

LEGACY NEWS

ENSURE THE FUTURE OF DANCE AT SAN FRANCISCO BALLET



WINTER 2020

San Francisco Ballet in Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* // Choreography by George Balanchine © The Balanchine Trust; Photo © Erik Tomasson

THE GIFT OF DANCE

As a young girl in Dayton, Ohio, Jan Newman was fortunate to grow up with two cousins who fostered her passion for the arts. Her cousins introduced her to opera and ballet and encouraged her to take ballet lessons. "I became the most passionate about ballet. Using the body to express emotion was extraordinary to me," Jan remarked. She took lessons for several years and developed a deep appreciation for the art form but decided early on that ballet would be her advocacy, not her vocation.

Jan found her vocation in Chicago in the early 1970s. After graduating from New York University, she launched a successful career in market research, eventually starting her own business. At the time, there were no major local ballet companies for Jan and her husband, Bob, to enjoy.

When the Newmans relocated to the Bay Area in 1982, the first thing that Jan

did was purchase season tickets to San Francisco Ballet. "I met Deborah Kaufman, the founder of Words on Dance, and many dancers. I learned so much about the ballet world from them and was inspired to volunteer. So, I joined the SF Ballet Auxiliary in the early 1990s and was an active member for 17 years."

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Jan Newman





THE FIRST STEP TO AN EFFECTIVE ESTATE PLAN

Estate planning can seem daunting. The first step in taking on this task is simply making a list. Before you meet with your attorney, take some time to make a list of your assets and potential heirs to serve as a helpful guide.

TAKE INVENTORY OF YOUR ASSETS

Do you know all the assets you own? It can be easy to overlook some property that should be included in your estate plans. As you make a list of your assets, be sure to consider all the following categories:

- ▶ Savings you have accumulated (such as bank accounts or CDs).
- ▶ Real estate (your personal residence, vacation home or rental property).

- ▶ Investments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.).
- ▶ Insurance policies.
- ▶ Retirement funds (pension plans, IRAs, 401(k)s, etc.).
- ▶ Personal property (cars, furniture, jewelry, etc.).
- ▶ Digital assets.

Once you determine exactly what you own, consider who will receive your assets.

WHO DO YOU CARE ABOUT?

Determine who you would like to include in your plans. Don't worry about who will get what. Just list those you want to provide for in the future, such as:

- ▶ Your spouse.
- ▶ Children and grandchildren.
- ▶ Other family members (siblings, nieces and nephews or parents).
- ▶ Special friends and loved ones.
- ▶ Charitable organizations, like San Francisco Ballet, that hold a special place in your heart.

Once completed, you will know what you own and which loved ones to include in your plans when you meet with your attorney, taking the first step in creating an effective estate plan that reflects your wishes.

We are happy to offer additional estate planning resources to San Francisco Ballet supporters, including a recent virtual seminar with our partner from Thompson & Associates. Visit www.sfballet.org/support-us/planned-giving/ to watch the seminar. You may also contact us or return the enclosed card for more information about how you can make a lasting impact on our ability to share the joy of dance with a legacy gift.

THE CARES ACT OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

To address economic impacts of the coronavirus, Congress passed the *CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act* in March. The law included several tax provisions designed to provide relief to Americans while also encouraging charitable giving this year:

- ▶ An above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 is available for cash gifts to public charities, like San Francisco Ballet, in 2020. This provides tax savings for taxpayers who do not itemize since the deduction is taken before adjusted gross income (AGI) is determined.
- ▶ The usual limit on deductions for cash charitable gifts (up to 60%

of AGI) is suspended for 2020, meaning taxpayers can claim unlimited deductions for charitable contributions on their 2020 returns.

- ▶ Required minimum distributions (RMDs) from IRAs and other qualified retirement accounts are suspended for 2020. An IRA owner who is 70½ or older can, however, still make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) of up to \$100,000 annually. See the article, “Giving Through Your IRA,” on Page 6 for more information.

Take advantage of these opportunities with a gift to San Francisco Ballet this year or contact us for more information about including the Ballet in your plans.

THE GIFT OF DANCE

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Jan remains a passionate advocate of San Francisco Ballet as a Sustaining Auxiliary member, and her love and appreciation for the art form is as strong as ever. “Since the ballet world has gone virtual (because of shelter-in-place orders) we’ve been able to stream San Francisco Ballet and other dance companies. We’ve enjoyed those experiences, but we enjoy SF Ballet the most, without a doubt. We have such incredible and diverse dancers in San Francisco.”

Jan and Bob have also decided to continue their long-time support of SF Ballet with a legacy gift. Now retired

from fulfilling careers, Jan and Bob are very grateful for the success they have achieved and wish to dedicate part of their legacy to the causes most important to them: arts, education and healthcare.

Their legacy gift to the SF Ballet will focus on education. “Education is so important to sustaining the art form,” Jan reflected. “When people understand an art form, they respond to it. Ballet is a wonderful form of expression. It’s like meditation; you lose yourself in the movement and in the movements of the dancer when watching a performance. That is very special.”

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Many donors have found that they can achieve both their desire to support San Francisco Ballet and ensure their own financial well-being with one gift: a charitable gift annuity. This option allows donors who are 65 and older to make a gift today and benefit from immediate tax savings while receiving lifetime payments.

A gift annuity with San Francisco Ballet provides payments to one or two individuals that:

- ▶ Will not decrease in size, regardless of the future performance of the economy.
- ▶ Are backed by all the available assets of the San Francisco Ballet Endowment Foundation.
- ▶ Will continue for as long as the annuitants live.
- ▶ Can be a welcome supplement to your income during your retirement years.

Please contact Elizabeth Lani, Deputy Director of Development/Planned Giving, for a gift illustration or for additional information about the benefits of charitable gift annuities.

San Francisco Ballet in
Tomasson's *Nutcracker*.

© Erik Tomasson



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Jennifer Stahl and Aaron Robison in
Ratmansky's *Symphony #9*

© Erik Tomasson





SAN FRANCISCO BALLET
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GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA

If you are age 70½ or older, you can make charitable gifts to San Francisco Ballet directly from IRAs using funds that might otherwise be taxed when withdrawn (up to a total of \$100,000 per individual per year; \$200,000 per couple with separate IRAs).

Because most funds withdrawn from IRAs are considered income, your total taxable income is increased, pushing you into a higher tax bracket. Distributions directly to charity from your IRA will not, however, be included in your taxable income whether or not you normally itemize your charitable gifts and other deductible expenses.

Steven Morse and Max Cauthorn in Morris' *Sandpaper Ballet* © Erik Tomasson

