Celebrating the Season Culturally

With the main focus of the holiday season being on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s, it is possible to overlook the many other celebrations taking place during the same time of year.

This season, let us celebrate the gift of diversity! Take the time to attend an on-campus or community event to learn how others celebrate during this wonderful time of year. Focus on making your classrooms inclusive and welcoming to all students.

Please email ideas for future topics or upcoming events to Emily Hanson, GA, at erhanson@unomaha.edu or by dropping off submissions to Roskens Hall 204k. Our Lens is a COE Diversity Committee sponsored project. The next issue will be published in 2014.

Season’s Greetings from our COE family to yours!
Professional Development & Educational Opportunities

International Education Week: November 11-15

**International Service Learning Conference**: November 6\(^{th}\) through November 9\(^{th}\) at the Omaha Hilton. The International Association for Service Learning and the Community Engagement annual conference, hosted this year by UNO. Visit [http://www.researchslice.org/conferences/](http://www.researchslice.org/conferences/) for details.

**Cumbre 2013**: The Office of Latino/Latin American Studies at UNO is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. Join them on November 8\(^{th}\) and 9\(^{th}\) celebrating this important milestone by attending Cumbre (summit). This event is free and open to the public. However, participants must register at the conference website and purchase individual tickets or tables for the keynote luncheon. For more information, visit [www.unomaha.edu/ollas/cumbre](http://www.unomaha.edu/ollas/cumbre).

**Heartland Latino Leadership Conference and Expo**: This year’s conference will be held on Thursday, November 14\(^{th}\) and Friday, November 15\(^{th}\), with exhibits on display November 15\(^{th}\) at the Hilton Omaha. Visit [http://heartlandlatino.org](http://heartlandlatino.org) for a complete list of presenters and the conference schedule.

**The December Dilemma** – The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has provided educators with a number of resources to make classrooms inclusive this holiday season. The December Dilemma is a guide to understanding religion in the classroom, holiday assemblies, preforming religious music, and holiday displays. Check out this great resource at: [http://archive.adl.org/issue_education/december_dilemma_2004/](http://archive.adl.org/issue_education/december_dilemma_2004/)

“We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, and different dreams.”

~Jimmy Carter
The following list is by no means complete. It is our hope that you use these as suggestions for places to visit and events to participate in and then branch out on your own to find other local programs.

**Bellevue World Fest:** Saturday, Nov. 20th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Lied Activity Center, 2700 Arboretum Drive, Bellevue. Fun for all ages, featuring live entertainment, cultural food, educational opportunities, and hay rack rides. Visit bellevuworldfest.com for details.

**Ethnic Holiday Festival:** Monday, Dec. 2 at the Durham Museum, 801 S 10th St., Omaha. Learn how the world celebrates this joyful time of the year! Local cultural organization will proudly display crafts and traditional dress, along with musical performances.

**The Annual Menorah Parade:** Sunday, Dec. 1 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, starting at the Chabad Center, 1866 S 120th St., Omaha. Come watch the parade of vehicles topped with menorahs celebrating religious freedom.

**Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures:** Sunday, Dec. 8th at the Homestead National Monument of America’s Education Center, 8523 W State Hwy 4, Beatrice. This day will be spent primarily talking about Hispanic Holiday traditions. Exhibits will be available throughout the month of Dec. showcase other winter traditions across the Great Plains! Visit [www.nps.gov/home](http://www.nps.gov/home) for details.

**Christmas in Germany:** Sunday, Dec. 8th at the German-American Society, 3717 S. 120th St., Omaha from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Come experience traditional German music, food, and dancing in honor of the holiday season. For the complete list of activities, visit [www.germanamericansociety.org](http://www.germanamericansociety.org).

**American Promise (Special Screening):** Tuesday, Nov 5th from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm at Film Streams, 1340 Mike Fahey St. Watch this special screening a documentary about two boys from middle-class African American families attending a private school in Manhattan.

**Kwanzaa Kick-Off:** Thursday, Dec. 26th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Omaha Public Library, 2868 Ames Ave, Omaha. Celebrate the first day of Kwanzaa with a performance by The Wordsmiths; food and refreshments will be served.

**The Delany Sisters’ First 100 years:** Jan. 17th through Feb. 9th at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 6815 Cass St. Omaha. 1340 Mike Fahey St. Omaha. At 101 & 103, these resilient African-American sisters have lived through historic events. Hear their endearing, humorous, historical stories. For more information or to purchase tickets, check out [www.omahaplayhouse.com](http://www.omahaplayhouse.com).

**Rhythms – Colors of India:** Saturday, Nov. 16th from 2:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Central High School. This is an event showcasing the brilliant aspects of Indian history, culture and cuisine. For more information, visit [www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org](http://www.indiaassociationofnebraska.org).

**State of African Americans and North Omaha - Empowerment Network Community Meeting:** Saturday, Dec. 14 at North High School from 8:45 am - 12:00 pm. Unite and Transform! Think of the Possibilities!

**El Museo Latino:** This local gem currently has 5 exhibits open to the public. We encourage you to them check them out. [http://www.elmuseolatino.org/exhibits.html](http://www.elmuseolatino.org/exhibits.html)
UNO Criss Library
Multicultural Books

Young Adult Literature:
The Good Braider by Terry Farish. Follows Viola as she survives brutality in war-torn Sudan, makes a perilous journey, lives as a Refugee in Egypt, and finally reaches Portland, Maine, where her quest for freedom and security is hampered by memories of past horrors and the traditions her mother and other Sudanese adults hold dear (Description via Worldcat).

A Step from Heaven by Na An. A young Korean girl describes her family's bittersweet experience in the United States after their emigration from Korea (Description via Amazon).

Children’s Literature:
Seven Candles for Kwanzaa by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Describes the origins and practices of Kwanzaa, the seven-day festival during which people of African descent rejoice in their ancestral values (Description via Worldcat).

The Only One Club by Jane Naliboff. Mrs. Matthews’ first grade class begins making Christmas decorations, but because Jennifer is Jewish, Mrs. Matthews allows her to make Hanukkah decorations instead. When her classmates want to join, she is resistant until she realizes that each of her friends is also “the only one“ at something (Description via Worldcat).

Need more resources for your classroom or school project? Please contact, Melissa Cast-Brede, Research Services Unit/Education & Psychology Liaison at mcast@unomaha.edu

Reflection: Food for Thought

How can you use the knowledge obtained from this newsletter?

How could you incorporate more cultural experiences into your classroom?

Which events will you attend to broaden your understanding of the cultures in the Omaha area?