



A cast of 120 will dance a holiday classic when Salt Creek Ballet brings its "The Nutcracker" to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Saturday and Sunday.

# Young dancers bring a yule chestnut to life

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

Contributor

Professional dancers lead a cast of 120, including young people who study at the company's school, in Salt Creek Ballet's magical retelling of "The Nutcracker," 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 N. Skokie Blvd.

One of those students is 15-year-old Skokie resident Suraya Kaiser, who began dancing at the age of 3 and has studied with Salt Creek for a year and a half. Kaiser dances the role of a crystal in the Snow Scene and is a Merlition (pastry) in Act Two.

"It's a great experience to be performing with all these girls that I dance with all week and also with professionals from other companies," the young dancer said. She noted that because it's an annual production, audiences "know what to expect but they still enjoy watching it because they see we like to perform it."

Tickets are \$31.50-\$39.50.

For details, call (847) 673-6300 or visit [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org).

## Traditional approach

Children can make gifts and holiday decorations based on Native American traditions at Kids Craft Mornings, 11 a.m.-noon Saturday and 12:30-1:30 p.m. Sunday at Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St. Evanston. Projects include God's eyes of brightly colored yarns, beaded key chains

and small-scale models of Intuit landmarks. Workshops are included with admission of \$5 adults, \$3 children and seniors.

For details, call (847) 475-1030 or visit [www.mitchellmuseum.org](http://www.mitchellmuseum.org).

## Singing and spaghetti

Kids up to age 7, and their favorite grown-ups, will enjoy that combination at a Chanukah Concert and Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Beth Emet Synagogue, 1224 Dempster, Evanston. Shira Kline of Shir LaLa will perform, followed by a dinner of spaghetti and jelly doughnuts. Cost is \$6 per person, \$20 per family.

For details, call (847) 869-4230 or visit [www.bethemet.org](http://www.bethemet.org).

## Travel by air

Balloon is the medium that will transport kids and adults Around the World With Ryan Freeman, 10-10:45 a.m. Saturday at Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane. The balloon artist is known for his juggling prowess and amusing antics.

For details, call (847) 272-6224 or visit [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).

## Celebrate the season

Everyone is invited to a Holiday Social, 2-3 p.m. Saturday at the Northfield Branch of the Winnetka-Northfield Library District, 1785 Orchard Lane. There will be cookies, cider and live music.

For details, call (847) 446-5990 or visit [www.winnetkalibrary.org](http://www.winnetkalibrary.org).