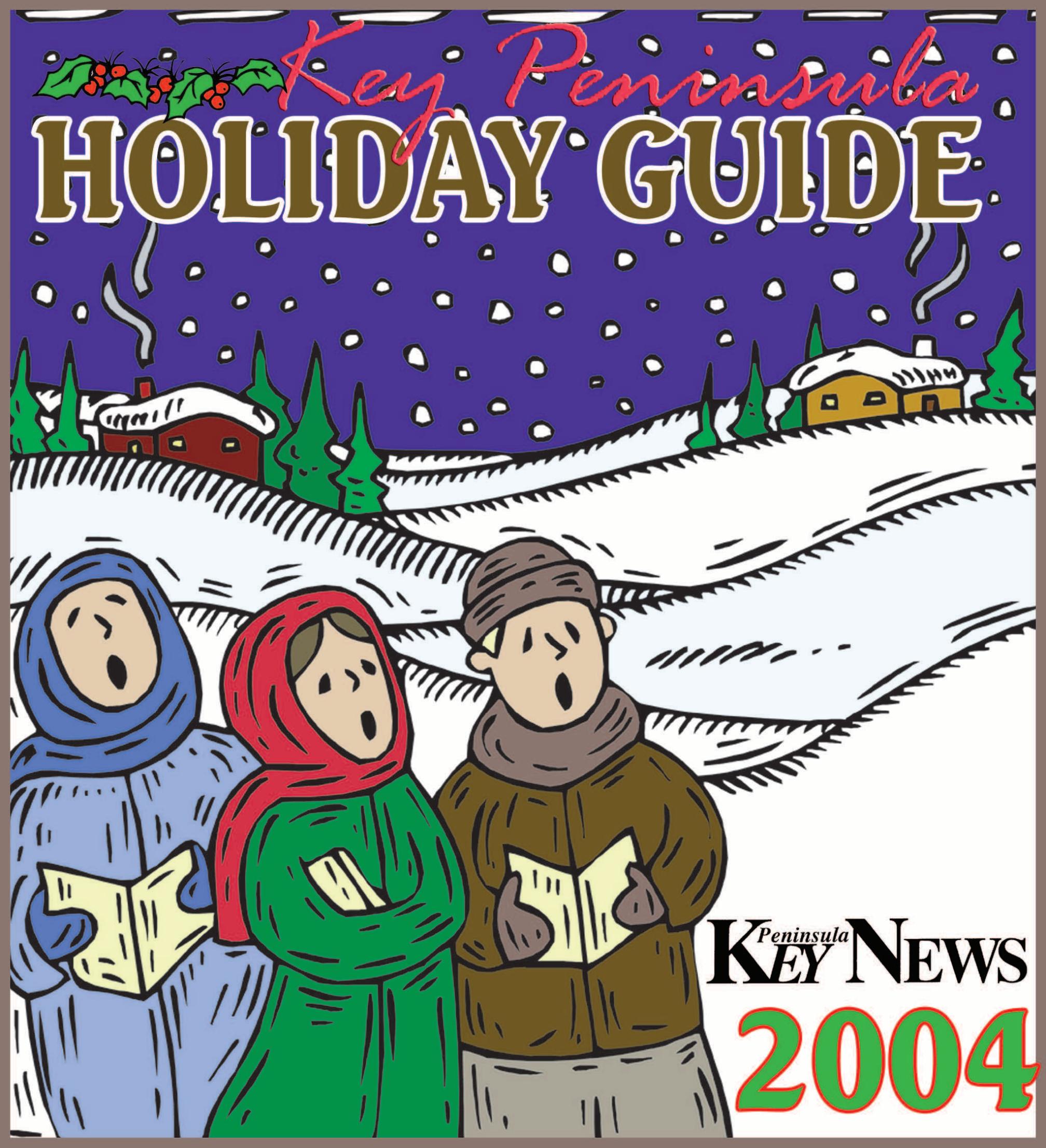




Key Peninsula
HOLIDAY GUIDE



Peninsula
KEY NEWS

2004

Church hosts holiday bazaar

By Colleen Slater
KP News

The Ruth Circle of Longbranch Church held its annual holiday bazaar on Nov. 6. Hand-made items, baked goods, plants, books, and "white elephants" were displayed for shoppers. This year the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute also set up a table with similar wares.

