A.C.E. CALENDAR

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Mandarin storytime

Jan 19, 3-3:30pm, Woodstock Library (6008 SE 49th Ave, Portland). Enjoy a storytime presented in Mandarin Chinese and English. The free readings are for children three to seven years old with an accompanying adult. For info, call (503) 988-5399 or visit <events.multcolib.org>.

A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra

Jan 19, 4pm, First Unitarian Church (1011 SW 12th Ave, Portland). Attend a concert featuring Boston's A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra, a collective of 17 young professional musicians committed to expanding the boundaries of the orchestral repertoire and experimenting with the way music is prepared, performed, and experienced. To buy tickets, call (503) 224-9842 or visit www.boxofficetickets.com.

Lunar New Year Special Issue

Jan 20. *The Asian Reporter's* Lunar New Year Special Issue will be published on Monday, January 20, 2014. The issue features information about the Year of the Horse, horoscopes, a complete list of upcoming events, and more. To download a copy, visit <www.asianreporter.com> after January 20.

Trail Blazers vs. the Rockets

Jan 20, 5pm, Comcast SportsNet. Watch Jeremy Lin and the Houston Rockets take on the Portland Trail Blazers in the third matchup between the two squads this season. See related story by Mike Street, "Jeremy Lin creates harmony away from the limelight" (AR, February 4, 2013) at <www.asianreporter.com>. To verify broadcast time, call (503) 736-5140, e-mail <CSNNW@csnnw.com>, or visit <www.csnnw.com>.



SOLO CONCERTO DEBUT. Concertmaster Sarah Kwak makes her Oregon Symphony solo concerto debut January 18 and 20 at Portland's Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The evening features Henryk Wieniawski's second Violin Concerto, which the symphony has not performed since 1995. (Photo courtesy of the Oregon Symphony)



DAZZLING DUBAI DISPLAY. Fireworks erupt from the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, at midnight to celebrate the New Year, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Persian Gulf city known for glitz, glamour, and over-the-top achievements broke the Guinness World Record for largest pyrotechnics show on New Year's Eve. The Dubai skyline was a canvas for the dazzling 30-minute show. The display capped off with six minutes of fireworks that engulfed the city's manmade, palm-shaped island, with its fronds and trunk shimmering in thousands of lights. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

Celebrations in Dubai, London, Las Vegas usher in 2014

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all the people. It's amazing."

"TV doesn't do this justice," she said. "You have to be here to believe it."

Marcus Ix, 34, visiting from Germany, gave his wife, Sabrina, a big kiss when the ball dropped and confetti rained down.

"This is the best New Year's Eve of my life," he said as the crowd erupted with cheers and cries of "Happy New Year!" "It was worth the 13 hour wait in the cold."

The annual New York celebration, which this year featured performances from artists such as Miley Cyrus, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and Blondie, has become part endurance sport because post-9/11 security measures force spectators into pens at least 12 hours in advance, with no food, warmth, or bathrooms.

"We've got adult diapers. We're wearing them right now," said 14-year-old Amber Woods, who came with friends from the New York City suburbs to experience the event for the first time. They entered their corral at 10:00am Tuesday. For nourishment, they brought lollipops and popcorn. For the cold, they did a lot of jumping in place.

"Every time I say, it's the last. But then I come back," said Yasmina Merrir, a 42-year-old Washington, D.C. resident attending her fourth Times Square ball drop. In 2009, the cold was so bad, she got hypothermia. Her legs swelled up like balloons.

Merrir was fasting and not

drinking anything to deal with the lack of restrooms. As for the cold, she recommended vigorous dancing for as long as you can stand on your feet.

"At a point," she said, "your brain is not working anymore."

Las Vegas held one of its biggest ever New Year's Eve celebrations, with sold-out concerts and an eightminute long fireworks show that was billed as the largest in the country. The Minus5 Ice Bar Mandalay Bay started handing out free champagne for hourly toasts at 11:00am. Tourists were seen toting novelty drinks into casinos by noon.

Big-ticket musical acts Bruno Mars, John Legend, and Maroon 5 helped lure 335,000 visitors to Las Vegas by nightfall on Tuesday — 5,000 more than last year, tourism officials said.

On the other side of the Atlantic, London welcomed 2014 with a mixture of futuristic fireworks and torchlit tradition. The city's mayor said this year's explosive display came packed with peach-flavored snow, edible banana confetti, and orange-scented bubbles. The evening also included scratch-and-sniff programs, LED wristbands, and fruit-flavored sweets.

In Russia, where two suicide bombings in two days killed 34 people, eerily empty busses lumbered through the streets of Volgograd, where authorities cancelled mass events for New Year's Eve and asked residents not to set off fireworks.

President Vladimir Putin, in his New Year's Eve address to the nation, vowed that the fight against terrorists will continue "until their destruction is complete," Russian news agencies reported.

In Dubai, a Persian Gulf city known for glitz, glamour, and over-the-top achievements like the world's tallest skyscraper, officials broke the Guinness World Record for largest pyrotechnics show on New Year's Eve.

The Dubai skyline was a canvas for a dazzling 30-minute show. The display capped off with six minutes of fireworks that engulfed the city's manmade, palm-shaped island, with its fronds and trunk shimmering in thousands of lights.

More than 260 people were injured by firecracker blasts and celebratory gunfire in the Philippines, a nation marking the end of a year of tragic disasters, including a November 8 typhoon that left more than 6,100 dead and nearly 1,800 missing.

"Many here are welcoming the new year after losing their mothers, fathers, siblings, and children, so you can imagine how it feels," said village chief Maria Rosario Bactol of the Anibong community in Tacloban, the city worst hit by Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Typhoon Yolanda). "I tell them to face the reality, to move on and stand up, but I know it will never be easy."

Associated Press writers Aya Batrawy in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates; Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia; Jim Gomez in Manila, the Philippines; Kelvin Chan in Hong Kong; Ali Kotarumalos in Jakarta, Indonesia; Ken Moritsugu, Yuri Kageyama, and Eric Talmadge in Tokyo; Louise Watt in Beijing; Hannah Dreier in Las Vegas; and Colleen Long

in New York City contributed to this report.

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Department: IA Alumni and Parent Programs

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