

Ethnic Heritage Council

JANUARY 2009

Celebrate the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Seattle Center

The Seattle Center Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration presents a full afternoon of awards, activities and entertainment in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., January 19, 12noon-5pm, at Center House.

A focal point of the Celebration, the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Award will be presented to several youth/youth organizations in the Puget Sound region that have energized and carried on the dream and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by promoting peace, community leadership, justice and civil rights for all citizens.

A special choral ensemble, the MLK Mass Choir, assembled especially for the MLK Celebration, will perform. The group includes singers from University Presbyterian Gospel, Seattle Pacific Lutheran Choir and several community church choirs.

The Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas will participate in the Celebration by staging a reading of excerpts from several of Dr. King's most famous speeches, followed by a discussion on the Dream Realized, America's First African American President.

The Seattle Center Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration was created to celebrate the dream of Dr. King; promote the principles of peace, unity and equality; provide opportunity for all citizens of Seat-

tle to remember the dream and vision of MLK; and honor the citizens who are energizing the MLK dream in their communities.

For more information on the Seattle Center Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration as well as other Seattle Center events and activities, visit seattlecenter.com.

Program Highlights:

12pm: Performance by DaNell Daymon and Royalty Choir; **1pm** - Invocation by Elvin Gladney, Senior Pastor at the Real Life, International Church and Ministry Center; **1:10pm** - Welcome by Seattle Center Director Robert Nellams; **1:15pm** - Performance by the Eritrean-American trio, EriAm Sisters; **1:30pm** - Presentation of the MLK Peace Awards; **2:30pm** - Dramatic Reading of Excerpts from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speeches; **3:30pm** - MLK Mass Choir, directed by Elias Bullock

Seattle Center's vibrant pulse brings together people of all ages and walks of life to create thousands of extraordinary experiences that enrich millions of lives each year. Entertainment options abound - starting with 63 free and low cost public programs and over 5,000 campus shows and events annually. The 74-acre campus, with its 17 acres of open space, is welcoming to all - and is home to more than 30 cultural, educational, sports and entertainment organizations. This

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Photo by Jal Schrof © EHC

Keith Highlander Pipe Band & Marian Webb School of Highland Dance kicked off Seattle Center Winterfest with their performance at Ethnic Heritage Council's 9th Annual Winter Worldfest, November 28, 2008

Safeco Insurance FESTÁL

at SEATTLE CENTER

Tet Nguyen Dan Festival - Vietnamese Lunar New Year January 24-25

FREE!

www.seattlecenter.com/festal
206-684-7200

Telling Our Stories Discovering Our Heritage

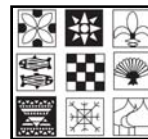
"Tell YOUR story"! Everyone has one! In doing so, you will be reminded of what has been and what is important to you. Your story is a part of history - a story to be shared with your family and with others.

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** ~

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“Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews”

- Article submitted by Martha Golubiec. Events: January 12 - February 13, 2009, Suzzallo Library - University of Washington Campus

UW Polish Studies Endowment Committee (UWPSEC) in cooperation with Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center, with financial support from REECAS, History Dept. Jewish Studies and the Slavic Dept. is bringing to UW this excellent photographic exhibition in tribute to the Polish Righteous Among Nations. It was created by the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oswiecim, the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow and the Polish American Jewish Alliance for Youth Action. This exhibit was previously shown at UCLA and Stanford and thanks to the Polish Consulate in Los Angeles we will have it at UW early next year.

Historical background to the exhibit.

The largest Jewish population was in Poland mostly due to the safe haven offered by Poland as early as the 13th century. Poland was a multi-ethnic country with many minorities and like in all countries there was friction from time to time. The largest Jewish minority of 3,300,000 who stood out with their own Yiddish language, their dress and customs. Poland of-

fered its Jewish minority autonomy in religious, educational and cultural activities and for over seven centuries they lived in tolerance and acceptance. Official anti-Semitism came only with the death of Marshall Jozef Pilsudski in 1935 and a change in government, and in 1968 instigated by the Communist government.

