

Ethnic Heritage Council

DECEMBER 2008

My Story: Jens Lund - Childhood Journeys

This is a *post-immigration* story. My father and his family emigrated and re-emigrated between Denmark and the United States seven times between 1910 and 1949. Far (my Dad) returned alone to the United States in 1949, and Mor (my Mom) and I followed in 1950, she by ship in January, I by plane in May.

In 1957, the four of us (including my U.S.-born sister) returned to Denmark from our home in Connecticut for a 10-week visit. We traveled on the Swedish liner MS *Stockholm*, on one of its first voyages following the 1956 disaster in which it had rammed and sunk the Italian liner SS *Andrea Doria* with a loss of 51 lives. I was 11 years old. On the foredeck I could see new planking where the bow had caved in during the collision.

Lasting Lessons

The foredeck was off-limits to passengers, being a working deck full of cranes and hoists. Another boy and I had made the acquaintance of the ship's carpenter, whose cabin adjoined the foredeck. He allowed us to go out there when he was around to keep an eye on us.

The carpenter was an almost stereotypical old Swedish "salt." I can still see him in his seaman's cap, navy cord-knit sweater, and ever-present, curved-stemmed pipe. We loved listening to his hoarse voice and lilting Swedish accent as he told his adventures of decades at sea.

Toward the end of the journey, as we approached the coast of Scotland, the carpenter told us to come to the deck in late afternoon and he would show us something. Later that day he pointed to a steep, sharp rock on the horizon. It was the Rockall Seamount.

He told us how in 1904, the Danish emigrant ship, SS *Norge*, struck Rockall in a fog and went down with over 600 lives lost. It was the deadliest transatlantic maritime disaster until the 1912 loss of the RMS *Titanic*. In the huge ocean the *Stockholm* suddenly seemed much smaller on that gray and chilly afternoon, as we alternately looked out at Rockall and down at the new deck planking.

A Timeless Symbol

The second part of the story takes place on our return from Denmark, as we arrived in Upper New York Bay in preparation for docking. Early that morning, Far woke me and told me to get dressed quietly so as not to awaken Mor and my sister, because he had something to show me.

Up on deck, we found the harbor socked in with a heavy fog. "I hope we can see it," Far said as we approached the starboard rail. After we had stood there awhile, he suddenly exclaimed, "Look! There it is!"

The image of the Statue of Liberty
Continued on page 2, My Story



Photo by Jal Schrof © EHC

Kofi Anang & West African Ensemble Ocheami - performed music, dance and storytelling of Ghana at the 9th Annual Winter Worldfest November 28-30, 2008 at Seattle Center

Happy Holidays

From the
Ethnic
Heritage
Council

** Thank you 18th Annual Cultural Crossroads and 9th Annual Winter Worldfest participants & sponsors for two November successes! **

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Telling Our Stories Discovering Our Heritage

"Tell YOUR story"! Everyone has one! In doing so, you will be reminded of what has been and what is important to you. Your story is a part of history - a story to be shared with your family and with others.

Begin by thinking about your life... a special life experience; holiday celebration; your immigration story (or that of your relative)... to name a few. Write it down or let us know when you are ready to share and we can even arrange an "assistant" to help you get it down on paper!

~ More to come each month on **Telling Our Stories** ~



A World of Holidays - Christmas-Hanukkah-Kwanzaa...

What do you celebrate in December? Christmas? Hanukkah? Kwanzaa? Diwali?... These holiday terms are familiar to us all, but do we know what they mean? What they represent? Why they are celebrated?

Today, in the year 2008, we are especially aware of the cultures of the world. We are brought closer to "the other side of the world" by today's media, particularly the internet.

With this in mind, we thought we'd do a bit of research on our own, and looked up some general definitions of holidays so widely celebrated in our own communities. Where did we turn? The internet! We certainly do not claim this information to be 100% correct, or complete, nor do we cover all religions and their celebrations, but we hope you will find it interesting and educational and perhaps it may inspire you to do a bit of research on your own as we all celebrate this month and throughout the calendar year, in our own special way. Your celebration may be religious, national, international, or perhaps a family tradition carried on for generations, or a new one started by your immediate family!

Have a joyous holiday! Visit: www.wikipedia.org to do some of your own research!

Christmas

Christmas is an annual holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus. The date as a birthdate for Jesus is traditional, and is not considered to be his actual date of birth. Christmas festivities often combine the commemoration of Jesus' birth with various secular customs, many of which have been influenced by earlier winter festivals.

In most places around the world, Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25 with Christmas Eve the preceding day, December 24. In the United Kingdom and many countries of the Commonwealth, Boxing Day is December 26. In Catholic countries, Saint Stephen's Day or the Feast of St. Stephen is December 26. The Armenian Apostolic Church observes Christmas on January 6. Eastern Orthodox Churches that still use the Julian Calendar celebrate Christmas on the Julian version of 25 December, which is January 7 on the more widely used Gregorian calendar, because the two calendars are now 13 days apart. (Armenians who use the Julian Calendar celebrate Christmas on the Julian version of Jan. 6, which is Jan. 19 on the Gregorian calendar.)