Lunch of soup, bread, coffee and dessert was available, with seating at small tables decorated in a holiday theme.

Raffle items included a red, white and blue afghan, embroidered table and napkin set, and a scarf made with Easter egg dyed wool spun and woven by Peg Robertson.

On the baked goods table was an "Allsgood Pie" made from a recipe of Almeda House, a Circle member who died earlier this year. She told this story about growing up in the South, with a house servant: When asked what kind of pie it was, he said "Alls good," referring to the ingredients, including pecans.



Photo by Colleen Slater

Helen Fravel with the Ruth Circle's cookbook at the Ruth Circle Holiday Bazaar at Longbranch Church.

Almeda contributed the recipe to the Circle cookbook, also on sale at the bazaar.



Dolores Argabright, Marsha Horan, Marlies Van Cise (president), and Maryann McDonald showing off holiday hats at the holiday Orthopedic Guild event.

Photo by Colleen Slater

Orthopedic Guild holds holiday lunch, auction

By Colleen Slater
KP News

Over 100 women turned out at the Longbranch Improvement Club in November for the annual Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild Holiday Lunch and Auction.

Festive tables, trees with tiny white lights, and Christmas music in the background all added to a magic wonderland atmosphere.

Tables around the room displayed crafts and holiday decorations for sale, silent auction and oral auction items from hand-made items, through gift certificates and a gigantic stuffed bear

adorned with Christmas décor.

Sunnycrest Nursery supplied the trees, and pianists were Marianne McColley and Ann Craven. This year's auction and sales items brought in about \$5,000, plus lunch ticket sales of \$1,600. Memorial donations and craft sales at the Festival of Trees in Tacoma will net a generous gift from the local group this year.

These proceeds benefit Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. The organization has donated annually from their various fund-raising events, including handcrafted items and Christmas wreath sales, the holiday lunch and auction.

Peninsula KEY NEWS

The Key Peninsula Holiday Guide is a supplement published by the Key Peninsula News.

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Key Peninsula Baptist Church
invites you to Celebrate CHRISTmas with us!

Wednesday December 15, 7:00 pm
Youth performance of *If Bethlehem Were Today*



Sunday December 19, 11:00 am
Bethlehem's Child, A Musical Cantata
Worship Service Following

Both Free Activities held at the KP Civic Center
For More Information Call Pastor Rouse at 253-853-6761



Christmas Day



By Debra McElroy

Cinnamon sticks and apple cider
And red-headed step-children
Chocolate eyes and peppermint kisses
All before waking
To rainfall and chill.

And there it is
On the outside, the dull light
Of expectation
The furnace kicks on in an explosion of heat
To warm my reluctant feet to move to
The stairs to move to the landing.

My stomach does cartwheels
As I see the bright paper the newsprint
Packages the ribbons and bows
Of homemade splendor
I stand holding my breath.

Get dressed for your Auntie
Eat breakfast with Grandma
Open gifts with cousins this
Muddy great day.

Then I smell
From the kitchen the generations
At work on the feast of the season

The evergreen season of fog and rain
And socks and toys
It's the food, it's the love
It's my grandmother's smile
In the rain through the fog
In the kitchen around the television set
Laugh the men
It's the family
The jokes, the cookies and pie.

The packages never yielded
The expected or desired
It is the family
It is grandma's arms.

*Debra McElroy lives and writes on the
Key Pen.*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A Special Message From the Key Center Civic Center

To all of you in the community who have shown your love and support in so many ways - volunteering for everything and serving on the board and just remembering to spread the word about our facility and helping it be used for all the community's needs -

THANK YOU!



To all in our community, we would like to wish you a very special Happy Holidays and may you be surrounded with love and the spirit of the holidays during this special time of year.



Deck the halls

Kathy Michaels and Jiji Sylstad decorate one of Sunnycrest Nursery's Christmas trees in November and deck out the rest of the store in preparations for the annual open house, which coincided with the Civic Center's November crafts fair.