History books state that World War II started when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, but very few mention that on September 17, Poland was attacked from the east by the Soviet Union bringing terror and mass deportations into the Gulag. Also, unlike most countries of Europe, Poles fought from the first to the very last day, not only in Poland but also - in France, Holland, England, Norway, Italy etc., and in an underground army AK (Home Army) that bravely fought in Poland occupied by the two invaders. Poland was “liberated” in 1945 by the second invader - the USSR.

Poles rescuing Jews is indeed a very interesting subject- a part of the five year Polish history of World War II and the Holocaust, of people from all walks of life and backgrounds who were truly heroes in saving Polish

Jews in German occupied Poland. Of all the countries of Europe, Poland had the largest population of Jews, and only in Poland was there a death penalty for rescuing Jews. The rescuing heroes not only risked their own lives but also the lives of their entire families.

Efforts of the Christian Poles were complicated by the fact that the majority of Polish Jews spoke little Polish but spoke Yiddish fluently. Also the physical appearance of many was often an immediate giveaway, and few “passed” without drawing German Nazi’s attention.

The rescuers in Poland included individuals and organizations such as the underground Home Army (AK) “Żegota” that helped the victims in the ghettos and the ones in hiding. Catholic nuns saved orphaned children and those brought to their orphanages by their desperate parents. There are countless heroes, of which the most publicized lately was Irena Sendler who saved 2,500 children from the Warsaw ghetto.

List of speakers, movies etc- will be posted on www.polishstudiesuw.org.

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We Remember and Honor EHC Friend and Award Winner, Bronislawa 'Bronka' Kohn Serebrin

Bronislawa 'Bronka' Kohn Serebrin A fashion store icon and teacher of the lessons of the Holocaust, died on Tuesday, December 9, in Seattle at the age of 83. Funeral was on Thursday, December 11.

Bronka was born on July 15, 1925 in Lodz, Poland. In 1939, Bronka was living a beautiful life when the Nazis attacked Poland. Out of her family of 70 members, only she and her sister Genia survived Lodz Ghetto, Aushwitz, Freiberg, and the Death March. Bronka and Genia were liberated on May 5, 1945 at Mauthausen by the Rainbow Division of the American Army.

In Seattle, Bronka opened a successful women's clothing store simply

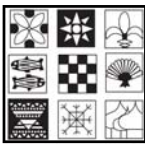
called "BRONKA". The store opened in 1973 at the University Village mall. Her unique ability to buy great clothes and dress women made her a success, and well known for years.

Bronka's passion was teaching children about the Holocaust. Local schools and school children will remember her stories and her willingness to share her self and her time with them. Bronka was honored many times for her work. A movie of her life called *Reunion* was made by PBS and is shown every year on the anniversary of the liberation of Jews from the concentration camps. Bronka was filmed by Steven Spielberg for the Shoah project. Bronka is survived by her husband Lin Serebrin, her son

David Oughton and sister Genia Kohn Litwok. Bronka has two grandchildren, Alisa and Anna, through son David and his wife Rene.

The Ethnic Heritage Council honored Bronka Kohn Serbrin, on July 4, 1995, with the *Spirit of Liberty Award*. The *Spirit of Liberty Award* is presented at the Annual July 4th Naturalization Ceremony, to a naturalized citizen who has made a significant contribution to the community while successfully maintaining his/her culture and heritage.

Thank you Bronka, you gave so much of yourself to the community. We are honored to have had you as a part of our lives.



Safeco Insurance Festál: Tet Nguyen Dan Festival Ushers in the Year of the Ox

The region's Vietnamese community comes together at Safeco Insurance Festál: Tet Nguyen Dan Festival to usher in the Year of the Ox, Jan. 24 - 25, 10:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Center House.

The annual Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration welcomes the return of spring and chases out evil spirits with the traditional roaring lion dance and the crackle of firecrackers. It is the most celebrated holiday in Vietnam, and the preparations are meticulous.

Tet 2009 celebrates the theme of Youth and Dreams through exhibits, children's interactive arts and crafts, a musical program, Vietnamese food; and special this year, the Miss Washington competition. The brightly colored costumes, rhythmic music and traditional dance will tell the story of this deeply rooted culture.

Safeco Insurance Festál: Tet Nguyen Dan Festival encourages participants to reflect on the past year and make plans for the arrival of the New Year, in 2009 represented by the depend-

able, calm, hard working and prosperous ox - a timely advent given the current state of the economy and need to hunker down.

