



Orca Sounds

November – December 2006

Dates to Remember

November

- 10 Veteran's Day observed
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14 New leader meeting, Puyallup
- 16 New leader meeting, Council office
- 23 Thanksgiving

December

- 2 Santa Parade
- 16 Hanukkah
- 17 Nutcracker Suite
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa begins
- 31 Omisoka

January

- 1 New Year's Day



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

You can make a difference for Camp Fire kids while you work.

The United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and the Washington State Combined Fund Drive (CFD) annual fund drives are in full swing. Camp Fire USA Orca Council receives about 5% of its funds through donations from United Way, the CFD and the CFC.

Last year children and youth from the six counties in our service area participated in Camp Fire USA programs that included day camp, resident camp, club and Teen Outreach. Camp Fire programs are open to all children and youth and our participants include homeless and at risk populations.

Camp Fire USA builds caring confident youth and future leaders. That means Camp Fire kids have a sense of responsibility and connectedness with their communities and are able to feel empathy. Camp Fire kids are caring. Camp Fire kids learn how to navigate the obstacles of life and they have a positive sense of self. Camp Fire kids are confident. Camp Fire kids are productive and know how to get things done and they have a sense of their future. Camp Fire kids practice leadership.

Camp Fire USA is a great investment in the future. Think about how you can help by giving to Camp Fire kids through United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign or the Washington State Combined Fund Drive.

Kathy Wuruk
Executive Director

For nearly a century:
**integrity,
responsibility,
tolerance.**
We build more

HOLIDAYS

November and December are often thought of as the holiday months, in particular because two major American holidays—Thanksgiving and Christmas—are celebrated in these months. But other holidays are celebrated during this time as well.

VETERANS DAY

World War I, called the “war to end all wars,” officially ended on June 28, 1919 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed in France. The fighting, however, had actually stopped seven months earlier, when an armistice—a temporary halt to fighting—between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

A year later, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, a day for solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory. It would be observed with parades and public meetings and a brief halt of business beginning at 11 a.m.

In 1938, the 11th of November was made a legal holiday, known as “Armistice Day,” to mark the end of World War I. In 1954, the scope of the holiday was broadened to honor soldiers in World War II and Korea, and the name was changed to Veterans Day. It is now a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968, Congress passed the Uniforms Holiday Bill. It created, beginning in 1971, three-day weekends for federal employees by designating that Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day would each be celebrated on Mondays.



Many states disagreed with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates, which caused a lot of confusion when the first Veterans Day under the new law was observed on October 25, 1971.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day, beginning in 1978, to November 11th.

“Strictly speaking, the US does not have national holidays. The federal government recognizes 10 annual and one quadrennial holiday (election day) for its employees. The annual federal holidays, however, are widely observed by state and local governments.”—Answers.com

THANKSGIVING

What was the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth in 1621 really like?

What we know about this holiday, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of each November, comes from journals kept by two of the Plymouth pilgrims.

The first was written between November 1620 and November 1621 by Edward Winslow. He chronicled the pilgrims' landing at Cape Cod, their exploration and eventual settling at Plymouth, and their relations with the surrounding Indians, up to the First Thanksgiving and the arrival of the ship Fortune. His journal was first published in London in 1622.

Plymouth Colony governor William Bradford also kept a diary, but over a more extended period of time. Written between 1630 and 1654, his book, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, is a history of pilgrims in England, Holland, and America.

In his journal, Bradford mentions the “gathering in of the small harvest they had” and the preparation of their houses and dwellings against winter. They had good supplies of “cod and bass and other fish,” and had begun, as winter approached, to store away fowl.

And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides, they had

about a peck [about 8 quarts] of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.

According to the records, there were 51 pilgrims at the first thanksgiving: 4 married women, 5 adolescent girls, 8 adolescent boys, 13 young children, and 21 men, including John Alden and Myles Standish.

CHANUKAH/HANUKKAH

Nearly 4 million Jewish Americans celebrate Chanukah/Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. It is one of 12 Jewish holidays. Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, which generally falls, on the western calendar, between the end of November and the end of December. Like all Jewish holidays, Hanukkah begin the evening



before the date specified on most calendars. This is because a Jewish day begins and ends at sunset, rather than at midnight.

Hanukah celebrates events which took place over 2,300 years ago in Judea. This land, which is now Israel, had a Syrian king named Antiochus who ordered the Jewish people to reject their religion, customs and beliefs in favor of the

Greek gods. Many refused to do this; among them was a man named Judah.