The word "Christmas" is a contraction of two words "Christ's mass" and is derived from the Middle Eng-

lish *Christemasse* and Old English *Cristes mæsse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038. In early Greek versions of the New Testament, the letter X (chi), is the first letter of Christ (Χριστός). Since the mid-16th century X, or the similar Roman letter X, was used as an abbreviation for Christ. Thus, Xmas is an abbreviation for Christmas.

After the conversion of Anglo-Saxons in England from their indigenous Anglo-Saxon polytheism (a form of Germanic paganism) in the very early 7th century, Christmas was called *geol*, which was the name of the native Germanic pre-Christian solstice festival that fell on that date. From *geol*, the current English word *Yule* is derived. Many customs associated with modern Christmas were derived from Germanic paganism.

The date as a birthdate for Jesus is traditional, and is not considered to be his actual date of birth.

Around the 12th century, the remnants of the former Saturnalian traditions of the Romans were transferred to the Twelve Days of Christmas (26 December - 6 January). Christmas during the Middle Ages

Continued on INSERT 1, Holidays

My Story, Continued from page 1

appeared, as if floating in the fog. "Now think about all those millions of people who have seen that sight," said my father, "and how it must have felt to them to finally see it after all they had gone through to get this far." He himself had been one of them, twice as a boy in 1929 and 1936, and again in 1949.

Unfortunately, in 1929 and again in 1936, the Great Depression hindered the opportunities for which my father's family had hoped. I didn't realize that at the time, and it wasn't until years later that he explained how shifting fortunes had caused the family to make four transatlantic voyages in eight years.

Jens Lund is Program Manager of the Folk & Traditional Arts in the Parks Program of the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission.

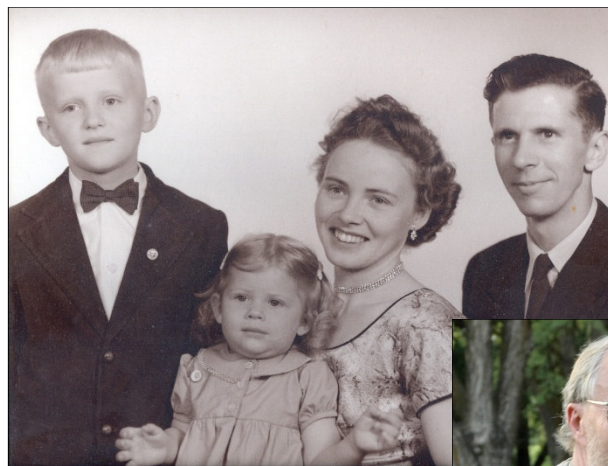


Photo left: The Lund family in Stamford, Connecticut, November 1955:

Left to right: Jens, Inky, Lisbeth, & Irving.

Photo right: Jens Lund videoing performance at Latino Folk Arts Fiesta, Yakima Sportsman State Park, Yakima, Washington, July 2006.





The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia

- by Vicki Koeplin

Although the star of the current exhibit at the Pacific Science Center is most assuredly Lucy, the 3.2 million year-old hominid fossil discovered in 1974, the spotlight is also on Ethiopia, Lucy's home, which long has been considered the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of coffee.

Using written narrative and colorful displays of primitive artifacts, religious icons and photos of ancient sites, the exhibit brings to life the fascinating history and culture of this country.

An added plus is the many interactive displays that both children and adults will enjoy as they smell the aroma of pungent spices used in Ethiopian food, identify the animals indigenous to the country of sift through rocks for fossils.

Two little known facts about Ethiopia have shaped its history: It is the only African nation to embrace the Christian Orthodox religion, which was introduced in the 4th century, and it has never been colonized, although the Italians were in power briefly before World War II.

Legend has it the Queen of Sheba ruled Ethiopia and her son by King Solomon, brought the Ark of the Covenant from Jerusalem to Ethiopia for safekeeping where it resides to this day.

The exhibit begins with prehistoric Ethiopia, where the early inhabitants were among the first to domesticate cattle and cultivate crops. Stone tools and cave painting depict an advanced society.

Ancient Ethiopia focuses on the Kingdom of Axum, a thriving trade center which was considered one of the four great empires of its time. The exhibit includes a replica of one of the huge stone obelisks that mark the tombs of kings and a collection of gold coins, reflecting the wealth and sophistication of this ancient civilization.

Axum has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and to this day, the mystery of how they erected these massive stelae has not been solved.

Another World Heritage Site in Ethiopia is Lalibela, the city famous for its rock-hewn churches carved in the ground during Medieval times. Visitors will also learn about the architectural wonders of Gondar the third great city featured in the exhibit, which came to power as a center of art and learning in the 17th Century.

Colorful displays of religious icons, vestments, manuscripts and ornate ceremonial crosses demonstrate how Ethiopian culture has been influenced by Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Due to their isolation from Western Christianity, Orthodox Christians in Ethiopia retained many ancient rituals, including practices found in the Jewish faith. The exhibit includes many examples of the distinctive style of colorful religious paintings used to decorate churches and monasteries.