Did you know? Safeco Insurance Festál 2009 focuses on individuals from cultures represented at our 22 festivals who have made an impression and impact on the world. Tet Festival highlights the achievements of Dr. Jane X. Luu, an acclaimed astronomer who emigrated from Vietnam to the United States in 1963. Dr. Luu helped discover the first Kuiper belt object, and asteroid 5430 Luu is named in her honor. After many years on faculty at Harvard and Leiden Universities, she left academia to join the technical staff at Lincoln Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Safeco Insurance Festál: Tet Nguyen Dan Festival is produced by Seattle Center in partnership with Tet in Seattle.

Seattle Center's Safeco Insurance Festál presented by Seattle Center in partnership with community organiza-



tions, is a year-long series of FREE events that honors the cultural richness and diversity of the Pacific Northwest. Safeco Insurance Festál plays a vital part in Seattle Center efforts to connect our dynamic and varied communities. This collection of 22 events is presented with the generous support of Safeco Insurance, Wells Fargo, Verizon Wireless and KUOW 94.9 Public Radio. Additional support is provided by The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Boeing Company, Seattle Center Fund and the City of Seattle. Visit: www.seattlecenter.com/events/festivals/festal/

Burn the Floor Comes to Tacoma Dome - January 24



Dance extravaganza "Burn the Floor" comes to the Tacoma, **January 24**, with its remarkable international cast. A sexy sophisticated dance extravaganza combining the sensual and physical chemistry of Ballroom

and Latin dancing with a 21st Century edge that has international critics and audiences swooning! Also *January 10-11, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver BC, Canada.* www.ticketmaster.com. Groups 12+ call: 253-593-7617.

The History of *Burn The Floor* (edited to fit allotted space) - as told by Producer *Harley Medcalf, June 2008; visit: www.burnthefloor.com.*

The original idea of *Burn the Floor* came in a burst of colour and energy. I was witness to a scintillating display of Ballroom and Latin dancing at Sir Elton John's 50th birthday celebration at the Hammersmith Palais Ballroom, London in 1997. In the midst of a glamorous costumed evening, Sir Elton, the ultimate host, the party in full swing, 16

young energetic dancers mesmerized the packed room in a 10 minute dance display. For me it was just the spark of an idea then.

I was soon to meet and discover the Ballroom dance world, its people with their intensity, commitment, discipline and work ethic. These ideas would become my inspiration. It was the dancers themselves that provided the real motivation, their good nature, openness and sheer talent combined with a burning passion and love of dance.

It was 18 months before I gathered the first team together, a core of dancers and designers in a London ten day workshop late in 1998. A quest to combine the natural chemistry and personal values of the individual dancers with aspects of modern theatre technology. Small pieces of choreography from Anthony Van Laast, costume ideas from Bonita Bryg and lighting by Patrick Woodroffe, set by Marc Fischer, became our original design team; we rehearsed and stitched together the initial pieces day after day at Pinewood Studios. The results were spectacular

on film, creating strong images and magnifying personalities. The result bought us a commitment from Universal to support us for a full-length show that we would produce specifically for film. A genuine buzz began in the Ballroom and Latin dance environment, sending new dancers our way, all with ideas and excitement. The frantic rush to deliver the show by June of 1999 began. Sets, costumes, choreography, all focused on a World Premiere in Bournemouth. We were to film all three planned shows for worldwide release, thus beginning a never-ending cycle of marketing and touring around the World. It was a tense and nervous time. Deadlines missed and re-set, staff replaced, as patience and performance came under question. Six weeks, twelve hour days, six days a week in an old army barracks hall in Hammersmith, London followed by a week of technical rehearsals in South London preceded the move to Bournemouth. Seemingly the *Burn the Floor* tradition of delivering under pressure

Continued on page 6, Burn the Floor



~ January 2009 ~

Happy New Year!

Lucy's Legacy—Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia. Through March 8, 2009. For tickets: pacificsciencecenter.org or call: 1-877-SEE-LUCY.

Friday 2nd

Bank of America Weekend Family Workshop—Space Stations: A Home in the Sky. Learn about space station design, the build your own space station model. **Saturdays & Sundays January 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25.** Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Sunday 4th

Meydan. Join Meydan in the new year as they present their mix of Turkish and Balkan music on authentic instruments. 2-4 pm; Marino's Cafe. acmills@gmail.com.

