Migration-Themed Nativity Play Reaches New Audiences, but Loses ‘Joseph’ to Deportation

By Linda Hartke

Reprinted through the Courtesy of and Permission by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

It’s great to use this article to lift up the voices of creative people who “Stand for Welcome.” I’d like to introduce an interview with Pastor Patrick Cabello Hansel of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Minneapolis. The interview captures an amazing creative retelling of the Nativity, and the heart-breaking way in which modern life has intruded on the ancient story.

The Nativity story has been retold in a myriad of ways. It has been adapted to the stage and the screen. It has been painted by Paul Gaugin. It has been translated into Spanish and Mandarin, Tagalog and French. In the Phillips Community of Minneapolis, however, the age-old story was told in a Completely unique way, and with current migrants. The event is an interactive bilingual theater experience that tells the Nativity story through the eyes of an immigrant family in America.

Participants follow Maria and Jose through a portion of the neighborhood as they recount the story of Jesus’ birth. By melding the traditional narrative with current immigration issues, new light is shed on both stories.

The role of King Herod takes on new meaning as he shouts anti-immigrant propaganda about border security and job stealing, and the immigrant experience is humanized as we see just how much 14-year old Mary, or Maria, is shed on both stories.

of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Mpls.

Linda Hartke is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service President and CEO.

Read the interview on page 8.
January Programs at the Franklin Library

BY ERIN THOMASSON
Children & Family Programs
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sat, 3:30–7:30 p.m. Free tutoring K-12. No sign-up.

Family Storytime
Wed, 10:30 a.m. Age 2 & up. Books, stories, music, and movement with your children.

Family Movie Matinee
Sat Jan. 19, 1:30–3:30 p.m. For families. Movies and activities for the whole family.

Teen Programs

4-H Mentoring Club: Youth from Calvary Church, Donna Neste, Andrew, Beverly, Brad, Carol, Christine, Patrick, Leon, Cathy, Dave, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Jacy, Jana, Heidi; Howard, Marjorie, Midtown Phillips, Muriel, Paul, Phillips West, Raymond, Sleight, Tara, Will. Will you deliver a block or two of your neighborhood? Call Harvey 612-990-4022

Teen Anime Club
Wed, Jan. 9–Feb. 27, 4–6 p.m. Weekly viewing, background, discussion.

Teen Comic Book Club
Wed, Jan. 9–Feb. 27, 4–6 p.m. Choose movie titles to ensure viewing for helpful comments and suggestions.

Adult Programs
Seniors Play-Reading Group: Fri Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Stimulating reading and discussion of short plays. Nonfiction Book Discussions for Elder Learners
Fri Jan. 11, 1–3 p.m. Read and discuss the works of nonfiction writers. Info: 612-543-5475

Mystery Writing Group
Thurs Jan. 17, 1–3 p.m. Create a record of your history. Bring what you have written to read for helpful comments and suggestions.

Phillips Technology Center: Franklin Library
Wed, Fri & Sat: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

- Microsoft Word: Basics
- Microsoft Excel: Basics
- Computer Skills Workshop

Young Achievers
Thurs thru Feb. 28, 4:30–6:30 p.m. What to be involved in your community? Concerned about health and lifestyle? Come for poetry, arts, games.
By Connie Norman

Now that the holidays are over, what's next in the Minnesota long, cold winter! How about trying something new for your fitness routine or if you don’t have a fitness routine come to Running Wolf Fitness Center and get started! Here are some tried and true suggestions for your better year!

1. Keep the alcohol and desserts to twice-a-week.
We all want to go a little crazy on the sweets and drinks during the holidays, and if you eat “clean” the other five days of the week you can afford a little indiscretion in your diet. A lot of my clients even commit to a “dry” January to help them get back on track—no alcohol until February 1st.

2. Add intervals to your workouts.
Study after study show that working past your comfort zone by varying the intensity of exercises, no matter what your fitness level is, can elevate your metabolism for up to 36 hours AFTER your workout; this extra boost can be what keeps you from putting on a few pounds even with some indulging!

3. Take a Yoga or Tai-Chi class to help de-stress.
Increased levels of cortisol (the stress hormone) have been shown to add inches to your mid-line, and a few peaceful mantras might be just what the doctor ordered when you’re going to be dealing with your in-laws.

It’s been said so many times, but it’s so true. Often people think they’re hungry when they’re actually dehydrated. Plain water is the best, but coconut water is a close second because it helps to naturally replace electrolytes lost, it’s low in calories and can help your skin glow.

5. Motivation follows action.
It’s my favorite saying when it comes to making workouts a regular part of your life. When you’re sitting on the couch feeling completely unmotivated, force yourself to get up, get into your workout clothes and out the door. Once you start moving the motivation will almost definitely kick in!