Since medieval times, Harar has been the center of Islam in Ethiopia. Today it is considered the 4th largest holy city and a commercial hub known for coffee, woven cloth and basketry.

Using photos and paintings, the modern Ethiopia section focuses on the powerful rulers who united the country and fought off the Italians. The best known is the charismatic Haile Selassie, who ushered Ethiopia into the 20th Century and gained international recognition for his accomplishments as a diplomat and for promoting African solidarity.

(Attend the exhibit and you will find out why the Rastafari movement in Jamaica was inspired by Haile Selassie.)

Because of its proximity to the Persian Gulf States, Ethiopia is a melting pot of African and Arabic people who still practice traditions that go back centuries. The majority of them live in rural areas where they eke out a living as farmers of cattle herders while Southern Ethiopia is home to many primitive tribes. Visitors will see baskets, weapons, jewelry, games, pottery and musical instruments used in daily life.

The evolutionary part of the exhibit is fascinating as it explains how fossils are formed and how paleoanthro-



pologists use scientific and physical evidence to analyze and trace the history of hominids.

The Lucy room features a huge mural depicting 5 million years of evolution, a life-size replica of Lucy and her skeleton.

In the last decade Seattle has become home to many Ethiopian immigrants and the Legacy of Lucy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia exhibit is a great opportunity to learn more about the vibrant people and the rich culture they bring to us.

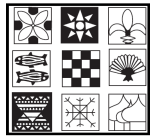
Pacific Science Center is located at Seattle Center.

For tickets: pacificsciencecenter.org or call: 1-877-SEE-LUCY

Lucy Facts

Donald C. Johanson discovered Lucy in 1974 in a maze of ravines at Hadar in the Afar region of Ethiopia. She was named after the Beatles' song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, which was played during a celebration of the discovery, though the Ethiopian people refer to her as "Dinkenesh," an Amharic language term meaning "You are wonderful."

Lucy was very small for her species. At about 3.5 feet tall she is one of the tiniest Australopithecus afarensis adults ever found, and 18 inches shorter than the largest recovered member of her species.



~ December 2008 ~

Black Nativity brings you the infectious joy of a rousing gospel songfest. **Through December 27.** Intiman Theatre. Call: 206-269-1900 or on-line at www.intiman.org.

A Christmas Carol - ACT's 33rd Annual production of **A Christmas Carol** - The holiday tradition continues with the talents of Allen Fitzpatrick and Sean Griffin in the role of Scrooge. **Through December 27.** ACT Theatre. Call: 206-292-7676; www.acttheatre.org.

Rajaa Gharbi 2009 Exhibition, and Holiday Show and Sale of Prints, Paintings, Jewelry and Drawings. Detail, Collective Psyches, Acrylics, Amber beauty Tunisian Rose Hip & antique beads, silver. **Through December 29.** Call: 206-937-2887; contact@rajaagharbi.com.

The Nutcracker—25th Anniversary—Pacific Northwest Ballet. McCaw Hall, Seattle Center. Through December 30. Call: 206-441-2424; www.pnb.org.

The Wizard of Oz. Take a journey over the rainbow with this family-favorite classic presented by the Seattle Children's Theatre. **Through January 17.** Call: 206-441-3322; www.sct.org.

Wednesday, 3rd

Afro-Mexico. The Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas presents American Heritage Series: Afro-Mexico. 7pm, Northwest American Museum. Call: 206-323-4032; judeh@cdforum.org; www.cdforum.org.

Wells Fargo Free First Thursday. Enjoy the Museum's Great Gallery, Personal Courage Wing, *Space: Exploring the New Frontier* exhibit, flight simulators and more! 5-9pm, Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Tip-to-Tail Tour: 1903 Wright Flyer. Jerry Swearingen, whose Great Uncle was the first airplane passenger in 1908, will lead visitors through a tour of the Museum's replica. 11-2pm, Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Magical Strings Celtic Yuletide Concert—Festive performance with mystical and seasonal music, story-telling, juggling, dancing and singing. The Boulding Family is celebrating 30 years of presenting their Celtic Yuletide Concerts throughout the Northwest. Check for a concert near you. 7:30pm, Bing Crosby Theater. Call: 509-922-5931; www.magicalstrings.com.

Peace Prevails Project—Art by Cath-

erine Foster. Artist reception 5:30-8:30pm, C Art Gallery. Call: 206-554-9444; www.cartgallery.net.

Holiday Pops—Join Seattle Symphony Principal Pops Conductor, the Orchestra and Seattle Choral Company for a spirited celebration of holiday song. Concert offers holiday fun for the whole family. **December 4-7.** Call: 206-215-4714; www.seattlesymphony.org.

Friday, 5th

First Friday Dance—Join the Skandia Folkdance Society for their monthly first Friday dance with potluck treats. 7:30pm, Cedar Valley Grange. Call: 206-784-7470; www.skandia-folkdance.org.

Pangeo—Enjoy music from Greece and the Balkans 9pm-midnight, Green Lake VFW Hall. Call: 425-883-0332; www.ratchentitza.com.