Thursday 8th

The Underscore Orchestra, Ensemble Sub Masa, and Krebsic Orkestar. Party Romani-style with this triple bill of excellent Northwest Euro-folk ensembles and their intoxicating blends of Balkan Klezmer, Gypsy jazz and swing music. 6:45 pm, McMenamin Kennedy School, Portland, OR. www.mcmenamins.com.

Mark Lilly. Come for this fun community even and enjoy Afro-Cuban Folkloric singing. 7-8:30pm. Call: 206-264-7804.

Friday 9th

Burns Night Gathering. Join the Caledonian & St. Andrew's Society of Seattle as they host a special tribute to Robert Burns in celebration of his 250th birthday. 7:30 pm, Lake City Presbyterian Church. Call: 206-284-1094; www.caledonians.com

Voice of my Soul. Come for a fabulous dinner and drink while enjoying the dinner show Voice of my Soul. 7:30 pm, Cade Paloma. Call: 206-405-1920; www.cafepaloma.com.

Evening With Bach. Conductor and Baroque specialist Nicholas McGegan will lead Seattle Symphony and soloist Ani Kavafian in works by J.S. Bach. **January 9-10.** 8 pm, Benaroya Hall. Call: 206-215-4747; www.seattlesymphony.org

Saturday 10th

The Berlin Airlift - A Legacy of Friendship. This exhibit honors the 60th anniversary of the humanitarian effort commonly known as the Berlin Airlift. Wilson Great Gallery. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Macedonia Dance and Singing/Music Workshops. Spend the day attending different dance and music workshops followed by a potluck dinner. 3-5pm, Bellingham WA. Call: 360-966-4640.

Peking Acrobats. Come see an exciting show that combines traditional Chinese music with impressive stunts. 2pm & 8pm, Meany Hall. Call: 206-543-4880; www.uwworldseries.org.

Rick Steves' Iran: Screening & Discussion. Join KCTS 9 for a sneak preview screening and engaging discussion with Rick Steves about his new special, *Iran: Yesterday and Today*. 3pm, Rainier Room, Seattle Center. events@kcts9.org.

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Carolyn Kuan will lead Seattle Symphony in Benjamin Britten's lively and illustrative work that introduces and explores all the instrument families of the orchestra. 10 & 11:30 am, Benaroya Hall. Call: 206-215-4747; www.seattlesymphony.org.

Seattle Intensive Training Project. Join dancer, choreographer and dance ethnologist, Helene Eriksen and learn Women's dances of the Orient. **January 10-11.** mail@helene-eriksen.de

Sunday 11th

Pappy Boyington Field. This documentary film by Kevin Gonzalez tells a story surrounding the controversy in paying tribute to a hometown hero by changing the name of the local airport. 2 pm, William M. Allen Theatre. Call: 206-764-5720; museumofflight.org.

Northwest Scottish Fiddlers. Come hear an open session. 2-5 pm. Call: 425-836-2875; nwscottishfiddlers.org.

Maps and Puzzles of the Imagination. This show features an assortment of mind puzzles in the form of art. Photographs are manipulated to make new and exciting images. **January 12- February 27.** Shoreline Center. Call: 206-417-4645; www.shorelinearts.net.

Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews. Photographic exhibition tells the story of 21 people from all walks of life still alive who rescued Jews during the German occupation of Poland in World War II. This exhibition is a tribute to several Polish organizations. **January 12- February 13,** Suzzallo Library UW. www.polishnewsseattle.org

Christos Govetas and Pasatempo return to the swanky Triple Door for a special evening of your favorite old-time rebetika tunes! Make a reservation ASAP and come early to grab a great

table. 7:30-10pm, The Triple Door. <http://www.tripledoor.com/tickets.aspx>

Friday 16th

Third Friday Dance. Join the Skandia Folkdance Society for their monthly third Friday dance. 7:30 pm, Cedar Valley Grange. Call: 206-784-7470; www.skandia-folkdance.org.

The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanly. Enjoy this musical based on the popular children's book series by author Jeff Brown. **January 16-17.** The Moore Theatre. Call: 206-467-5510; www.themoore.com.