Judah and his four brothers formed an army, and chose as their name the word "Maccabee," which means hammer. After three years of fighting, the Maccabees drove the Syrians out of Israel and reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem. The Maccabees cleaned the building and removed the hated Greek symbols and statues, finishing their job on the 25th day of the month of Kislev.

When they finished cleaning the temple, they wanted to light the eternal light, known as the N'er Tamid, which is present in every Jewish house of worship. Once lit, the oil lamp should never be extinguished. According to Jewish belief, only a tiny jug of oil was found with just enough for a single day. The oil lamp was filled and lit. Then a miracle occurred. The tiny amount of oil stayed lit not for one day, but for eight days.

Jews celebrate hanukkah to mark the victory over the Syrians and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. The Festival of the Lights lasts for eight days to commemorate the miracle of the oil. The word Chanukah means "rededication."

In America, families celebrate Hanukkah at home. They give and receive gifts, decorate the house, entertain friends and family, eat special foods, and light the holiday menorah.



CHRISTMAS

The Christmas tree was originally a German tradition, one that took hold in this country after *Godey's Magazine*, a prestigious American womens' magazine printed an article and illustrations in 1850 of the British royal family celebrating around a Christmas tree. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, was German.

In 1856, the Christmas tree had become so well established that President Franklin Pierce placed a "German tree" at the White House. The German custom was to place the tree on a table, but American were more likely to put them on the floor. Most trees were decorated with various edibles and home-crafted ornaments, although in 1860 glass trinkets from Germany were becoming available as ornaments.

In 1836 Alabama became the first state to make Christmas a legal holiday. Between 1850 and 1861, fifteen other states followed suit. The states' recognition of December 25th as Christmas Day helped helped standardize the date for celebration. Previously, celebrations took place at varying times during the month, most often on December 6th, St. Nicholas's day, or on January 6th, Epiphany.

Provisions for the closing of schools, banks, and government offices generally did not appear until after the Civil War.

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a seven-day holiday that takes place between December 26th and January 1st. Modeled on the 7-day first-fruits celebrations in Ancient Africa, it introduces and reinforces the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles which are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

This holiday was created in 1966 during a time of intense racial tensions in America. Its purpose was to create, recreate and circulate African culture as an aid to building community, enriching Black consciousness, and reaffirming the value of cultural grounding. It was designed to unite and to strengthen African communities.



Other celebrations in November and December include:

- ◆ Saint Nicholas Day (Christian) – December 6
- ◆ Ramadan (Muslim) – October 4 to November 3
- ◆ Eid al-Fitr (Muslim) – November 4
- ◆ Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican) – December 12
- ◆ St. Lucia Day (Swedish) – December 13
- ◆ Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish) – December 26



OMISOKA

Omisoka is the Japanese New Year's Eve, the final day of the old year and the eve of New Year's Day, the most important day of the year. It is celebrated on December 31st.

People tend to be very busy on Omisoka because they have much to do to prepare for the new year, and for New Year's Day. Many do a thorough house cleaning, called *osoji*, which is much like an annual spring cleaning. Many change the paper on *shoji* doors and setting *tatami* mats out to air in the sun.

The cleaning is to get ready to welcome in the new year with everything—including people's minds and bodies—in a fresh, clean state, ready for a new beginning. Usually around 11:00 PM on Omisoka at home, people gather for one last time in the old year to have a bowl of *toshikoshi-soba* (buckwheat noodles)—eating the long noodles is associated with "crossing over from one year to the next."

Throughout Japan, Buddhist temples prepare *amazake*, a traditional drink, to pass out to crowds that gather as midnight approaches. Most temples have a large cast bell that is struck once for each of the 108 earthly desires believed to cause human suffering. The bells' tolling straddles the midnight hour, ringing out the old year and ringing in the new.

A holiday gives one
a chance to look backward
and forward, to rest oneself
by an inner compass.
—May Sarton

GET TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE

Members looking to get to know others should look into Camp Fire USA's national project—Project Contact. This project encourages youth to reach out to others.



Get to know someone new in another place through correspondence. Leaders help members find pen pals and encourage members to share their experiences in Camp Fire with someone new.

To learn more, see the 2006-2007 Leader's Manual or contact Johna. Johna can also explain safety guidelines and suggest pen pals.

SAVED RECEIPTS = MONEY RAISED

Orca Council is now part of Points for Profit. Friends of our council can support us all year long by choosing to shop at Points for Profit sponsor businesses like Schwan's, Chevron and Albertson's, and then give us the receipts.