Festival of Light—Enjoy this Swedish Christmas Tradition with music from Sodra Vatterbygdens Folkhogskola (People's High School) choir from Jonkoping, Sweden. 7:30pm, Lagerquist Concert Hall, PLU. Call: 253-535-7411.

Balkan Cabaret—Enjoy lively and passionate music as Balkan Cabaret performs songs and dance music from the Balkan Peninsula. 7pm, Colombia City Theatre. www.balkancabaret.com.

Saturday, 6th

A Ceremony of Carols—Join Choir of the Sound for a beautiful and moving tribute to the peace, joy, and spirit of the holiday season directed by Judy Filibeck. **December 6-7.** Shorecrest Performing Arts Center. Call: 1-800-838-3006; www.choirofthesound.org/tickets.

Airships: From Dirigibles to Blimps—Bank of America Weekend Family Workshop. Learn about these fascinating machines & then design your own airship. **December 6, 7, 13, 14.** 11:15am-1:15pm, Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Jtsenaisyysjuhla—Celebrating 91 years of Finnish Independence from 1917-2008 with a dinner and dance. 6 pm, Swedish Cultural Center. Call: 206-363-0225.

Christmas Party—Enjoy the holidays with the Puget Sound Welsh Association's Potluck. 4:30pm, Upshalls, Kenmore. Call: 425-488-7288.

Enumclaw Christmas Parade—Get in the spirit of the season with the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association. 6pm, Enumclaw. Call: 206-522-2541.

Cinderella—Italian fairytale by Carter Family Marionettes. 1pm & 3pm, Saturday's and Sunday's, NW Puppet Center. **December 6-21.** Call: 1-800-838-3006; www.nwpuppet.org.

Reach for the Stars—4-5pm, Presentations by Japanese and American astronauts: Akihiko Hoshide & Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar 5-5:45pm, Two Special Exhibits: Harmony of the Universe: The Art of Toshiro Sawanuki and Space: Exploring the New Frontier. Museum of Flight, Seattle. Pre-registration required to: culture@cgjapansea.org FREE & Free Parking.

Sunday, 7th

Jazz Up Your Holidays—Join Jazz sensations Mercedes Nicole & Celestine Berrysmith for a jazz and wine fundraiser. 5:00pm, Rainier Valley Cultural Arts Center. Call: 206-235-0478; www.mercedesnicole.com.

Redmond Lights 10th Annual Kickoff Celebration—Gather friends and family and bundle up for a festive tree lighting at City Hall followed by the annual holiday walk along the Sammamish River Trail. Includes entertainment, food and beverages. 4pm, Redmond. Call: 425-566-2299; www.redmond.gov.

Christmas in the New World—Blending music from Spain, Africa & Latin America. 3pm and 7pm, Town Hall. Call: 206-781-2766; www.seattlepromusica.org.

The Nutcracker—Olympic Ballet Theatre. Various locations and times. Call: 425-774-7570; www.olympicballet.com/performances/nutcracker-performances.html.

Tuesday, 9th

Multicultural Events at KCLS - Programs for Children & Families - Holiday Songs Around the World. All ages welcome - Discover holiday songs from Latin America, Japan and other countries with the Miho & Diego duo! Seating is limited. Free tickets available at the Information Desk 30 minutes before the program begins. 7pm, Bothell Regional Library. Call: 425.486.7811.; www.kcls.org.

Charlie Hunter Trio—The Pacific Jazz Institute at Dimiriou's Jazz Alley presents the extraordinary eight-string guitarist with his group. **December 9-10.** Call: 206-441-9729; www.jazzalley.com.

The Harlem Quartet—8pm, Meany Hall, UW Campus. 206-543-4880 or uworldseries.org



Wednesday 10th

Chamber Chorale and Shoreline Singers Concert—The SCC choirs, directed by Dr. Fredrick Lokken, present a program of great choral music from the Renaissance to the contemporary eras. 7:30pm, Calvin Presbyterian Church. Call: 206-546-4717; dmeyers@shoreline.edu.

Norwegian Christmas Service (Norsk Julegudstjeneste) - A Local pastor will deliver the holiday message in both English & Norwegian. 7pm, PLU. Call: 253-535-7512.

Thursday 11th

Tower of Power—The Pacific Jazz Institute at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley presents the East Bay soul band Tower of Power for four nights with eight shows. **December 11-14.** Call: 206-441-9729; www.jazzalley.com.

Friday 12th

Christmas in Scotland—Join us for the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society's December monthly gathering where our elementary school teacher from Edinburgh will be sharing on Scottish traditions in music, art and stories. 7:30pm, Lake City Presbyterian Church. www.caledonians.com.

N.W. Boychior—7:30pm, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Wedgewood. Call: 206-524-3234. Various dates and locations; visit: www.nwchoirs.org.

Saturday, 13th

Pathway of Lights—Join friends and neighbors in a walk along the path that create the look of a beautiful necklace around the lake. Enjoy holiday music and more. 5:30-8:30pm, Green Lake. Call: 206-684-7241; www.seattle.gov/parks.