Goran & Adrijana Alachki. Hear music from Macedonia and Bulgaria. Several Macedonian dances will be taught prior to the party. 8-11pm. Greenlake VFW Hall. Call: 425-883-0332; www.ratchentitza.com.

Mary Youngblood, Eric Tingstad & Friends. Come hear Native American Flutist. 8 pm, Edmonds Center for the Arts. January 16-17. Call: 425-275-9595; www.ec4arts.org.

Celebrate Asia. Come see Seattle Symphony's Celebrate Asia, an inspiring fusion of performers from Easter and Western traditions. Benaroya Hall. www.celebrateasia.org.

Saturday 17th

American Fighter Aces Panel: US Army Air Force Aces over Europe. Join the Museum as we honor a panel of WWII Aces who flew over Europe. 2 pm, William M. Allen Theatre. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

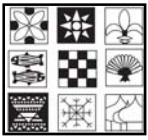
Seattle's English Country Ball. English Country Dancing has been a form of social dance for hundreds of years. Come for this entertaining community event. NW Sr. Center in Bothell. Call: 425-781-5117; www.seattleball.org.

Sub Masa. Come join us for a rare full-night of fun at Georgia's Greek Restaurant. 7-11 pm. Call: 206-783-1228 for reservations; www.giorgiasgreekrestaurant.com.

Sunday 18th

Tip-To-Tail Tour: The Douglas DC-3. Docent Dr. Dieter M. Zube will present the role of the military C-47 and the civilian DC-3 in the Berlin Airlift. Zube's father was involved in the Airlift operation. 11am & 2pm, The Great Gallery. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Ski Trip—Join the Hungarian-American Association for a ski trip and lunch at



the Iron Goat Pizza Station. 10am. Call: 714-914-0146; katiessattle@yahoo.com.

Viva Vienna! The Trip Paradis plays masterpieces by Bach, Mozart, Schubert, and Beethoven on stunning historic instruments from 1680 and 1795. 8 pm, Queen Anne Christian Church. January 17-18. Call: 206-726-2088; www.galleryconcerts.org

Monday 19th

27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Rally. This year we will march from Garfield High school to the Federal Building. Immediately after the march, food and refreshments will be served. "Yes We Can: Change Begins Now!" 11am, Garfield High School. Call: 206-296-1002; www.mlkseattle.org.

Celebrate the Dream. The City of Seattle Celebrates the Dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 12-5pm, Seattle Center. 206-684-7200; www.seattlecenter.com. See story page 1.

Tuesday 20th

Inauguration Day

Inauguration Day Watching Party. A Presidential inauguration is a day filled with ceremony, salutes, parades, speeches, balls, and symbolism. Come enjoy this historic event on the big screen in the company of friends, family, neighbors, and the community. 9 am, Town Hall. Call: 206-652-4255 ext. 15; www.brownpapertickets.com.

Saturday 24th

Astronomer Dr. Don Brownlee and the Stardust Mission. On January 2, 2004, NASA's Stardust spacecraft flew through the coma of Comet Wild 2 and collected approximately 1 million bits of dust. 2 pm, William M. Allen Theatre. 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction. Join us for our annual crab feed scholarship fundraiser dinner and dance to the rock, jazz, and blues band *Miles From Chicago*; www.milesfromchicago.com. 6pm, Leif Erikson Hall. Call: 206-783-1274.

Burn the Floor. Enjoy this exciting theatrical ballroom show. This show redefines Ballroom dancing with many nationalities represented in the cast. 2pm & 8pm, Tacoma Dome. **January 10-11**, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver BC, Canada, 604-280-4444; **January 14**, South Okanagan Events Centre, Penticton, BC, 877-763-2849; **January 17**, INB Performing Arts Center, Spokane, WA, 800-325-SEAT (7328). Call: 253-539-7617; www.ticketmaster.com. See story page 3.