*Photo by
Rodika Tollefson*

Happy Holidays from Cost Less!

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Canine makeovers with “A Lot of Love”

By Connie Harris
KP News

Three years ago Ladine Duran received a gift of love from a good friend, her own dog-grooming business. Locating in Key Center, Ladine, her family, and her best friend, Rhonda Brook, began washing, trimming and giving makeovers to the dogs on the Peninsula. After attending grooming school in Portland and apprenticing in New Mexico, she settled here, where Duran says she has found her serenity.

Each month, a drawing is held at A Lot of Love for a free makeover session as a gesture of customer appreciation. One of Duran's first customers was Sue Beck, whose Maltese Terrier, Buddy, was afraid of being groomed. That all changed when Beck started bringing Buddy to A Lot of Love.

“I tell him we're going to go get his hair cut and he'll just jump into the car,” Beck says.

Duran gives back to the community when she can, by donating her time and talent to various charities. She often

“I tell him we're going to go get his hair cut and he'll just jump into the car.”

-Sue Beck, customer

donates her grooming skills to the local schools for their fund-raising projects. Her recent donations included the Pink Panther Oktoberfest and several charity auctions held by the Lions' Club.

In addition to canine makeovers, this holiday season A Lot of Love is also sponsoring a canned food drive for pets. Dog and cat food collected will be given to the KPCS food bank for families who have pets. These donations can be brought to the shop during regular work hours, Tuesday through Saturday until Christmas.

To complete their holiday preparations, Duran invites dog owners to stop by, have their pets groomed and bring a donation. Photographs of the groomed canine can be arranged at the time of the appointment.



Photo by Danna Webster

Rhonda Brook, left, with her dog Teensea and Ladine Duran, right, holding Buddy Beck and Ki-Ki Manning.

Holiday traditions old and new bring fond memories

By Colleen Slater
KP News

This time of year many people recall their childhoods, and how special holidays were celebrated. “We always...” begins many a conversation as folks reminisce about their childhoods or early adult years.

Holiday meals with large family gatherings and special foods predominate in memories.

Judy Hardin notes that her family, of German and Pennsylvania Dutch descent,

always served pork roast with sauerkraut on New Year's Day as it was to bring good luck in the new year. “This tradition has been going on for as long as I can remember,” she says.

Jane Coby's mother always gave her children Lifesaver books at Christmas. She and her sister continue this tradition with their own children. The first Christmas after their mom died, Jane received a book of her own from her oldest sister.

Tor Johannessen relates that his Norwegian family always has pork in some

form for Christmas Eve dinner, when the family gathers. Traditional breads and red cabbage are also part of the meal. He recalls dancing around the Christmas tree as a child, and they have done it a few times in their own family.

Loc Meeker says food was always an important part of their holiday celebrations. Her parents had a restaurant in Viet Nam and raised animals. They are Catholic, and cooked turkey for Christmas, but Vietnamese foods are included, too.

Nicol Johnson says, “Grandma's Jell-O®” is always part of any holiday meal. Raspberry flavor, with fruit cocktail, Cool Whip®, crushed pineapple and cottage cheese makes it special.

Joyce Niemann has carried on the tradi-

tion of English plum pudding from her mother, who was at least third generation to make it each Christmas. Joyce's daughter Noel and granddaughter Nicole got into the act some years, too, so this is at least a six-generation tradition.

Kathryn Arnold tells of a tradition her adoptive mother began, and which Kathryn's stepchildren have continued to practice in their own families. “Mom Davidson set a gorgeous Christmas table with fine china, silver and crystal. In the center was a small, beautifully wrapped gift for everyone at the table. Wide satin red or green ribbons were tied from the gift to each place setting. After desert plates were

(See **TRADITIONS**, Page 5)



Photo courtesy of Dorothy Lonning

Dorothy Lonning's Christmas tradition involves adding a new house every year to her miniature village.

