

Seattle and NW Washington

SPOTLIGHTS

Ring in the Vietnamese Lunar New Year

Seattle Center Festál: Tet Festival - Vietnamese Lunar New Year welcomes the year of the goat with lucky money, martial arts and Children of the Dragon, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Feb. 21 - 22, in Seattle Center Armory and Fisher Pavilion. Revisit one thousand years of Vietnamese history at this festive celebration and experience the dance and visual arts of Vietnam.

The Festival opens with a traditional lion dance, accompanied by a live drum ensemble and firecrackers in a ritual designed to ward off bad luck and ensure a prosperous New Year. This excitement extends throughout the festival with a performance by accomplished Vietnamese singer Y Lan and the Miss Vietnam Washington Pageant.

Festival-goers may explore the cultural roots and contemporary influences of Vietnam through a special cooking competition, free arts and crafts classes, and offerings from over 20 food and crafts vendors. Children's New Year activities, a health fair, a lion dance workshop and Li Xi (Lucky Money) giveaways offer delights for all ages.

Seattle Center Festál is a program of Seattle Center Productions. Admission is free-of-charge. For more information on Tet Festival and other Seattle Center public programming, click on www.seattlecenter.com/Festal or call 206 684-7200.

Free help with Tax Forms at the Rainier Beach Library

The Seattle Public Library and AARP have consolidated the free tax preparation service available in southeast Seattle. Tax help is no longer offered at the NewHolly Branch, but remains available at the Rainier Beach Branch.

Drop-in tax help at the Rainier Beach Branch, 9125 Rainier Ave. S., 206-386-1906 is offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays through April 11.

Due to federal budget cuts, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is unable to provide the Library with certain tax forms and instruction booklets. Most IRS forms are available online at www.irs.gov. Black-and-white prints of the forms may be printed from Library computers for 15 cents per page. To request forms by mail, order online at IRS.gov/orderforms or call 1-800-829-3676.

Tax help at the Rainier Beach Branch is provided by AARP.

For more information, call the Rainier Beach Branch at 206-386-1906, visit spl.org/taxhelp, or www.spl.org.

University District 'Find It, Fix It' Community Walk

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray's 'Find It, Fix It' Community Walks, focused on Seattle crime hotspots, are starting again in 2015. This first walk of the year will be held in Seattle's University District on Saturday, Feb. 21 beginning at 11 a.m.

At the walk, community leaders and residents, police, and city officials will gather together to identify physical disorder and solve it. The City's Find It, Fix It mobile app will feature a new "Community Walk" button to help report any street disorder observed the day of the walk in order to

Dancing History



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Dancers from Northwest Tap Connection performed a powerful routine on Saturday, Feb. 14, as part of Black History Month at EMP. A discussion about the transformative power of dance in urban communities followed the performance.

organize and expedite fixes in the neighborhood.

In 2014, walks in the Central District, Lake City, Rainier Beach and several other neighborhoods led to significant improvements made in those neighborhoods. You can watch videos, view photos and read actions taken as a result of these walks at: <http://murray.seattle.gov/finditfixit>.

Learn How to Start a Business at the Seattle Public Library

Entrepreneur and business coach Jeff Levy will present an overview on how to start and run a business from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 5 at the Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Level 1, Microsoft Auditorium.

Library events are free and open to the public. Seating is limited and registration is suggested. Parking is available in the Central Library garage for \$6 after 5 p.m.

At the workshop, Levy will share stories from his experience as a business owner and manager. Attendees will learn the fundamentals of starting a business, including incorporation, financing, stakeholder development and how to write a business plan. After the presentation, there will be a question and answer period.

Levy is a nationally recognized consultant and coach to individuals interested in exploring self-employment. Levy was a founding member of Windswept Capital, president and COO of Spider Staging Corporation, an officer at Flow

International, and executive vice-president and principal of SafeWorks LLC. He is the co-author of "Making the Jump into Small Business Ownership."

This event is co-sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Seattle District office.

For more information, call the Central Library at 206-386-4636 or www.spl.org.

Network with Government Contractors at Regional Forum

The Seattle Public Library and other regional government entities will meet and greet businesses and organizations at the 2015 Regional Contracting Forum (RCF) from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, 800 Convention Place, Seattle.

The event is free and everyone is welcome. Registration is required.

Representatives from the Library will be at the RCF to talk about free tools and resources that support business information needs. RCF attendees will have the opportunity to meet government contracting representatives and network with contractors, consultants, and suppliers all at one event.

For more information, call the Library at 206-386-4636 or www.spl.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEATTLE 2015



If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Saturday - Sunday February 21 - 22

VIETNAMESE LUNAR NEW YEAR. The Tet Celebration broadly means the beginning of a period of the year! Come and join us for this celebration. Seattle Center Festál, 305 Harrison St. Seattle. The celebration starts at 11 a.m. both days.

Saturday February 21

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION 2015. Come out and bring your family and friends with you to help us celebrate the year of the sheep! 11 a.m. Hing Hay Park, 409 Maynard Ave. S.

Sunday February 22

MASSING OF THE COLORS - ANNUAL MILITARY OF THE WORLD WARS. The public is invited to attend this event. Color Guard Units, once the colors are massed, a chaplain will give the invocation, then followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem. Lots of fun. 3 - 4 p.m. Stadium High School, 111 North E. St. Tacoma.

BITTER LAKE PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER. Bring the whole family and enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice or coffee. Make this a fun family tradition.

Volunteers are needed at this event please call 684-7524. \$5 kids under 4 eat for free. 9 a.m. - noon Bitter Lake Community Center, 13035 Linden Ave. N.

Wednesday February 25

ALL AGES BOARD GAME NIGHT. Join us for an all ages board game night at the Ballard Library. Bring your family and friends. 6 p.m. Ballard Branch Library, 5614 22nd Ave. NW.

Sunday March 1

JAPANESE GARDEN OPENS MARCH 1 WITH FIRST VIEWING. First viewing begins with the dramatic flair of a Shinto Blessing. Join us at 11 a.m. A re-opening event welcoming the general public inside the gates for the first time in 2015. Regular admission applies: 1075 Lake Washington Blvd. E.