Tet Festival: Vietnamese Lunar New Year. Lion dances and firecrackers chase out evil spirits at this Vietnamese New Year Celebration. **January 24-25.** Call: 206-706-2658; http://www.tetinseattle.org

The Lion King Workshops. Seattle Theatre Group and Woodland Park Zoo present Arts & Nature Family Workshops in celebration of the live musical Disney's the Lion King. In this three part family workshop, children and parents will explore the African continent through mask-making, song and dance and an African wildlife zoo tour. Families will have access to the zoo for the remainder of the day. Recommended Ages: 5-8 with adult (children under five not recommended) 9:30am-12:30pm, Woodland Park Zoo Education Department. **Register by January 16, 2009.** Call: 206-467-5510, ext 1171; email: lizy@theparamount.com; visit: www.theparamount.com

Tuesday 27th

Frank Vignola. Dimitriou's Jazz Alley presents Frank Vignola for one night. Call: 206-441-9729; www.jazzalley.com.

Wednesday 28th

Musta Jaa (Black Ice). See this Finnish film with English sub-titles, a psychological thriller about a triangle of love. 7:30 pm, Swedish Cultural Center. FFSC@finns.org.

The Economic Outlook for 2009 and Beyond. Treat yourself to The Economic Outlook for 2009 by Paul Krugman, hosted by the World Affairs Council. All guests will receive a hardcover copy of Dr. Krugman's new book. 7-8:30 pm, Town Hall Seattle. Call: 206-652-4255; www.townhallseattle.org.

Saturday 31st

NASA Astronaut Remembrance Weekend. The Museum remembers the fallen astronauts of Apollo 1 and Space Shuttles. Special remembrance exhibits include the display of the panels highlighting the lives of each of the 17 astronauts. Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720; www.museumofflight.org.

Bank of America Weekend family Workshop: Badge of Honor: Remembering the Crews. Learn about the history of space mission patches. Then make up your own space mission button honoring the American astronauts who have given their lives to advance the progress of space travel. Museum of Flight. Call: 206-764-5720.

Sparks of Glory: A Vanished World. Music of Remembrance's outreach se-

ries continues with an afternoon dedicated to the vibrant and distinctive communal life of Jewish Europe before the Holocaust. 2pm, Good Shepherd Center. Call: 206-365-7770; www.musicofremembrance.org

~ MORE ~

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

Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001, Sons of Norway Youth Camp Instructor/Counselor Grant Application—Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001 Scholarship Committee each year award grants to persons who can provide a positive camp experience for young people participating in the District Two Youth Camp Program. To be eligible for the Youth Camp Instructor/Counselor Award, the applicant must be either: 1) a student who is accepted by or attending an accredited college/university in a Scandinavian Studies Program, OR 2) a student who is accepted by, or is attending any other college/ university program with an interest in Scandinavian heritage and culture, OR 3) any member in good standing of Leif Erikson Lodge 2-001, Sons of Norway, who demonstrates a knowledge or interest in Scandinavian heritage and/or culture. Applications due **March 31, 2009.** For information, call: 206-783-1274; email: Lorie Lind, 206-789-6533, markolind@aol.com; Ingrid Rasmussen, 206-985-4560, rdirgni@msn.com; Heidi Ludeman (Larsen), 3 6 0 - 9 2 7 - 1 1 9 4 o r heidi.ludeman@gmail.com; Jessica Olsen, 425-770-5200 or olsenjp@msn.com; Gail Engler, cody24gracie@hotmail.com, Cultural Director/LEL Board Rep.

MLK, Continued from page 3

treasured urban gathering place exists to delight and inspire the human spirit in each person and bring our rich and varied community together. The 12 million visitors to Seattle Center each year generate \$1.15 billion in business activity and \$387 million in labor income for King County. Visit: www.seattlecenter.com

Happy New Year!

From
**Ethnic Heritage Council Staff
& Board of Directors**



Burn the Floor, Continued from page 3

and creating opportunity from little, "no matter what it takes", was born at this time.

After chaotic dress rehearsals the first shows were performed with much relief. This collection of spirited dancers, assembled from fifteen different countries, the fierce personalities all honed in dance competition, excelled on stage, the months of work and pressure released. The enduring comment of the night captured the feeling in the Company. "It's as if we all won the competition tonight!"