Last-minute shopping around the Key Pen

Check your list off at local shops

By Rodika Tollefson
KP News

If you're like many shoppers who leave their holiday list unchecked until the very last moment, save the stress of driving the busy roads and trying to park at crammed supermalls. Instead, support local businesses by doing your shopping on the Key Pen — you'll be surprised at how many choices the local shops offer!

Below are some ideas of what you can find driving around the peninsula's neighborhoods for all those special people on your list — as long as they've been good this year.

On peninsula's south end, at **Fairview Acres Country Store**, owners Coni and Ron Chaney will hold a holiday Open House Dec. 3-5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with refreshments, lavender tea and plenty of gift ideas. But you don't have to wait until the open house, go by during any other week for choices ranging from stockings (stuffed or empty), inexpensive stocking stuffers, hand-made lavender soaps and

cosmetics, gift items like tea pots and knick-knacks, their own line of jams, syrups and other goodies, spinning wheels and spinning supplies, and much more. Located in the area of Penrose Park, watch for signs off 158th or call 884-3107 for directions; store is closed Monday and Tuesday.

In Key Center, you can not only order custom wreath and centerpieces at **Sunnycrest Nursery**, but also find unique heart-warming presents, keepsakes, and Christmas décor as well as tree decorating ideas — check out their old-fashioned vintage tree that looks like one your grandparents had, or the rest of the store's corners all decked out in sparkly decorations. Present choices range from home décor, gardening gadgets and live Christmas trees to keepsakes including pewter "Serenity Angels" ornaments with sayings from Eleanor Roosevelt, Emily Dickinson and other writers. Owner Claudia Loy says, "We always have the hot spiced cider on." Sunnycrest can ship wreaths and floral arrangements worldwide as well as deliver locally but there is a cutoff date for guaranteed delivery.

Also in Key Center, check out **Nimrick's Furnishings Old and New**, which has old and vintage items ranging from furniture to tools and housewares, as well as watches, jewelry, perfumes, miniature collectibles and special holiday choices. The shop will hold a holiday open house Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m.

Down the street, you'll find presents for your handymen (or women) at **Capitol Lumber**.

As you go further north, stop at **Country Gardens**, off State Route 302 near the 76 gas station, and enjoy a latte while browsing through. Several trees decorated in themes this year include the patriotic red/white/blue and natural (with feathers, pine cones and the like), and unique gift choices range from stuffed animals, candles, vases, picture frames, to keepsakes. You can also order centerpieces and fresh florals there.

At the **Lake Kathryn shopping center**, **Cost Less Drugs** is a must-stop if you need toys, presents for sportsmen, cooks, and just about anyone else. You'll find portable CD players, action figures, home décor, holiday decorations, quilts, glassware, collectables, stocking stuffers and a large selection of greeting cards and tree lights. If you need an excuse to stop by, show up at the Open House on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a raffle drawing of a Nutcracker, 25 percent off on various items, free Santa photos and refreshments.

Our neighbors in Purdy as well as Allyn, Grapeview and Belfair also offer shopping choices that beat driving over the Narrows Bridge. In downtown Allyn, check out the gift store at the liquor shop and stop by **Kenny's Northwest Experience** that features a collection of beautiful woodcarvings by Northwest artists along with a variety of other gifts. Further down in Grapeview, **Garden Gate** is a holiday wonderland with one-of-a-kind wreaths and arrangements, fun garlands, fresh flowers and berries, unusual greenery and realistic-looking

(See **SHOPPING**, Page 6)

(From **TRADITIONS**, Page 4)

removed, each person pulled the gift to them, according to how Mom had placed the ribbons. It seemed even more fun than the typical Christmas morning because everyone enjoyed what everyone else received," she recalls.

At one time, she was going to drop this tradition because of the expense of gifts for the number of people present. Her teen stepdaughters decided to draw names to maintain the tradition. Kathryn arranged the satin ribbons, and each person attached the gift.

Laura Otto gathers her family on Christmas Eve for dinner and a gift exchange. For several years, she has given each adult family member a copy of some part of the family history she has compiled. One year this gift was a copy of an aunt's journal of her early teaching years.

