

# A BUNNY BALLET



## Megan's big chance to dance

By Emily Nerland  
Bethany Lutheran School

Sometimes life is a ballet. And sometimes there are real dances in life, like the one which Roxanne and Megan take part in.

Roxanne looks like an average rabbit. She has long white ears and a little pink nose. But for some reason Roxanne feels superior to the other rabbits at Mrs. Shivoski's School of Dance.

The studio is a large room with two walls protecting the dressing room. On those walls, Mrs. Shivoski posts the roles for the plays. Surrounding the other walls are long bars. On the back wall is a large mirror in which the dancers pretend there is an audience.

When dancing in front of those mirrors, Roxanne seems to have a look about her that implies that she has more talent than any other ballerina, especially Megan. Megan is a smaller, more reserved, fragile rabbit. Although she has always wanted to, Megan has never obtained a large role in Mrs. Shivoski's plays. Those roles only go to Roxanne.

Megan is starting to get very

frustrated.

The sun is setting and it is time for dance class. Megan knows that it is a special class for most of the dancers, because it is time to give out parts. But she doesn't feel very excited. She knows that she won't get the lead role. As she opens the door to the muggy ballet studio, she sees Roxanne and her friends standing by the long wooden bars. She watches them as they giggle about their parts. She decides to not even check the sheet, on which the parts are listed. She knows that it's the usual.

"Beep, beep, beep ... " rings her alarm clock.

"It's Saturday! And it's almost time for another ballet class," Megan notices.

She pulls on her leotard and runs downstairs. She leaps out of the door and heads toward Mrs. Shivoski's School of Dance. As she arrives, she remembers that after her regular warm-up, is the first rehearsal. "Oh, well," she thinks to herself. "I'll just do my best and truly to be noticed."

Before she realizes it, it's already time for the rehearsal,

and Roxanne is standing in the center of the room. She is ready to begin her part. Roxanne takes three large steps backwards and does an enormous "Royale" in the air (a jump in which your feet bend to the front and then land in the back). She lands in a deep "plie" (to bend your knees). But all of a sudden "crack!"

Roxanne is on the floor crying in pain. Mrs. Shivoski jumps out of her chair and discovers a broken ankle.

After all of the drama with Roxanne, Mrs. Shivoski settles the class down and begins to lecture the class on injuries. Slowly she leads into an ultimate question, "Who will take her place?" she asks, "Does anyone know the part?"

Megan, being the most shy and quiet, raises her hand timidly. The moment she raised her hand, she regrets it dearly. You know the part?" Mrs. Shivoski asks excitedly.

"Um, yes I do," stammers Megan.

Luckily Megan has been watching the rehearsals with great focus. And finally her careful eyes have paid off. "Then the part is yours," exclaims Mrs. Shivoski.

So Megan and the other dancers work together at learning the dance.

It is the night of the performance and everyone feels ecstatic! As Megan walks onto the stage, she realizes that it has taken teamwork to complete this dance. Unlike Roxanne, Megan did have the maturity to share the part with her classmates. The performance went wonderfully and because of Megan's courage, she was no longer ignored. For Roxanne, her ankle healed over time, but she later realized that ballet wasn't her passion!

*The author was an eighth-grader when this article was submitted into the Solano County Reading Association competition.*

## An honor to rest in cemetery

By Joanna Chenaille  
Notre Dame School

Do you think it is hard to find a loved one in a regular cemetery?

Imagine trying to find a loved one in the largest and most famous cemetery in the United States!

Located in Virginia across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., is the most prestigious military cemetery in the nation, Arlington National Cemetery, which is currently the resting place of roughly 285,000 people. There is a record of where everyone is buried at the Visitors Center.

The cemetery surrounds Arlington House, which sits at the highest point of the cemetery. Arlington House and the surrounding land was home to the famous Confederate General, Robert E. Lee, prior to the Civil War. The cemetery is currently operated by the U.S. Army and it is kept looking beautiful throughout the whole year. It was established in 1864 and now includes 612 acres of land.

All military people, like people in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are able to be buried there along with people who have retired from the military, veterans who held a high position in government, and were honorably discharged. Honorably discharged means leaving the military having done a good job.

I feel honored to have my grandfather buried in Arlington. He retired as a captain in the Naval Reserves and served his country in the South Pacific in World War II. At memorial services, the family members are treated with full respect. My grandfather's funeral had a horse-drawn carriage, which carried the flag-draped casket followed by an honor guard and two squadrons of sailors. After the chaplain finished the service and my Pop-Pop was buried, the bugler played "Taps" and the honor guard fired the 21-gun salute.

President William Howard Taft and John F. Kennedy are buried in Arlington. Also, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War is located there. An honor guard guards the tomb day and night to show respect for the people who have died.

Going to the cemetery could be a time of sorrow, but as you look around and see all of the graves, a sense of happiness beats through your blood to know that the final resting place for people who have served their country is so peaceful and beautiful.

I miss my grandfather very much and I am sad that I didn't know him very well, but when I think about him, I feel joyful and happy and honored to have someone in my family who served our country and whose remains now rest in such a peaceful place.

*The author was a sixth-grader when this article was submitted to the Solano County Reading Association competition.*

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## MEET OUR COLLEGE BLOGGERS:



Michael Sean Carpenter, aka Sean Flood, is a 2004 Vacaville High School graduate who is attending San Francisco State University this fall.



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Jonathan Lord, a Buckingham Charter Magnet High graduate, is majoring in music at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California.



Noren Shoyeb is a 2007 graduate from Will C. Wood high who is majoring in psychology with an emphasis in mathematics at UC Davis.



Courtney Innes is a sophomore at Brigham Young University and a Will C. Wood graduate.



Alyssa Segura is a 2006 graduate of Vacaville High School, is a current student at Solano Community College and plans to transfer to a CSU next fall.

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