World Music of Peace—The Rainier Valley Cultural Center Presents *World Music of Peace* as part of its 2008 *Arts Gumbo* Series which frames the 5-part vocal harmonies of Abrace against the driving rhythms of the MB Orchestra as they celebrate Coptic, Arabic, Hebrew, and Latino music. Call: 206-760-4286; www.seedseattle.org.

Holiday Magic: Winter Wonderland. Sno-King Community Chorale, the 100-voice chorale under the direction of Frank DeMiero, will present two performances of their holiday concert. Santa will make his appearance too. 3:30pm and 7:30pm, Edmonds Center for the Arts. Call 425-673-1242; www.sno-kingchorale.org.

Christmas Party—The Italian Club of

Seattle's Annual Christmas Party with a buffet dinner. 5:30pm, Courtyard by Marriott. Call: 206-282-0627; www.italianclubofseattle.org.

Art Mart and Salmon Bake at Daybreak Star—The United Indians Elders' Program presents the Indian Art Mart at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center on Sundays, **December 13 & 20, 10am-4pm.** Call: 206-228-1410; www.unitedindians.org.

Sunday 14th

Celtic Christmas—Celtic Christmas held by the Celtic Society of Puget Sound. Thurston Co. Fairgrounds Expo Hall. Call: 360-570-0075; www.pugetsoundwelsh.org.

Thursday 18th

Black Gold—YPIN Hosts a screening of *Black Gold: A Film about Coffee and Trade.* 6, Rendez-Vous Jewel Box Theatre. Call: 206-684-8262; www.seattle.gov/oir.

A Christmas Carol—It's Charles Dickens with a twist! Don't miss this hilarious version of the beloved holiday story with live music and a host of surprises provided by the Seattle improv group, Yug & Asil. December 18-19. Tickets: 800-677-5758; www.brownpapertickets.com. Call: 206-324-1126; visit: www.seattlehistory.org.

Friday 19th

Third Friday Dance—Join the Skandia Folkdance Society for their monthly third Friday dance with music provided by Hale Bill & the Bopps. Cedar Valley Grange. Call: 206-784-7470; www.skandia-folkdance.org.

Saturday 20th

Wright Spirit Celebration—Celebrate the Wright brothers' first flight, along with the spirit of the season. Performances include Seattle Lutheran Bell Choir and Boeing Employees' Orchestra. 10am, Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Native Arts & Crafts Show and Sale—Over 35 Native Artists, Reservation and Urban Indian artists as well as contemporary and traditional art and food. 10am-5pm, Old Indian Heritage School. Call: 206-632-0500x21.

Sancta LuciaFest Pageant—Ceremony based on the Scandinavian tradition with music provided by the TinnFelen-Hardanger Fiddle Ensemble. 2:30pm, Grace Lutheran Church. www.gotgrace.com.

Nordic Christmasfest—Join us for a

buffet dinner with favorite Nordic dishes and musical entertainment. 6:00pm, Scandinavian Cultural Center, PLU. www.plu.edu/~scancntr.

Holiday Jam—7pm at the home of Mary Dragovich, Seattle. Call: 206-523-3555.

Sunday 21st

Tip-to-Tail Tour: 1903 Wright Flyer—Jerry Swearingen, whose Great Uncle was the first airplane passenger in 1908, will lead visitors through a tour of the Museum's replica. 11-2pm. Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Holly Cole—A Night Before Christmas. Canadian chanteuse *Holly Cole* for 2 very unique nights of her special holiday show. December 22-23. Dimitriou's Jazz Alley. Call: 206-441-9729. www.jazzalley.com.

~ MORE ~

Multicultural Events at KCLS Programs for Children, Families and Adults. Visit: www.kcls.org.

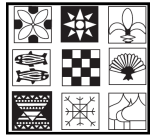
Costume Mystery Solved!

It is confirmed! The origin of the costume is Palestinian. We received phone calls and emails from EHC members and from out-of-state folks who "heard by the grapevine" (present day internet) we were curious about the origin of this specific costume.

At our 18th Cultural Crossroads in November, the Palestinian Heritage Group had a booth, and were pleased to see the costume and to confirm its place of origin!

Thank you for all your help!





Seattle Irish Dancers at Western US Championships

By Mike Nagan, Comerford Irish Dancers

Irish dancers from Seattle brought home multiple honors from the Western US Oireachtas in Phoenix, November 21-23, 2008. The Oireachtas is the regional championship competition for the Western US, and is the qualifying event for the 2009 North American Championships and the 2009 World Championships. The **Comerford School, Scoil Rince SlieveLoughane**, and the **Tara Academy** all participated.

Ciara Ruggiero of the Comerford School took top honors in the Under 8 Girls event, winning the Western US Championship. Six Seattle girls qualified for the 2009 Worlds, including Julia Gats and Camille Gix of the Tara Academy, and Kinsey Brimhall, Meeghan Dooley, Greta Gothard, and Willow Gothard from Comerford. These

girls also qualified for the 2009 North Americans, along with Patrick Donovan, Solana Gothard, Leah Kennebeck and Hallie Schmidt from Comerford. While Ciara Ruggiero won the championship, she is too young to qualify for the Worlds or North Americans.