When the council turns them in we receive a portion back from Points for Profit. How easy is that! So tell your friends and save those receipts. For a current list of sponsor businesses visit www.pointsforprofit.com.

SOUNDS FAIR!

There was a tie this year for Camp Fire's Puyallup Fair Rosette Winner. The honors were shared by **Rachel Knight** and **Taylynn Twiggs**.

The Rosette Award is given to the Camp Fire member who wins the most ribbons. Congratulations, Rachel and Taylynn!

CAMP FIRE MEMBERS COMMIT TO GIVING BACK

While still on a sugar high from Halloween treats, members of **Teresa Noll** and **Sandy Engelking's** club helped spread awareness of Camp Fire USA. On November 1, they produced 70 posters advertising Camp Fire to be placed on bulletin boards in schools and other public buildings.

Sammie Chu, Kylie Engelking, Erin Houseman, Katelin Noll, & Allyson Ryan spent 21/2 hours creating these much needed posters. Johna Noble, Program Director was impressed with their speed and the quality of their handiwork. These posters would have taken hours for one person to complete. Thanks to the club's hard work, the posters will be displayed more quickly and help others see the benefits of Camp Fire USA.

The club has also made a commitment for two more service days at the council office as part of earning the Orca Council Service Award. If you would like to help or learn more about the Orca Council Service Award, please contact Johna. Way to go!

JOB CORPS IS HERE FOR YOU



Anyone ages 16-24 who may need an alternative way to earn a high school diploma or GED while receiving career training should check out Job Corps. Those who qualify will receive educational opportunities in addition to housing, meals, basic medical, and help with job placement.

Job Corps provides training for the following career fields: Business & Technology, Forestry & Environmental, Healthcare, Automotive & Transportation, Construction & Facilities, Heavy Equipment Operation, Child Development, Protective Services, Retail Sales, Waste/Wastewater Treatment, and English as a Second Language (ESL).

For more information on how to qualify or additional information, please contact Geri Joson at 253-572-7140 or 1-877-jobcorps or www.sanfranciscoregion.jobcorps.gov.

ARE WE THERE YET?

As a driver, this is usually the phrase you do not want to hear—but while on the Mystery Trip, that is part of the fun!

Thirteen Candy High Sellers were on hand for the journey on Saturday, October 21st. Parents and drivers received their sealed instructions, then the drivers left the council office, their passengers clueless as to their destination.

First we stopped to get a little bite to eat. Dinner was served at Red Robin. Those fries are tasty, mmmmm, more ketchup please!

Then it was time to get lost. In a maze that is, the Rutledge Farms corn maze. This year's design was two intertwining mazes that made a fire engine. Even with flashlights and glow necklaces, it was easy to get lost. It was a good thing for checkpoints and the two bridges; otherwise we might still be there. Once freed from the maze, groups warmed by the bonfire before heading home.

A special thanks to the drivers/chaperones **Stephanie Golka-Smith, Randy Unruh, Kathy Unruh, Sheryl Miller & Johna Noble.**

Great job High Sellers, we can't wait to do it again!

**Need to reach Johna?
Call (253) 597-6234, ext. 17
or e-mail:
jnoble@campfireusaorca.org**



CAMP FIRE CROSS STITCH SOCIETY

Johna is currently looking for people who can cross stitch.

If you are handy with a needle, please let Johna know. We have something very special we need your expertise with.



NUTCRACKER DISCOUNT

The Tacoma Performing Dance Company will present the Nutcracker ballet at the Temple Theater, 47 St. Helens Avenue, Tacoma on December 17, 2006 at 2:00 pm.

The ballet is adapted to fit all members of the family, young or old. As a group, we will receive a discounted ticket price (\$12 each). Please contact Johna to purchase your tickets as part of our group rate.

HOMETOWN SANTA PARADE

Join in the fun on Saturday, December 2nd in Sumner at 2:30 and Puyallup at 4:00. We have a couple ideas for entries, but we need participants!

If your club would like to participate in the parade, please call Johna for ASAP and let her know which town you can participate in or if you can do both!

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS FOR NEW CLUBS

Tuesday, November 14th 6:30pm
Woodland Elementary
7707 112th St E
Puyallup, WA 98373

Thursday, November 16th 6:30pm
Camp Fire USA Orca Council office
3555 McKinley Ave
Tacoma, WA 98404

Welcome to our new club in Orting!
Meets at Orting Primary the 1st & 3rd Monday
of each month.