

Events & Announcements

Community Calendar 2018

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

HOLIDAY STORYTIME WITH DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH: A special holiday installment of Kids' Storytime featuring a reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and a special appearance by the Grinch himself. 3 p.m., Powell's Books, 3415 SW Cedar Hills, Beaverton.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

HOLIDAY AD-HOC IMPROV NIGHT: Turn! Turn! Turn! and the Creative Music Guild celebrate the holidays with an evening of experimental improvisational sets from a range of ensembles created especially for the special occasion. 8 p.m. at Turn! Turn! Turn! 8 NE Killingsworth.

WINTER BIRD FEEDERS: Come create a bird feeder for wintering birds! Arts & crafts event is open to kids and adults of all ages and abilities. From 11 a.m. - 12 a.m., Sellwood-Moreland Library, 7860 SE 13th Ave.

Seattle Metro

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

SAM LIGHTS: Fight the gloom of night in the illuminated sculpture park, featuring luminarias, art-making activities, hot drinks and sweet treats for sale, and more. Free! From 6 -9 p.m., Olympic Sculpture Park, 2901 Western Ave.

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK: The annual holiday event features carolers, free cookies and cocoa, and a special children's activity booth. Hundreds of luminarias will light the pathways of Volunteer Park creating a magical holiday wonderland. From 6 - 8 p.m., Volunteer Park, 1247 15th Ave. E.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

A SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS: Hear holiday carols from the Cathedral Choir, Women of St. James Schola, Jubilate Young Women's Ensemble, and Schola Cantorum accompanied by Cathedral brass, harp, and organ. Free, 7:30 p.m., St. James Cathedral, 804 Ninth Ave.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Christmas music and carols sung by the Green Lake Singers, Junior Choir, and Green Lake Church Orchestra. The concert concludes with singing of congregational carols by candlelight. The concert is free. An offering will be collected for a local charity. Child care provided. A reception follows the concert. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Green Lake Seventh Day Adventist Church, 6350 East Green Lake Ave.

View the Community Calendar and regularly updated News Briefs for Seattle and Portland at



As in previous years, younger polar bears and anyone else who needs a little more room can take part in the Polar Cub Club part of the event immediately preceding the main plunge. For the truly hearty, double-dipping is allowed.

Seattle Parks and Recreation offers a few tips for enjoying a fun, safe swim:

Make the plunge even more special by dressing up in a costume!

Come early, and carpool or take the bus (you can plan your trip at <http://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov/>).

If you have heart problems or other serious medical concerns, we recommend that you consult your healthcare professional before taking the Polar Bear Plunge. If you can't go in the water, come and watch!

Don't drink alcohol—it doesn't warm you up, and it accelerates hypothermia.

Stay in the water for no longer than 15 minutes—you lose body heat 25 times faster in water than in air.

Keep your outer clothing on until you're ready to get in the water. After the plunge, remove wet clothing before getting into dry clothes.

The Polar Bear Plunge was the first official event of its kind in the Seattle area and has inspired other, similar events throughout the region. Janet Wilson, Aquatic Center Coordinator at Meadowbrook Pool, started the event on Jan. 1, 2003. About 300 people participated in that first Polar Bear Plunge, and since then the attendance has soared to more than 1,900 brave bears. Follow the Facebook event here for updates.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Blind Boys of Alabama

The Blind Boys of Alabama perform their Christmas show to a full house Dec. 8 at Jazz Alley.

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programs: technical assistance programs, Oregon Peer Training & Innovations Center, as well as the Oregon Peer Delivered Services Coalition.

MHAAO's annual conference, Peerpocalypse, is also shifting focus to be more inclusive of all types of addiction, from substance use disorder, to behavioral addictions such as gambling and shopping addictions.

The conference will take place in Salem, Oregon, from May 20 to May 23, 2019.

Seattle News Briefs

City Council Committee Advances Mayor Durkan's Legislation to Establish the Office of the Employee Ombud

The Seattle City Council's Housing, Health, Energy, and Workers' Rights committee advanced Mayor Jenny A. Durkan's legislation to establish an Office of the Employee Ombud (OEO) that would operate independently from the Seattle Department of Human Resources (SDHR) and the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Mayor Durkan transmitted the legislation to the City Council in October and her 2019-2020 budget includes resources for the new office.

The OEO would evaluate systemic impacts and patterns of misconduct and will provide annual reports to the Mayor's Office and City Council with recommendations to improve the City's Personnel Rules, complaint and investigations systems, workplace expectations, and other applicable City processes and systems.

In September, Mayor Durkan issued an Executive Order to implement a series of changes, including the creation of the OEO, to reform and update how the City addresses allegations of harassment, discrimination, and other forms of misconduct. These actions were informed by 35 recommendations and 125 strategies from the Anti-Harassment Interdepartmental Team, established by the Mayor in January.

Seattle Public Library Presents 'Edward S. Curtis in Hollywood' Dec. 18

Find out about photographer Edward S. Curtis' little-known Hollywood period at a presentation by local historian Dan Kerlee. The event takes place from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18 at the Magnolia Branch, 2801 34th Ave. W., 206-386-4225. Arrive early to check out the accompanying exhibit.

Library events are free and everyone is welcome. Registration is not required. Free parking is available in the branch parking lot.

Curtis authored and took photographs for one of the greatest books on North American Indians ever made, but his work in the early 1920s shooting silent movie stills and photographing stars has not been covered in detail.

Using rare photographs, paper ephemera, and film clips, Magnolia resident and local independent historian Kerlee will shed light on this little-known period of Curtis' career, showing how it helped sustain Curtis and provide new directions in creativity while work on his massive opus, "The North American Indian," was suspended.

Kerlee, a member of the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild, writes and speaks on early film music history along with general photographic history of the Northwest.

The exhibit on Curtis' Hollywood period is available at the Magnolia Branch now through Dec. 31.

The Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community. We support universal access to information and ideas, and form strong partnerships with Seattle-area community organizations to offer presentations that are accessible to all.

For more information, call 206-386-4636 or Ask Us. For ADA accommodations, please contact: leap@spl.org.

17th Annual Polar Bear Plunge set for Jan. 1 at Matthews Beach



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Friends Dennice Jordan, and Ellen Diaz, emerge from Lake Washington after participating in the 16th annual Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 1, 2018 at Matthews Beach.

Start off the New Year with a splash! Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Meadowbrook Community Center Advisory Council are co-sponsoring the 17th annual Polar Bear Plunge at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019 at Matthews Beach, 9300 51st Ave. NE. Registration begins at 10 a.m., and the plunge starts at noon sharp.

A 2019 Commemorative Badge of Courage will be given to all heroic Polar Bear participants who immerse themselves neck-deep in the water. The patch will show the world that participants braved the frigid waters.

Warming refreshments will be served. While people wait for the plunge to kick off, there will be a variety of food trucks available, games, a photo booth, music and a t-shirt/sweatshirt vendor.