



sponge

## *Cultural happenings around town*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SPONGE!** ¡Próspero Año Nuevo! Bonne Année! Xīn Nián Kuài Lè! People around the world celebrate the New Year with their own festive traditions. At midnight in Spain and Mexico, it is traditional to eat 12 grapes for good luck; France celebrates with a magnificent two-day festival in Paris; and China will observe the Year of the Snake in 2013. The staff and teachers at Sponge wish you a very happy holiday season!

**Festivals of Light: Chinese New Year**  
January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Seattle Center: Children's Museum  
<http://www.thechildrensmuseum.org/chinese-new-year>

Come celebrate and explore the Chinese New Year through performances by the Melody Dance Group and Northwest Wushu, as well as paper lantern crafts and traditional New Year foods.

**Images of China**  
by Dragon Arts Studio  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>  
Northwest Puppet Center  
<http://www.nwpuppet.org>

A collection of vignettes drawings from Chinese culture and literature. Performances include "Crane and Turtle," "The Donkey's Best Friend," and "The Old Man & The Monkeys."

**Seattle Children's Film Festival**  
January 24<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Northwest Film Forum  
<http://www.nwfilmforum.org/>  
<http://childrensfilmfestivalseattle.nwfilmforum.org>

The annual Children's Film Festival Seattle exhibits more than 120 international films for local children and families. The festival this year includes feature films from India, Germany, the Netherlands, France, China, and Brazil.

**Tamale Making Class**  
Select Saturday's every month (Upcoming:  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and March 16<sup>th</sup>)  
El Centro de la Raza  
<http://www.elcentrodelaraza.org>

Have you always wanted to learn how to make tamales? Here is your change to learn from a master tamalera!

**The Magic Teakettle**  
Thistle Theatre  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at Bellevue Youth Theater  
March 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> at Magnuson Park Theater  
<http://www.thistletheatre.org>

A priest returns an old teakettle to a peddler woman after it transforms into a tanuki (raccoon-like animal). He reveals he is Bubuku Chagama, a performing teakettle of good luck.

**Shen Yun**  
March 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Marion Oliver McCaw Hall  
<http://www.shenyunperformingarts.org>

Come watch the world's premier Chinese dance company, Shen Yun Performing and their distinctive blend of classical Chinese dance and music bring Chinese folktales to life. Drums, costumes, all original music and celebrated performers create an unforgettable experience for all.

Sponge offers Spanish class before school at Newcastle Island Elementary School. Email us at [info@spongeschool.com](mailto:info@spongeschool.com) if you have any questions or would like more information!