Ursula Van Slyke's family gather on Christmas Eve at "Grandma Jane's" to share dinner and gifts. Ursula has taught her husband, daughter and grandsons "O Tannenbaum" in German, which is always included in the carol singing after dinner. Grandma Jane Van Slyke adds that

almost all of the family sing their own song (or in couples or family groups) and they always include her sister Carol's childhood rendition of "Away in the Manger." Carol sang it as "the little Norwegian lay down his sweet head."

One of my husband's family traditions is live candles on the Christmas tree. They always chose white pine and put it up on Christmas Eve so it would be fresh. White pines, when fresh, will turn to ash if burned, but not flame. Since his mother's birthday was a few days after Christmas, they lit the candles on that day, and if any visitors came who wanted to see the lighted candles on New Year's Day, they lit them once more, then took the tree down.

In our family, we stop other activities while the candles are lit, and sing Christmas carols. The youngest children are allowed to blow them out.



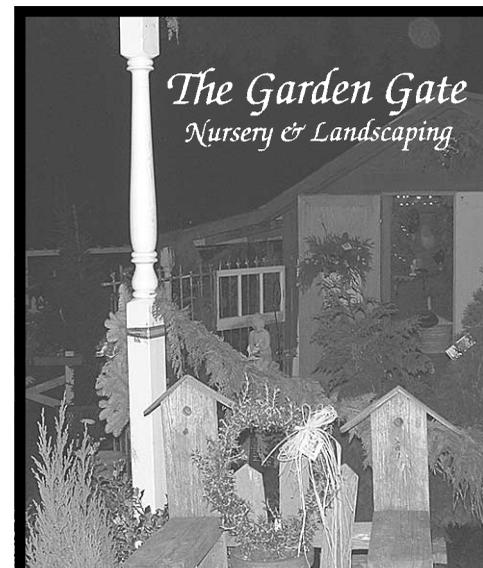
Some people have started new traditions in their own family.

Dorothy Lonning has been setting up her Christmas village of miniature houses for about 15 years. Each year she adds another house, so the town is filling in.

Rose Grant and her children have a family tradition that is only 40 years old for her family, although it's an older one for many. When her two boys were very young, as soon as the decorations went up they asked every day if it was Christmas yet. Rose started the tradition of holding out the baby Jesus from the nativity set until after they went to bed Christmas Eve. They checked the nativity often. On Christmas morning, two very excited little boys woke her to announce that it was indeed Jesus' birthday — the baby had arrived in the crèche.

A few years ago her youngest son visited soon after the decorations went up and wanted to know why the baby was in the crèche. "Didn't I know he was not supposed to appear until Christmas day?" writes Rose. "Oops. Needless to say I have continued to hold back the baby ever since."

Traditions are important in many families. Holidays bring families together, and familiar traditions recall many memories.



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(From **SHOPPING**, Page 5)

florals along with home and holiday décor and gifts ranging from hand-made mosaic mirrors to festive pillows. In Purdy, stop by **Country Expressions** where you can spend a few hours in the cozy space if you want to look at all the selections, which range from clocks and ornaments to snowmen and knick-knacks in Victorian, patriotic, outdoor, Shabby Chic and many other styles.

If you haven't found a gift after all this shopping — consider a gift certificate some pampering at **Serenity Salon and Spa** (expected to reopen the first week in December) or the gift of an art class offered by the **Two Waters Arts Alliance**. Two Waters also has a 2005 calendar featuring a local artist each month (\$15 available at Sunnycrest and other local outlets, with proceeds benefiting the arts organization).

Don't forget the local thrift stores for inexpensive decorations, **Angel Guild** in Key Center and **S.A.V.E.** in Purdy, which will have an Open House on Dec. 4 with refreshments and deals — and

the Key Pen grocery stores for your Turkey and fixings.



Anna Holland of Cost Less Drugs in Wauna stocks the shelves with holiday ornaments and gifts.

