserve special thanks for their generous donation to facilitate the venue change.

These are troubled times in funding the arts. One major funding source has been cut in half in the last week making the future of Dance Kids of Monterey County in question. We are committed to Nutcracker, December 5, 6, and 7, 2008 at Sunset Center, but beyond that point our future is in the hands of our audience, parents, businesses and the community. Our plans for "Sleeping Beauty", our Spring Ballet, are in question. Dance Kids board of Directors are working on ways to "Keep Dance Kids Alive!"

We are asking for your financial support! I urge all of you to talk to your friends and neighbors, service organizations, and business that are supported by your family and tell them of our plight. We have a 15-year record of accomplishment of providing high quality programs for the youth of Monterey County. We need your help and we need it NOW-please do what you can to keep the arts alive through Dance Kids of Monterey County.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Sunset Center, December 5<sup>th</sup> and invite you to join us for the Gala Opening Night Reception at 5pm. In addition, YES, KION-TV New Anchor Hunter Finnell will make a command performance appearance this year as the ever-loving "Mother Ginger". Hunter, we all love you, but easy on the mascara!

See you at Sunset! ON with the show....

Alan