In the ceili competitions, five Comerford teams and two SlieveLoughane teams received honors.

In addition to the Seattle schools, western Washington dancers from the Penk O'Donnell School in British Columbia also competed. Three of the Penk O'Donnell dancers, all from Bellingham, took honors. Gabrielle Corrigan won the Girls Under 14 championship and, along with her sister Candice and Kayleigh Jeffers, qualified for both the 2009 North Americans and the 2009 Worlds.



Photo left: Comerford Dancers at Winter Worldfest, November 2007



Photo above & left: Comerford Dancers at Cultural Crossroads, November 7-9, 2008

Photos by Jal Schrof © EHC

Art Mart and Salmon Bake at Daybreak Star

The United Indians Elders' Program presents the Indian Art Mart at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center on Saturdays, December 13th and 20th, 2008, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Native American artists and craftspeople will feature their wares of handmade jewelry, paintings, drums and other items for sale. Traditional salmon meals will be available for \$12.

The Indian Art Mart supports local Native American artists. In addition, it serves as a benefit for the United Indians Elder's Program which provides nutrition and other support services to Native American elders living in the greater Seattle Metropolitan Area.

This is a chance to get an early start on your holiday shopping! Come seek out perfect gifts, enjoy the Daybreak Star permanent art collection and a breathtaking view of Puget Sound—all the while supporting a worthy cause.

The Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center is located at 3801 W. Government Way inside Discovery Park. To get there by bus, take #33 towards Magnolia to the final stop. Detailed driving and bus directions can be found online at www.unitedindians.org/contact.html. Please contact Judy Anderson with any questions at 206-228-

1410.

The mission of United Indians is to foster and sustain a strong sense of identity, tradition, and well-being among the Indian people in the Puget Sound area by promoting their cultural, economic, and social welfare. More information about the Art Mart and other United Indians events and programming can be found at www.unitedindians.org.

Every society on earth that has survived, overcome difficulties, and flourished, has been animated by a vision of greatness.

Indigenous people of the Americas have always harbored prophecies and dreams that, after a long wintertime of suffering and degradation, they would awaken to a new century of light, a period of renewal for Indigenous people and that as Indigenous people rediscover their own strengths and greatness bestowed upon them by the creator, and recover the health and prosperity of their nations, they will impact the whole world.

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation (UIATF) was founded to serve as a focal point for this renewal and regeneration in the Greater Seattle area and beyond.



Black Nativity at Intiman Theatre Through Dec. 27

When the opening notes of "Joy to the World" ring out into the darkened, silent theatre, you immediately have the sense that this show will be unlike any other holiday production you've seen—and you're right. Soon, the band kicks in and the rhythm and bass blend with the gospel notes of Pastor Patrinell Wright and her Black Nativity Choir, and your evening is transformed into a magical blend of music, dance and poetry, luring you out of your seat, setting your feet tapping and your soul soaring. By the time the evening is over, your whole body is vibrating and it's difficult to wipe the smile off of your face. You've just experienced Black Nativity



In the first act, you'll witness the Christmas story retold in the words of the great African-American poet, Langston Hughes, the electric gospel music of Pastor Patrinell Wright and the Black Nativity Choir and the intricate staging and beautiful dance of Director Jacqueline Moscou and Choreographer Kabby Mitchell III. From the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, to their difficulty finding a room and banishment to the stables, to the birth of their baby, Jesus and his visits from shepherds and wise men, the story comes to vibrant life on the INTIMAN stage. Throughout, the riveting presence of Seattle icon Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney serves as a guide through the story, while the Black Nativity Choir and dancers bring energy and passion to the story. The result is the Christmas Story as you've never experienced it before!

After a brief intermission to catch your breath, the sec-

ond act takes off. You find yourself now at the INTIMAN interdenominational church for a revival led by Rev. Dr. McKinney and Pastor Wright—and they dare you to keep from jumping to your feet, clapping your hands and singing along. At *Black Nativity*, audience participation is encouraged and adored. As the music breaks over you and the dancers take the stage again, let your spirit soar—after all, it is the holiday season!

After the show is over, mingle in the lobby and let your comments be heard by fellow audience members, or members of the cast and choir if they make an appearance, and see if you don't agree with this *Black Nativity* audience member: "The dancing and the singing and the story...it's so inspirational, and so wonderful.

Black Nativity by Langston Hughes, Directed by Jacqueline Moscou. Intiman Theatre, through December 27. Call: 206.269.1900; visit: www.intiman.org.



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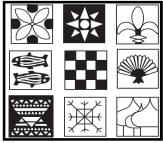
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The Ethnic Heritage Council is dedicated to preserving the unique mix of cultural traditions that enrich our Northwest communities. Annually, the Council produces several ethnic festivals, and a public naturalization ceremony on July 4th. EHC publishes CONTACT: A Directory of Ethnic and Cultural Resources in Washington State, and operates a referral service for the community. The Newsletter is a publication of the Ethnic Heritage Council of the Pacific Northwest. Submission deadline for the January 2009 edition is December 20th. Please send submission materials, to the EHC office via mail, fax: 206-443-1408; or email text items as attached word document: ehc@seattle.gov. Contact EHC with any questions at: 206-443-1410. Visit our website at: www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org.