Photo by
Rodika
Tollefson

Holiday brief

Key Singers invite you to join holiday celebrations

The Key Singers Holiday agenda is:

- Dec. 5, 4 p.m. - Tree lighting and Santa's arrival at K.C. Corral;

- Dec. 11, 3 p.m. - Christmas festivities at Jackson Lake Sportsmen's Club;
- Dec. 12, 4 p.m. - Holiday Musicales - Chapel Hill Church;
- Dec. 15, 7 p.m. - Longbranch Improvement Club Christmas party; "Come and join us in the celebration of this joyous season," says Key Singer Barbara Bence.

Christmas at Chapel Hill

Come worship the light of the world!

Christmas on the Hill Concert
December 4, 7pm, Free

Jim Martinez Jazz Concert
December 11, 7pm, \$12

Christmas Eve Services
Family Services 4, 5:30pm
Carols and Candles 7, 8:30
Traditional Communion 10

Corner of Rosedale & Skansie Avenues
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arts alive on Key Peninsula



Two Waters joins the Key Peninsula News in wishing everyone on the Key Peninsula a joyous and artful holiday season!

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Winter holiday recollections

From the Key Peninsula Writers' Guild



Fox and Goose

By Carl Tucker

My winter holiday memory was snow on the ground. No school. All of the farm chores were done. It was about nine o'clock in the morning, and we three kids, ages of 8, 10 and 11 were out playing Fox and Goose in the pasture with our dog, Freck, and Thunder-n-Lightning, a pony.

The way we played it was to shuffle out a circle, then quarter it, then have one person or animal be the fox and the rest be the geese. The fox would chase the geese around the circle or in the slices until they caught one of the geese. This took a lot of time to set up and, with the help of the animals, no one became a true winner because after all the "no fairs" and "You didn't catch me," it usually ended up in utter chaos.

After playing for an hour or so, we would go in and warm ourselves by the wood cooking stove and have hot cocoa that Mom would have ready.

What our holidays were not

By Rae Dalton Hight

Winter is the quiet time in my life. Soft whispers of what our holidays were not mute the raucous sounds of "Jingle Bells" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Honoring the earth at Solstice through candle-lighting

and song has become the festival I embrace. Gazing into the eyes of my beloved on our anniversary just before the New Year is the celebration I most treasure. This brings me through the historical abyss of drunken slurs and fantasy wrappings around a smudged Goodwill dolly with a hand-me-down coat.

We've created new shadow marks on the walls of my memory: winter snow during a ski trip to Bend, Oregon; black-haired children singing "Feliz Navidad" in Mexico City; and a renewal of our wedding vows amidst the green and red holiday lights at Snoqualmie Falls. These new memories reflect my holiday magic, and have brought joy to what was once a troubled child's view through a window of despair.

Memories

By Connie Harris

Grandparents come across the miles to gather with the family. My sled is ready for the races down in town. Snowdrifts in front of each home need to be dug through. Dad and the boys should worry about clearing the walkways.

Did I mention my sled is waxed and shined, setting out front?

Last night, because I'm the girl of the family, I had to pull apart tons of bread for the stuffing. No one helped

me. And, I helped my dad set up the massive train system to run throughout the living room. It's so cool to make the town, the crossings, and the tunnel. The fire engine came tonight and the man who lives down the street came to our door. (I knew it was him because his beard fell off into the snow). He came in, proclaimed being the Big Guy's helper, and gave us a taste of what was to come in the morning.

My sled is starting to cover with snow. Did everyone see it out there?

After the grandparents get here, gifts are opened, and then of course, breakfast. It might be afternoon before I'm speeding down those hills to victory. This is the big neighborhood race. OK, now I have to do the dishes with "the women." My brothers left an hour ago.

Now it's time! Yea! I get my skates on, tuck my sled under my arm and go to the hills. The gift-giving was not important. This race is the greatest. I stand in line for my turn, jump on my sled and fly down that big hill trying to avoid the trees. This is great! I am the fastest.

I arrive at the bottom, which had been the center of a frozen pond. But now it is no longer totally frozen. I am wet and cold.

My dad will be so mad to have to come down here and carry me home. I'll have a cold now, miss school, and have to stay in the house for the rest of the holiday and do dishes. But I love this holiday, and the anticipation of it all.

Great Holiday Ideas!