6. Something is better than nothing.
It’s easy to decide to skip all activity when getting to the gym isn’t a possibility, but even something as simple as taking two steps at a time up the stairs can burn a few extra calories, tone your glutes and get you to where you’re going to a bit faster. Build exercise into your home or office during breaks or lunch.

7. Check out a new class.
The new year is a great time to check out a class at Running Wolf, or check out one of the many park buildings, schools or malls or other agencies that allow walking indoors—you live in the best city for fitness...it’s everywhere!

8. Work your core while you’re waiting for the bus.
Engaging the core in balance exercises is easy, fun and can be done pretty much anywhere. When you look at that timetable and see that the bus isn’t coming for 8 more minutes, challenge yourself to stand on one foot for 4 minutes and on the other foot until the bus arrives. As we get older our balance declines which can lead to slips and falls and often injuries. Maintaining good balance is a great way to stay healthy. Running Wolf offers Tai Chi and other classes for better balance to prevent falls this winter!

So come and join us at Running Wolf for your best healthy new year! Call (612)872-2388 for more information on membership and classes or come to take a tour of the facility and get started! Happy New Year from Running Wolf Fitness Center! 2323 11th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404

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Happy New Year!

HN Cty Library has reprinted The Alley 1976 thru 2007 and Bound in 13 volume set at Main Library and Franklin Library. This year they will reprint and bind 2008 thru 2012. THANK YOU.
Lincoln (2012) Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis (Abraham Lincoln), Sally Field (Mary Todd Lincoln), Daniel Day-Lewis (Robert Latham), Jackie Earle Haley (Alexander Stephens), Tommy Lee Jones (Thaddeus Stephens), Joseph Gordon-Levitt (Robert Todd Lincoln), Michael Stanton Kennedy (Hiram Price), Jared Harris (Ulysses Grant), Hal Holbrook (Francis Preston Blair), John Hutton (Senator Charles Sumner), Gloria Reuben (Elizabeth Keckley).

There’s something special about “Lincoln” even though it’s been done in film before, Spielberg’s “Lincoln” even though it’s been done in film before, but it’s a joy to applaud “Playbook” not only because it’s David O. Russell’s but because it’s one of those handful of intelligent comedies today.

Lincoln is a conversation with the details of a monumental figure such as Spielberg/Kushner’s Lincoln.

As the Civil War nears its end, Lincolns methodically studies the Thirteenth Amendment in a chamber of naysayers. The scenes of Democrats and the newly established Republicans having heated debates is indicative of what happens to this day.

The 16th president of the United States—Abraham Lincoln—as it is presented under DreamWorks—focuses on the final months of his life. Selena is a film refined with the details of a monumental figure such as Spielberg/Kushner’s Lincoln.

As engrossing as I find “Lincoln,” an acute element unfortunately is missing from Spielberg’s period piece: no mention (much less a character) of Sojourner Truth or Frederick Douglass. Truth and Douglass, both contemporaries of Lincoln, if nothing else are the moral compass to Lincoln who vacillates over freeing all the slaves, freeing some of the slaves or freeing none of the slaves in order to reunite a divided country during the Civil War, in the end 600,000 died. If one myth about him over other myths about him it is Lincoln loves (or loved) Black people. Nothing is further from the truth. Neither the movie “Lincoln” nor the last 152 plus years of the Lincoln race myth perpetrated by white “scholars” to this day has the myth been dispelled.

FINANCIAL FIELD (Philadelphia Daily News, for getting into a brawl at one of the shows. His satisfaction would come if only his son will sit with him and Pat Sr.’s friends watching the game while his wife cooks goodies for them. Bet on the game go on urged by Pat Sr., serious bets sometimes by these white blue-collar people (David O. Russell also highlights in “The Fighter”). Pat Sr. may be a fanatic Eagles fan, but his son is far more delusional than he is. Tiffany had several affairs before her husband dies in a car accident. She thinks the people in the neighborhood thinks she’s the town whore; something of which she is not altogether shamed and Russell doesn’t want his female lead to eat crow nor does he want his male lead to suffer for an accident, composed by Tom Woodling and Martin Dosh. Each evening’s show will be followed by interactive art tutorials, live music, dance performances, and more.}

Lincoln & Silver Lining's Playbook

Howard McQuitter II Movie Corner Howardsmoviemcorner.com

PA PENNSYLVANIA, W.N. Bilbo (James Spader) seeks support for the Thirteenth Amendment in a chamber of naysayers. The scenes of Democrats and the newly established Republicans having heated debates is indicative of what happens to this day.

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Silver Linings Playbook (2012) Cast: Bradley Cooper (Pat, Pat Solitano), Robert De Niro (Pat Jr.), Jennifer Lawrence (Tiffany), Jacki Weaver (Dolores), Chris Tucker (Danny), Annapurna Kh (Dr. Cliff Patel), (M) Running time: 120 minutes. Director: David O. Russell. Written by Matthew Q. Muck.