Ethnic Heritage Council
 305 Harrison Street, Suite 304
 Seattle, WA 98109
 206-443-1410
 ehc@seattle.gov

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The Ethnic Heritage Council is dedicated to preserving the unique mix of cultural traditions that enrich our Northwest communities.

JOIN US!

Become a member of the Ethnic Heritage Council. Join us in our 28th year of celebrating community. Your annual membership helps support the events, programs and services of the Council. Any additional contribution you give is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

Name _____ Organization _____
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EHC Members receive: Subscription to EHC Newsletter; Advance notice of up-coming events; Event consultation.

Heritage Circle Members receive: Same benefits as EHC Members. Plus: Free advertising - newsletter/website and CONTACT; Event/meeting location, as available at Seattle Center.

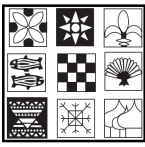
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*Holidays, Continued from page 2*

was a public festival, incorporating ivy, holly, and other evergreens, as well as gift-giving.

Modern traditions have come to include the display of Nativity scenes, holly and Christmas trees, the exchange of gifts and cards, spreading of goodwill and peace, and the arrival of Father Christmas or Santa Claus on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

Although members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints believe Christ's birth actually occurred on April 6, they celebrate Christmas on December 25, with the rest of the Christian world.

Many Mormon families celebrate the traditional Christmas with a tree, lights, gifts, and Santa Claus. While Church leaders do not condemn any of these traditions, they urge Church members to remember that Christmas is one of the most spiritually significant days in history, along with Easter it is a celebration of God's greatest gift to mankind; his son Jesus Christ and the Atonement and Resurrection that he performed.

The Church holds a Christmas devotional every year sometime in December. Members of the First Presidency of the Church are the speakers and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir provides the music. Also every year, Temple Square in Salt Lake City is lit up with thousands upon thousands of Christmas lights.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah (Hebrew: חנוכה, also spelled Chanukah or Hanukah), also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday beginning on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may fall anytime from late November to late December. It celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple at the time of the Maccabee rebellion. The festival is observed by the kindling of lights on each night of the holiday: one on the first night, two on the second, and so on.

Hanukkah, from the Hebrew word for "dedication" or "consecration", marks the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the forces of Antiochus IV and com-

memorates the "miracle of the container of oil." According to the Talmud, at the re-dedication following the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate fresh olive oil.

Hanukkah is also mentioned in the deuterocanonical books of 1 Maccabees and 2 Maccabees. 1 Maccabees states: "For eight days they celebrated the rededication of the altar. Then Judah and his brothers and the entire congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the rededication...should be observed...every year...for eight days.

The martyrdom of Hannah and her seven sons has also been linked to Hanukkah.

Historically, Hanukkah commemorates two events:

The triumph of Judaism's spiritual values as embodied in the Torah (symbolized by the Menorah, since the Torah is compared to light) over Hellenistic civilization (considered "darkness"). Under Antiochus IV, Jewish religious practices were outlawed, and Greek religious symbols were forcibly installed in the Second Temple.

The victory of the Jews over the armies of Antiochus IV. The rebellion, begun by Mattathias Maccabee and continued by Judah Maccabee and his brothers, ended in a resounding victory of the "few against the many" and the rededication of the Second Temple.

Judaism as a religion shies away from glorifying military victories and because the Hasmonians later became corrupt, the civil war between Jews is viewed as deplorable, Hanukkah does not formally commemorate these historical events. Instead, it focuses on the miracle of the oil and the positive spiritual aspects of the Temple's rededication; The oil becomes a metaphor for the miraculous survival of the Jewish people through millennia of trials and tribulations.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week-long Pan-African festival primarily honoring African-American heritage. It is observed from December 26 to January 1 each year, almost exclusively in the United States of America.

Kwanzaa consists of seven days of celebration, featuring activities such as candle-lighting and pouring of libations, and culminating in a feast and gift-giving. It was created by Maulana Karenga, and first celebrated from December 26, 1966, to January 1, 1967. Karenga calls Kwanzaa the African American branch of "first fruits" celebrations of classical African cultures.

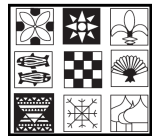
In 1966 Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa while living in California. There, he was the leader of the black nationalist US Organization and he claims that his goal was to give an alternative holiday to Christmas. He later stated, "...it was chosen to give a Black alternative to the existing holiday and give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society." At the time he created Kwanzaa, he changed his last name from Everett to the Gikuvu "Karenga", shaved his head, and began wearing traditional African clothing.

The name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza", meaning "first fruits". The choice of Swahili, an East African language, reflects its status as a symbol of Pan-Africanism, especially in the 1960s, though most African-Americans have West African ancestry.