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now open!

Bring this coupon for a free apple!

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Unique Gifts • Soy Candles • New & Vintage Cookware • Beads & Bead Supplies

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Next to New Brookside Restaurant
Across from Charboneau Const.

Hours: M-F 9-6 Sat. 10-4 Sun. 11-3

Have Yourself A
DIVALYCIIOUS
Christmas

Coming to:
Longbranch Improvement Club

Saturday
December 11, 2004
7:30pm

In styles that range from swing to gospel and everything in between the sassy, classy ladies of DIVALYCIIOUS have assembled the quintessential family-oriented musical entertainment to celebrate the Holidays!

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND JOIN US FOR THIS WONDERFULLY FESTIVE EVENING

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Holiday Dessert Bar and Beverages Available. Ticket prices: Adult: \$10 Child: \$5 (12 and under). Family of four (2 children minimum) \$25.

Tickets available at: Sunnycrest Nursery, Homestore & at door.

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from

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(253) 857-5362



All Times Are Approximate

Santa Comes To Town

Santa's 2004 Schedule

The Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association Will be sponsoring Santa's visit throughout the Key Peninsula area - with candy canes for the children and the young at heart. Check Santa's schedule for your neighborhood.



This Ad Sponsored by The Key Peninsula Business Association

- Alder Hill Farm
- Angel Guild
- Century Tel
- Charboneau Construction, Co.
- Close To Home Espresso
- Edward Jones Investments
- Keller Williams Reality
- Banner Expressions
- TJ's Treasures
- Gig Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Ellis Square D
- Homeport Restaurant & Lounge
- Horseshoe Lake Golf Course & Restaurant
- Key Bank
- Key Center Auto Repair
- Key Peninsula Civic Center
- Key Peninsula News
- Key Peninsula Fire Fighters
- Key Peninsula Health Center, Inc.
- Lake Kathryn Village Shopping Center
- Lakebay Marina
- North Bay Mortgage
- Northwest Herpetological Society
- Peninsula Gateway
- Peninsula Light, Co.
- Peninsula School District
- Pierce County Fire District 16
- Bischoff's Lakebay Farm
- Safe Streets Campaign
- Sound Credit Union
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- Chuck West
- Derek Kilmer
- Fred & Mary Ramsdell
- Jeff Harris
- John Biggs, Attorney
- John D. Olsson, D.D.S.
- Lois McMahan
- Nancy Lind
- Patricia Lantz



Sunday – December 5 – 4:00 p.m.

Tree Lighting – KC Corral

Tree lighting sponsored by The Key Peninsula Business Association. Tree furnished by Sunnycrest Farms. Thank you Key Peninsula Firefighters Local #3152 for hauling and setting up our tree.



Monday — December 6

- 6:00 – 6:15 pm Minterbrook Homes
- 6:15 – 6:30 pm Creviston Ridge
- 6:30 – 6:45 pm Fir Acres
- 6:45 – 7:30 pm Green Tree



Tuesday – December 7

- 6:00 – 6:15 pm Wind and Tides
- 6:15 – 6:30 pm Bell-Mar
- 6:30 – 6:45 pm Wauna Shores
- 6:45 – 7:00 pm Danforth Heights
- 7:30 – 8:00 pm Horseshoe Estates



Wednesday – December 8

- 6:00 – 6:45 pm Lake of the Woods
- 6:45 – 7:00 pm Bell Ridge
- 7:00 – 7:15 pm Huckleberry Ridge



Friday – December 10

- 6:00 – 6:45 pm Lake Holiday
- 6:45 – 7:00 pm Cramer Road and 134th Ave.
- 7:00 – 7:30 pm Key Peninsula Civic Center



Saturday – December 11

- 6:00 – 6:30 pm Jackson Lake Area
- 6:30 – 6:45 pm Cherry Crest Homes
- 6:45 – 7:30 pm McEwan Rd. and Home Area
- 7:30 – 8:00 pm Joemma Beach Farms



Sunday – December 12

- 6:00 – 6:30 pm Taylor Bay Estates
- 6:45 – 7:30 pm Palmer Lake