For a change, though, a comedy has my “blessing,” a silver lining, mind you, in David O. Russell’s linear gory of a movie walking on a thin line about mental illness by eliciting humor in not necessarily on the level of David O. Russell’s “The Fighter” (2010), it’s a joy to applaud “Playbook” not only because it’s David O. Russell’s but because it’s one of those handful of intelligent comedies today.

Pat Solitano (Brad Cooper) is a bipolar substitute history teacher and former athlete, return to his hometown Philadelphia, after his mother Dolores (Jacki Weaver) convicts the courts to release him from a mental hospital in Baltimore. Danny (Chris Tucker) befriended Pat while both men are at the mental hospital. Pat’s coming home to eager parents as his father Pat Sr.(Robert De Niro), wants to re-bond with son by sitting with him and watching the Philadelphia Eagles games. Pat Sr. is a rabid Eagles fan always challenging his buddy—a Dallas Cowboys fan on whose team will win. (Pat Sr. certainly wouldn’t be happy with his 2012 Philadelphia Eagles; neither would his buddy be sure about his 2012 Dallas Cowboys going to the playoffs.)

Pat’s bipolar disorder spills over into his parent’s home causing them more long-suffering. Pat also has a restraining order by his wife after he catches her with his history professor (she leaves town after the incident) in the shower, which he beats the guy up. His wish to re-unite with her perhaps triggers the Saturday Morning Puppet Shows for Kids!

In this funny scientific adventure, Dark Energy and Gravity epically battle (top and otherwise) over which of them is the most important force in the universe. On the advice of an alien puppet band (and their dog), the cosmos to enlist the judgement of the wise Singularity.

JANUARY 19 Puppet Pirates Ahoy! The Leierwood Family Players Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum! Sing along with the Leierwood Family Puppeteers and Puppeteers Ahoy! JUNE 26 Dog N.O.S. (Báltik el perro náufrago)

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TICKETS $15, $12 students and seniors (No one turned away for lack of funds)

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre - 1500 East Lake St 612-721-2535

Saturday Morning Puppet Shows for Kids!

SHOWTIMES 10 AM & NOON IN HOBIT’S AVALON THEATER LOBBY 1500 EAST LAKE STREET “Make-n-Take” family workshop based on day’s theme at 11:00 AM between shows each Sat. $5/person.

$2 suggested donation for youth who live or go to school in the Central, Corcoran, Phillips or Powderhorn neighborhoods, and their families. Live elsewhere?, a $4 donation is requested. JANUARY 5 Lupita Doesn’t Want to Sleep Gustavo Bouda This story of a cute and playful girl who always finds a way to keep playing highlights the joyful moments of relationships between children and parents.

JANUARY 12 Dark Matters South Side Puppeteers

A puppet-poem-mashup inspired by The Little Prince, The Epic of Gilgamesh and the anime Low the journey of a mysterious kid hunting for a lost companion. An original puppet poem by Bart Buch and Tony Kushner. Performance by Sally Field) and in his wife and First Lady, Gloria Reuben (Elizabeth Keckley). There’s something special about “Lincoln” even though it’s been done in film before, Spielberg’s “Lincoln” even though it’s been done in film before, but it’s a joy to applaud “Playbook” not only because it’s David O. Russell’s but because it’s one of those handful of intelligent comedies today.

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Pat’s bipolar disorder spills over into his parent’s home causing them more long-suffering. Pat also has a restraining order by his wife after he catches her with his history professor (she leaves town after the incident) in the shower, which he beats the guy up. His wish to re-unite with her perhaps triggers the behavior of bipolar disorder more accurately than what may be displayed elsewhere in some other films.
Newtown and Us

BY FRANK ERICKSON

The United States is by far the number one exporter of weapons in the world. The profit the U.S. makes is in the billions. The United States make a lot of money selling weapons abroad, but this in turn makes the world a very dangerous place.

When U.S. snipers were killing Iraqis, we heard no talk of gun control. After a U.S. soldier killed 16 women and children in Afghanistan, there was no talk of gun control. When Henry Sibley took a group of soldiers deep into Dakota Territory after the “U.S.-Dakota War,” and shot and killed over 150 women and children, there was no talk of gun control. 150 years ago, Native Americans would have been strong advocates of gun control around here. I believe in gun control. I just think the timing is suspect.

The United States was created based on the lack of gun control. There is a reason why there are 200 million whites in America, and only 5 million Native Americans—GUNS! My white ancestors were very good at making and using guns. Now that Americans have gotten control of everything thanks to the lack of gun control, it now is time to clean up this mess. Gun control is only talked about when the threat of gun violence affects the white population in America.

