

SAN FRANCISCO | PENINSULA | SILICON VALLEY

GENTRY



50 WAYS TO
CELEBRATE
(Don't Forget the Nutcracker!)

**FAMILY
MATTERS**
THE JOY OF GIVING BACK
The Holiday Spirit Comes Alive

**JOE &
JENNIFER**
*The Montanas Aim for
a Bright 2014!*

**SPARKLING
Gifts & Glamour**
(We've Got You Covered)

DECEMBER 2013



The 12 Days of Christmas

Joys of the Season

Many years ago, my family and I spent the holidays in Ireland—a real Christmas in Kilarney. On a drive across the breadth of the country from Dingle Bay to Dublin, we listened to the local radio and, interspersed between the Christmas carols and news items, was a charming and hilarious piece by an Irish comedian named Frank Smith (think David Sedaris with a brogue) titled the 12 Days of Christmas. In it, Smith relates what it would be like to have a suitor actually gift you all of the items from the classic song and the absurdity that would surely ensue. Indeed, we'd all enjoy the five golden rings, but the menagerie of birds, dancers, cattle, and more would be downright crazy. My entire family was brought to belly-aching laughs by Smith's wonderful rant.

We made it our mission to find the recording and, to this day, the holidays just aren't complete without listening to it while putting up the Christmas tree.

We all have our own holiday traditions—it's part of what makes this time of year so very special. But if you are in need of some new traditions, you are in luck. Our Senior Editor Jill Layman has created a comprehensive guide to all things festive and fun (*Holiday Happenings*, page 88). Need to take the out-of-town relatives somewhere fun? Check. Want to take the little ones to the *Nutcracker*? Just take your pick. In the mood for hot chocolate and ice skating? Done. Have you always wanted to see Candy Cane Lane? Just choose a city. From San Francisco to Los Gatos, you will find something delightful to see, hear, and enjoy.

Giving is at the heart of this season (*Spirit of Giving*, page 78), and in this issue we profile seven different families who take giving back to the community very seriously. Case in point: Our cover stars Jennifer and Joe Montana will be recognized this month with The Inspiration Award from the Wendler Weiss Foundation for Children for their dedication and commitment to philanthropic causes for over 25 years.

Also in this issue, Style Editor Emily Heitmann takes a look at winter's best trends (*Style & Grace*, page 74). History Editors Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett recall the early days of one of San Francisco's most fashionable department stores, The City of Paris (*Local History*, page 112). And our philanthropy department is devoted to highlighting the important work in the field of mental health accomplished by San Mateo-based Caminar (*Beyond the Stigma*, page 118), complete with a wish list on how you can help.

From all of us at *Gentry*, we wish you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season!



Stefanie Lingie Beasley

Editorial Director // edit@l8media.com

THE CURRENT TALK



Holiday **HEROES**

Sports celebrities and local families get together at AT&T Park for a wonderful cause.

The fourth-annual **HOLIDAY HEROES** event (December 9), sponsored by the Wender Weiss Foundation for Children, is a delightful Bay Area tradition. Local families get together for an evening of holiday fun and activities with celebrity sports heroes like Joe and Jennifer Montana, Kristi Yamaguchi, Bret Hedican, Taiwan Jones, George Kontos, and Malia and Jonny Moseley—all

for a great cause. Proceeds benefit children's charities, including the Junior Giants Baseball Program, 49ers Foundation, Always Dream Foundation, Fit Kids, Holy Family Day Home, Rafael House, Four Rings Family Foundation, and San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center. *For tickets and details, visit www.wenderweiss.org.*

ON THE TOWN

DECEMBER 9

Holiday Heroes

AT&T Park will become a winter wonderland for this very special fundraiser to benefit the Junior Giants Baseball Program, 49ers Foundation, Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation, Fit Kids, Rafael House, and Holy Family Day Home. The event is put on by the Wender Weiss Foundation for Children and will honor Joe and Jennifer Montana this year.

AT&T Park, San Francisco

www.wenderweiss.org

Holiday HAPPENINGS!

Holiday Homes, Tours, & Events

DECEMBER 9

Holiday Heroes

Once again, the Wender Weiss Foundation for Children will be hosting its family-friendly fundraiser, Holiday Heroes, at AT&T Park. Guests are invited to mix and mingle with celebrity athletes, team mascots, and media personalities, while enjoying exclusive access to the SF Giants' dugout and batting tunnels. All will enjoy ballpark fare and drink, but kids especially will delight in such fun activities as holiday cookie decorating, teddy bear stuffing, video booths, face painting, and a candy bar. Proceeds from a fabulous silent auction benefit the Junior Giants Baseball Program, the 49ers Foundation, Raphael House, the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, Holy Family Day Home, and Fit Kids. Tickets start at \$195. www.wenderweiss.org