Finally, with the results on film, the Bournemouth shows completed successfully to solid critical comment, we began our first world tour. Australia for two months, back to the UK including the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Point theatre in Dublin (the home of Irish dancing) and then a long trek through Europe. Relentless overnight bus travel, occasional deep snow, to critical reviews, some great, some disappointing. A few dancers couldn't take the pressure and went home early. Everyone was tired. It was a solid learning process, what worked, and what did not work in the show, with the very best teacher - the audience. We discovered the scenic Pieces were cumbersome and difficult to move, and parts of the show were slow and meandering. We had "too much and too many", this was our first lesson in production. Everyone one was happy to break in December of that same year, some seven months after we started. With all the success we also encountered set backs.

Our first US tour in March 2000, highlighted by shows at Radio City Music Hall in New York, was cut short in six weeks. We would finally learn our lesson in touring economics, too many "grand ideas" proving impractical. Seven semi trailer trucks hauling what had become a massive production across vast distances. We had grown to a staff of eighty! As Producer I was required to call a halt to re-assess our structure and ideas. Advising the dancers who had shown such passion, loyalty and commitment was like attending "a funeral for a dear friend". With all we had achieved in just ten months it seemed unreal to stop. We began to assess all we learned about the show, the pace and structure. Jason Gilkison with the blessing of Anthony Van Lasst came to the forefront from dancer to Associate Choreographer and finally to Artistic Director and sole Choreographer. His ideas breathed new energy and life into the dancing and the show

and we began a process of change. We looked for different ideas in structure and music, costume and staging; it was a major overhaul and began what is now an annual process for *Burn the Floor*. We look to find a higher level for the dancers, a streamlined and stylized presentation that would continue to evolve.

It was six months before the company reassembled with many a new face, the desire to succeed and the even greater passion. New Year's Eve in Monaco was the catalyst, on stage for the Millennium New Year at the glamorous Le Club Sporting was to be our turning point. A new enthusiasm was born. Although there was drama to come, highlighted by our return USA tour opening around the chilling events of September 11, 2001, *Burn the Floor* had reached a plateau. We considered ourselves strong enough, and were becoming good enough to succeed in any circumstances no matter how challenging, how testing. Good or bad, it could only build the character of this unique company. Under Jason's guidance the show continued to blossom in all directions. Audiences were growing and good critical reviews are now the regular thing. A highlight in 2002 was our visit to Japan in Osaka and Tokyo. Also in 2002 and twice again in 2003 we were in the USA. Casino seasons in Biloxi and Reno in 2002 and 2003 helped us create the second company, and with a long season, a mini version of *Burn the Floor* running at Busch Gardens for nineteen weeks through the early part of 2003, our USA connection remained strong. Japan and Australia featured in our schedule again in 2004, and we took our performance credits to 87 cities and 17 countries with over 2 million people seeing the show. Such has been our success in Japan it has become our spiritual home. New ideas come much easier now, and we continue to evolve, in search perhaps of elusive perfection, and *Burn the Floor* has become a strong and unique family.

In 2005 we began to experiment with Jason's latest ideas, music and styles. We workshopped extensively under the titles "Jason Gilkison's Ballroom" and "Extreme Ballroom" in Australia, London, Beijing and Shanghai. This time there was to be no rush or pressure, and we continued to tour and perform *Burn the Floor* until we agreed the new work was ready. Finally on May 18, 2006 at the Tokyo Forum, after eight years touring in over 130 cities, 30 countries, close to two thousand performance and an incredible ride, we concluded our 4th Japanese tour in

front of 6,200 emotional fans, and put the original show to rest. There was no more fitting place.

Within weeks of our return from Japan we were straight into rehearsal with forty dancers to create two new companies and begin our latest global assault, and soon after opened FloorPlay in Melbourne, Australia. Days later, on the other side of the world, the second company opened at the Tropicana in Atlantic City. By September we brought the companies together in Las Vegas, for our long awaited shot on "the Strip", with a three month run at the Luxor. Vegas was our launch pad, where together as a company we consolidated our thoughts, and built our confidence and philosophy for the future, fuelled by acclaim and success in one of the toughest markets in the world.

2007 saw us returning to Japan for an amazing 52 show, ten city tour, followed by Hong Kong, Canada, USA, back to Perth onto Macau and Donnguang and Wuhan in China. With new ideas, costuming and vision from Jason Gilkison the show quickly found its feet and pace, with glowing reviews accompanying every premiere performance.