How could we even consider gun control, we are guns, we owe it all to guns, and it only seems fair…that if the U.S. is going to be the number one producer and seller of weapons, that we would have a gun infested society. It would be very odd if we had this peaceful gun free society, but then we were flooding the rest of the world with weapons.

They divorced but remained close friends until Sally’s death in a bicycle accident in 2000. Jim began his teaching career at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, in 1962, and then was a founding faculty member at a new Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, in 1963.

In 1982 he moved back to Minneapolis, where he volunteered for a number of community organizations dedicated to social justice and ecological sustainability, including Northern Sun Alliance, Organizing Against Pornography, the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, and the Land Stewardship Project.

And, perhaps most central in his life, he was an extremely skilled farmer-gardener.

Jim’s insights into all of these endeavors form a keen intellect, wide-ranging practical skills, a much-respected work ethic, and a deep capacity for love. His many former students, comrades, and friends will continue to remember Jim and the model he offered for living with integrity on “the human estate of grief and joy.”

A memorial service is being planned for the spring.

Ralph Rye

In Memory

Rye, Ralph

Olive, Wisconsin

South Mpls died unexpectedly Dec 14, 2012

Ralph was born Jan 15, 1948 to Marvin and Arudy (Erdal) Rye. Ralph was a graduate of Alden MN HS, U of MN Mpls, served in Peace Corps Ghana, taught school in Hurstbridge, Australia. After retiring from Excel Energy, Ralph enjoyed his second home in Oliver, WI, road trips, family and volunteering. He will be deeply missed. Ralph is survived by his wife, Mary Lovick Rye; daughters, Hannah (Chris) Wilkowske, Moab, UT; Ellen (Rafael) Echenique, Crystal, MN; and sons, Joseph, Wakefield, RI; and grandchildren, Magdalena, Ingeborg, Franco, Joaquín, and Joao Lauter. Son-in-law, Kezia, Beatriz; sister Amelia Nossum; brother Marty (Kay) Rye; Aunts
Interview between Luke Telander and Patrick Cabello Hansel

Luke: Where did the idea for La Natividad come from? How did you and your church become involved?

Patrick: Luisa and I had integrated arts into our ministries in the Bronx and Philadelphia, and when we moved to Minneapolis in 2005, we noted that in The Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater was two blocks away. By chance, we ran into (figuratively) Sandy Spieler, the artistic director of the theater in Target’s parking lot. Soon we began to meet and talk about a way to enact the Christmas story from the point of view of our shared concerns, one which is primarily immigrant, mainly undocumented, multilingual and multicultural.

Luke: What is the main message you are hoping will come across from the performance?

Patrick: That the birth of Jesus is not merely an historic event, but an event that is happening in our midst, and that people’s struggles today are very much connected with the struggle of Mary and Joseph.

Luke: Why do you think that the Nativity story is particularly well suited to showcase the modern immigration experience?

Patrick: Primarily because it is so much about migration, and people having to move because of powerful forces. Joseph and Mary have to travel when she’s nine months pregnant, not because of their choosing, but because the faraway emperor demands it. They have the baby in a stable, not because of their choice, but because no one welcomed them. Soon after, they are hunted by a man in a stable, a king who has come to murder them.

Luke: The audience is hearing the Nativity story. What advice would you give to people talking to the audience?

Patrick: Yes! One of the most exciting parts of our new Latino members of our congregation being able to join the cast. We’ve also been able to connect urban folks with a lot of suburban people.

Luke: Recently, the struggles depicted in La Natividad became very real, as the family of the first baby Jesus and Mary was broken apart by deportation. What has that changed the way you view this event?

Patrick: For me, and for a lot of people in the church and the community, it has made it even more poignant. The way that La Natividad portrays the Christmas story, we don’t leave out the painful parts, including Herod’s murderous rage, the tension between Mary and Joseph, and their need to migrate—first because of a government decree, and then because of the threat to murder the child. We accompanied the family to the airport when the father was deported, and it was very painful to see how painful it was for him, his wife and children.

Luke: Does having the audience travel with the family through the story create a sort of solidarity?

Patrick: We certainly hope so. Part of our purpose is to build bridges among different people, cultures, etc. Also, the travelling takes place in several venues—all of which is normal, everyday places for immigrants, including a restaurant, a plaza hallway, and the street they live on.

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Luke: How have you and your church become involved?

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La Natividad*

BY PATRICK CABELO HANSEL

Maria, you shop for tortillas, the tongue’s comfort, a bed to lay the evening meal upon. One eye out for La Migra, one ear cocked for a shout, a boot, a hard knock on the door. You hear the bells of tricky angels troubling, the voice of God that sells you your womb is a quarry of bright diamonds, a pond bearing wounded fish in the world. How to explain to a man who spends his days talking to wood? Finally, you walk. Together and alone. You face your feet and the child feasting on your darkness and you carry into the night, trusting that the dust you walk on, the water you caress with your eyes is the same dust.