Kwanzaa is a celebration that has its roots in the civil rights era of the 1960s, and was established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with what Karenga characterized as their African cultural and historical heritage by uniting in meditation and study around principles that have their putative origins in what Karenga asserts are "African traditions" and "common humanist principles."

Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called "The Seven Principles of

Continued on next page...



Kwanzaa", or Nguzo Saba. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the following principles, which are explained by Karenga as follows:

Umoja (Unity); **Kujichagulia** (Self-Determination); **Ujima** (Collective Work and Responsibility); **Ujamaa** (Cooperative Economics); **Nia** (Purpose); **Kuumba** (Creativity); **Imani** (Faith).

Diwali

Diwali, or Deepawali, (also called Tihar and Swanti in Nepal) (Markiscarali) is a major Indian and Nepalese festive holiday, and a significant festival in Hinduism and some of the other faiths which originated in India - Jainism and Sikhism. Many legends are associated with Diwali. Today it is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs across the globe as the "Festival of Light," where the lights or lamps signify victory of good over the evil within every human being. The festival is also celebrated by Buddhists of Nepal, particularly the Newar Buddhists. According to another theory it may have originated as a harvest festival, marking the last harvest of the year before winter. In an agrarian society this results in businessmen closing accounts, and beginning a new accounting year. The deity of wealth in Hinduism, Goddess Lakshmi is therefore thanked on this day and everyone prays for a good year ahead. This is the common factor in Diwali celebrations all over the Indian sub-continent.

In Northern India it is the homecoming of King Rama of Avodhya after a 14-year exile in the forest. The people of Ayodhya (the capital of his kingdom) welcomed Rama by lighting rows (avali) of lamps (deepa), thus its name, Deepawali, or simply shortened as Diwali. Southern India marks it as the day Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India it is also in honor of the day King Bali went to rule the nether-world by the order of Vishnu. (There is another festival 'Onam' which is celebrated in Kerala around the month of August to mark this legend)

In Jainism it marks the nirvana of Lord Mahavira, which occurred on

Oct. 15, 527 B.C. The Sikhs have always celebrated Diwali, however its significance increased historically when on this day the Sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Ji, was freed from imprisonment along with 52 Hindu Kings (political prisoners) whom he had arranged to be released as well. In India, Diwali is now considered to be a national festival, and the aesthetic aspect of the festival is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith.

Ramadan

Ramadan (Arabic: رمضان, Ramaḍān) is a Muslim religious observance that takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, when the Qur'an was revealed. The name "Ramadan" is taken from the name of this month; the word itself derived from an Arabic word for intense heat, scorched ground, and shortness of rations. It is considered the most venerated and blessed month of the Islamic year. Prayers, sawm (fasting), charity, and self-accountability are especially stressed at this time; religious observances associated with Ramadan are kept throughout the month.

Laylat al Qadr, which falls during the last third, commemorates the revelation of the first verses of the Qur'an and is considered the most holy night of the year. Ramadan ends with the holiday Eid ul-Fitr, on which feasts are held. During the month following Ramadan, called Shawaal, Muslims are encouraged to fast for a further six days.

The start of Ramadan takes place in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar (lunar calendar), therefore the observance date is different each year when referring to the Gregorian calendar (solar calendar), for example: Ramadan observance was November 27-December 27, 2000 and September 2-October 2, 2008.

Bodhi Day

Bodhi Day, traditionally December 8th, is the Buddhist holiday commemorating the day the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni or Siddhartha Gotama, experienced Enlightenment, also known as Bodhi in Sanskrit or Pali. According to tradition, Siddhartha had recently forsaken years of extreme ascetic practices and decided to sit under a Pipul tree and simply

meditate until he found the root of suffering, and how to liberate one's self from it.

Traditions vary on what happened. Some say he made a great vow to Heaven and Earth to find the root of suffering, or die trying. In other traditions, while meditating he was harassed and tempted by the Hindu god Mara, Lord of Illusion. Other traditions simply state that he entered deeper and deeper states of meditation, confronting the nature of the self.

Regardless, all traditions agree that as the Morning Star rose in the sky in the early morning, Siddhartha finally found the answers he sought and became Enlightened, and experienced Nirvana. Having done so, Siddhartha now became a Buddha or "Awakened One".

Bodhi Day is not as popularly celebrated as Wesak Day, the Birth of the Buddha, however, it is still observed in many mainstream Mahayana traditions including Zen and Shin Buddhist schools. In Zen it is also known as Rohatsu.

Like many Buddhist holidays, traditions and observances surrounding Bodhi Day vary depending on the culture in question, but Bodhi is widely seen as a reminder to Buddhists that with the right effort and understanding any person can become Enlightened.

The word Rohatsu (Rōhatsu) is Japanese and literally means 8th Day of the 12th Month. It is typical for Zen monks and laymen followers to stay up all evening in the night before Rohatsu practising meditation and the holiday is often preceded by an intensive sesshin.

Rohatsu is not celebrated by other Mahayana schools of Buddhism for whom Wesak is the most important festival.

