

Volume 1, Issue 6, December 2007

TRADITIONS

By: SARAH NABER

Holidays are filled with tradition and Southwick LA is no exception this holiday season. As a company we had our annual outing to the Ethel M's cactus garden as well as our Holiday Party. We have traditions in our families as well. With a short and very unofficial survey of our employees, we discovered what these family traditions are. We thought it would be fun to share.

Some of our employees do things such as horseback riding or surfing! Others watch football with the entire family. Most of our employee traditions have to do with food. One of our employee's said it wasn't Christmas without their grandma's cheesy potatoes, ham and mom's chex mix! Another employee said they always have Posole, which is a traditional Mexican soup-like dish.

Aside from food, gift exchanges are a big part of this time of year. Some open gifts in order of age, youngest to oldest. Others draw names, or have a white elephant gift exchange. One of our employees said they put together a puzzle while they wait for Santa to come.

Traditions are something we cherish. Sometimes those traditions must change to accommodate new people, places or events in our lives but in the end these traditions are what make the holidays special. We hope you have enjoyed learning about some of our traditions. And we hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.



HONOLULU APARTMENTS

2007 ASLA HONOR AWARD WINNER

The Honolulu Apartments are the newest look in affordable public housing. The site consists of one, two and three-bedroom homes and duplexes. The architecture and landscape architecture were designed to provide a usable, inviting and safe environment for the tenants. The landscape design includes semi-private outdoor spaces off of the individual patios, as well as public spaces that could be easily accessed by all tenants. Due to very limited outdoor space, the landscape design had to be smart. We used a more compact and educationally intelligent play system at the playground. The walls near the play area were raised to help prevent children from running into the street. In the end, the landscape design creates small, intimate outdoor rooms that provide comforting retreats from the hustle and bustle of the City beyond the housing complex.

MORE HOLIDAY EVENTS

Thank you to all who attended the Ethel M's Cactus Garden tour with SLA. Ethel M's is a local chocolate factory close to our offices. They are located at 2 Cactus Garden Drive in Henderson, Nevada. We had a great time and the holiday display was spectacular as usual. For those of you who missed out, the cactus garden remains lit until January 1st. If you come during SLA office hours, be sure to drop in and say hi! If you haven't had the chance to get the kids picture taken with Santa, he will be at Ethel M's every Friday and Saturday night from 5-9pm accompanied by carolers.

For those of you looking for more things to do with the family, The District at Green Valley Ranch has the Outdoor Picture Show every Friday and Saturday night at 7pm. Friday, December 21st Dr Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas will be shown and Saturday, December 22nd It's a Wonderful Life will be shown. For more show listings click the link below. The District will also have carolers on Friday & Saturday nights until the 22nd.

Also, be sure to check out the Da Vinci Exhibit now showing at the City of Henderson until March. This exhibit showcases more than 60 precise and interactive replicas developed by Leonardo da Vinci. Kids of all ages will enjoy this exhibit and it's educational too! For more information such as hours and ticket prices, check out Hendersonlive.com.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

For December, we would like to introduce you to Mark Talarico. A native of Montréal, Canada, he came to us a little over a year ago. A graduate of the Université de Montréal with a Bachelor's in Landscape Architecture. He says the diverse culture attracted him to Las Vegas. Also, he liked the idea of designing healthy, drought tolerable landscapes for the desert environment. He states that as a child he was attracted to the social-cultural influences in landscape. It was only a matter of time before he discovered this profession. Aside from his professional experience, he has worked as a stone-caster, brick-mason and landscape gardener. You could say he's seen this profession from many angles. When he is not at the office, he enjoys running, road trips and punk-rock concerts. He also claims to pose as a skateboarder.



Imagination is more important than knowledge.
Albert Einstein

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



PILLAR OF LIGHT
THE PANTHEON IN ROME, ITALY
TAKEN BY: LINDZAY GREEN