In 2008 the hectic touring pace continued, with the year opening amidst China blizzards with shows in Ningbo, Shanghai and Beijing. Our return to the Crown Palms Theatre was sold out for five weeks, before we held our major showcase of the year at the Royal Carre Theatre in Amsterdam with seven capacity shows and an electrified audience. We then camped in Reno, at the Eldorado for nineteen weeks right through the summer, setting up a pulse to be on the road in September with our fifth tour of Japan and five week Sydney season. We are set to roll on through 2009 and 2010, both feet firmly planted in the future. As a company, in nine years we have created our own history and tradition, through the hard work, experience and absolute passion. This has defined us as people and given the strength to follow our dream. Looking back at all the adventures, challenges, success and failure of our early years, I take great pride in *Burn the Floor*, which has become a place of fierce commitment, application and kinship from everyone involved. In all, the very heart of our show remains unchanged, and it is simply defined by the spirit of the dancers, their rebellious nature now directed impeccably by Jason Gilkison in FloorPlay.



Happy 65th Birthday Pastor Patrinell Wright!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! How about all of this snow in Washington state? Well, I am so looking forward to 2009 as this is MY big year. That's right. This is the big milestone - my 65th birthday. We are planning a medium-sized party on that day - January 16. And, since our venue only holds 125, you are welcome to be the first 125 to respond. Oh, there is one catch! **In lieu of gifts, the admission is a gift card(s) to Home Depot, Lowe's or Wal-Mart (\$25 minimum).** Why? Glad you asked! Total Experience Gospel Choir and others will be returning to the Gulf Coast of MS and stopping by New Orleans to continue our hurricane relief projects. The return trip is scheduled for April 2009. The gift cards will be used to aid and assist with that work!!!



Now for the details. The party will be held at Kenyon Hall, 7904 35th Avenue S.

W. in West Seattle - 35th Avenue S. W. at S. Kenyon, 7-9:30 p.m. Please, please RSVP to me, Pastor Pat Wright at (206) 322-7904 or my e-mail: alton-haru@comcast.net. Please also advise me as to the number of persons that will be in your party. In case you may not be able to attend, you may send gift cards to: Pastor Pat Wright, P. O. Box 22776, Seattle, WA 98122. You can see that I am not ashamed to ask for alms for the needy!

Plan to come, enjoy the food, music and fun! I will only be 65 once!

With much love,
Pastor Patrinell "Pat" Wright
206-322-7904



Pat and the Total Experience Gospel Choir are members of EHC. Pat, directing the Total Experience Gospel Choir honor us with her participation at our annual July 4th Naturalization Ceremony!

Polish Heroes, Continued from page 2.

Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews

January 12 - February 13, 2009 at UW Suzzallo Library

Photographic exhibition tells the story of 21 people who are still alive in the Krakow region, who rescued Jews during the German occupation of Poland during World War II.

All lectures will be on 5 consecutive Thursdays at 7:30pm at Kane Hall - Room 220

Jan 15- "Challenges of Rescuers and the Rescued." Stanlee Stahl, Executive VP, Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

Historical background- Prof Przemyslaw Chojnowski - Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Fulbright Scholar at UW.

Jan 22- Film "Zegota" Council for Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland 1942-1945 - Polish Government in Exile.

Introduction - Martha Golubiec UWPSEC

Jan 29 - "Irena Sendler's Children" - Irena Sendler heroically rescued 2,500 children from the Warsaw Ghetto. Prof. Przemyslaw Chojnowski- Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. Fulbright Scholar at UW

Feb 5 - "Henry Friedman, Holocaust Survivor: One of the Rescued"- Henry Friedman .

Feb 12- "Rescue in the Polish Countryside- Politics, Differentiation in the Occupied Village". Prof. Keely Stauter-Halstead, Michigan State University.



The Boeing Company



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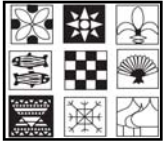
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The Ethnic Heritage Council is dedicated to preserving the unique mix of cultural traditions that enrich our Northwest communities. Annually, the Council produces several ethnic festivals, and a public naturalization ceremony on July 4th. EHC publishes 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 February 2009 edition is January 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.



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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 29th 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.

- \$30 Individual/Student
- \$40 Family
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