alendar

Holiday happenings

"A Little Christmas Spirit" the annual Christmas tea. A musical and reception, grades K-8 directed by Perry and Roseann Orfanella. Dec. 21, Lower School Auditorium, Wyoming Seminary Lower School, 1560 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort. 288-5431.

"A Christmas Carole." Dramatic reading by Joe Plummer, Wyoming Valley Historical & Geological Society Museum, 69 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, Dec. 21, 8 p.m., \$3.50, available at the Historical Society. Refreshments will be served. For info call 823-

"A Christmas Carole," Charles Dickens. New Life Drama Troupe, Dallas Junior High Auditorium, Dallas. Friday, Dec. 22, 8 p.m. \$2 at the foor, \$1.50 in advance from Gifts From Above bookstore. For more info, call

"The Nutcracker" dance production, Friday, Dec. 22, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 23, 2 and 8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 30, 2 and 8 p.m. \$16, \$12; Half-price for age 12 and under, senior citizens, available at Kirby Center. For school groups of 20 or more 10 a.m. performances Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Friday, Dec. 22. Seats are \$3. Thursday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m. performance sold out. For info, call 824-8602. Presented by the Wilkes-Barre Ballet Theatre and Kirby

Community

The Dallas Middle School Student Council will hold its annual holiday dance on December 21, 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$1.00 plus one canned or boxed food item. All profits and collected items will be donated to the **Back Mountain Food Bank**

Special **Events**

"The Footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh," Sordoni Art Gallery, Wilkes College sponsors 10-day tour of Holland, including The Holland Van Gogh exhibition and specially arranged meetings. Escort is Jeanne Slavin, a Holland native, living in the Wyoming Valley. Tour leaves April 29 and returns May 9, 1990. For more info, call Sordoni Art Gallery at Wilkes College, 824-4652, ext. 4325.

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Special **Events**

Students in Grades 9-12 will experience the basics of careers in art education, fine art and commercial art fields. Visiting artists tell about their day-to-day schedules and their education, a college student panel; and a practical "hands-on" experience including an actual teaching experience on a 1-1 basis. It will be an intense 11 hours! This workshop is sponsored by Sue Hand's Imagery, Dallas and the Wyoming Valley Art League. Cost \$15.00. For further info, call Sue Hand, 675-5094 or Dorothy Ann Searfoss, 333-4837

Exhibits

"Anthracite Years." Permanent exhibit, from the formation of coal to the finished product. Wyoming Historical and Geological Museum, rear of the Osterhout Free Library, 71 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The Lost Murals and Early Works of Franz Kline," Works from major artist, born in Wilkes-Barre, who moved to Greenwich Village. Opening at the MacDonald Art Gallery, College Misericordia, Dallas, Jan. 9 through Jan. 30. Open to the public, free of charge. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, noon-t p.m. and 6-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Closed Monday for info, call 654-6240.

Art in Miniature through December 31 at The Gallery at The Hefft House, 104 E. Overbrook Rd., Shavertown, Tues., Wed., Fri., Stat. 10-5 p.m.; Thurs. 1 Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Jack Trompetter Watercolors Exhibition, on display through December, Thursdays and Saturday, 2-5 p.m. and 7:30-9 p.m. The Art League Gallery, 22 1/2 E. Union St., Kingston above Columbian Fire House. For info, call 287-7245 or 288-0313.

Jewish 'Festival of Lights' begins Friday

By CHARLOT M. DENMON

Chanukah, the Jewish holiday better known to many as the 'Festival of Lights' will begin Friday, December 22, this year. A minor holiday in the traditional Jewish faith, Chanukah has recently become a very popular holiday for many reasons.

Chanukah commemorates the Judean rebellion against the Syrian tyrant, Antiochus IV, in the second century B.C.E. Antiochus had forbidden the Jews to practice their religion and his armies had desecrated the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

After fighting for three years, Judah and his band of Maccabees (translated in Hebrew as "hammers" finally defeated the Syrians. Following their victory, the Maccabees attempted to rededicate the Holy Temple but they found only one small cruse of oil for the rekindling of the eternal light. Miraculously, the little bit of oil in the cruse lasted eight days.

Today we celebrate the Chanukah for eight days and it represents the triumph of religious freedom," Mrs. Howard Levinson of New Goss Manor in Dallas explained. "It has become a focal point during the year of recognizing the struggle for religious freedom of other groups throughout the world.'

Chanukah (also Hanukkah)



CHANUKAH - Susan Levinson and her children prepare the Menorah for Chanukah. (Contributed photo)

is also popular because it is designated as the "Feast of Lights" and brightens the dark, dreary days of December.

The Levinson family of four observes Chanukah by lighting several Menorot on each of the eight nights. A menorah is a candelabra that holds eight candles, one for each of the eight days of Chanukah.

"My husband, and I light a Menorah together and an additional Menorah for all the Jewish people in the world who are still denied their religious freedom," explained Susan Levinson. "Our children, Jeffrey, age seven; and Nancy, age five, each light their own Menorot."

During Chanukah, Susan explained that the family eats latkes (potato pancakes) and other foods fried in oil to remind them of the oil in the temple that lasted for eight days.

"The children receive one present each night and while the candles are burning which takes about 30 minutes, they play dreidel, a spinning top game," Susan

"According to tradition, when the Jews were persecuted and forbidden to study they gathered together to play the game and discussed the Torah, the Old Testament. There are four Hebrew letters on the dreidel which represents the words, 'A Great Miracle Happened There'. In Israel, the letters on the dreidel represent 'A Great Miracle Happened Here', Susan con-

"Chanukah has come to mean our triumph of religious freedom, an important time in our lives," Susan ended.

Health

"Motherwell" class, a unique medically approved health and fitness program for pregnant women and new mothers, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 7 p.m. at Thomas P. Saxton Medical Pavilion in Edwardsville (adjacent to the Gateway Shopping Center). Motherwell classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings during four-week sessions. The classes feature carefully structured exercises designed to safely work those muscle groups affected by pregnancy. For more information or to register for the program, call the Nursing Services Department at 829-8111, extension 3048.

Health

Diabetes Education/Support Group meets Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Thomas P. Saxton Medical Pavilion, 468 Northampton St., Edwardsville. Members are reminded to bring a grab bag gift. Individuals with diabetes and family members are welcome to attend. For more information or to register for the meeting, contact Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's Education Department at 829-8111, extension

Music

The Community Concert Association of Scranton 1989/90 season will include Los Romeros, a classical guitar quartet on Feb. 18, 1990; and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre on April 7, 1990. Subscriptions for the season and tickets for individual concerts are available through the Community Concerts office and may be obtained by writing or calling 404 N. Washington Ave., Scranton, 18503, 342-4137

Music

Byard Lancaster and the Jazz-Versity Dance Band, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m. in the Buckingham Performing Arts Center at Wyoming Seminary, Sprague Avenue, Kingston. The Music Department-sponsored event, which is free to the public, features jazz virtuoso Byard Lancaster who is known for his prowess on the sax, clarinet and

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