

# NORTH CAROLINA CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

By Karen Grossmann

As the holidays rapidly approach, we look forward to the festivities which remind us of the spirit of Christmas. Singing carols around the tree, sipping hot cocoa, and warming by the fire -- ah, 'tis the season! And going home for that "long winter's nap"...

But wait -- there's an abundance of activities being sponsored by several towns and cities here in North Carolina. While you are at home, you may want to check out these "local spots" for a jolly good time.

In Asheville, the Biltmore House and Gardens holds a traditional (and lavish!) Open House from Dec. 3-31. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$9 for students. Biltmore Village Inn serves an elaborate Christmas fare at 7 pm daily from Dec. 3-31. (Prices vary.) Holiday music, hand-made ornaments, and crafts sales characterize "Christmas with the Guild" at the Folk Art Center. Hours from Dec. 4-31 are 9 am-5 pm, and there is no admission charge. Also, wreaths, trees, candles, and Victorian ornaments highlight a visit to the Thomas Wolfe Memorial. Open Dec. 21-31; Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am-5 pm; Sunday, 1 pm-5 pm. (Admission is \$1.)

In Carrboro, "Artschool Christmas Events" are scheduled through Dec. 22. Features include holiday films on the 15th and 22nd (4 pm; cost \$1.25.), and a children's theatre presentation on the 17th and 18th (3 pm; cost-\$1.50.) Chapel Hill celebrations might include a trip to the Morehead Planetarium at UNC to see "Star of Bethlehem" (showtimes vary; admission is \$2.75 for adults and \$2.00 for students.) The Ackland Art Museum is exhibiting artworks relative to the winter season. There is no charge and hours are 10 am-5 pm Tuesday-Saturday and 2-6 pm on Sunday. The Horace Williams House on Rosemary Street is decorated to portray state legends, and is open Dec.

12-21, 10 am-5 pm weekdays, and 2 pm-5 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

Charlotte's holiday celebration begins with "Christmas Time in the City" from Dec. 2-22. Tours of the Fourth Ward Homes in Uptown Charlotte and a series of Christmas concerts and carols are featured. A Dickens-style Christmas waits for you at Carowind's Winterfest. Holiday foods, decorations, crafts, and outdoor entertainment daily through Dec. 31, 2-10 pm; Saturdays, 10 am-10 pm. Cost: \$3.50 per person.

In Dallas, N.C., you won't find J.R., but the Gaston County Museum will display trees decorated by area residents and civic groups. (Through Jan. 1; no charge; hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm; Saturday, 10 am-2 pm; and Sunday 2 pm-5pm.)

In good 'ole Durham, the holiday spirit abounds at the Durham Arts Council tree exhibit (Dec. 4-17). Hours are 9 am-9 pm Tuesday-Thursday; 9 am-5 pm Monday and Friday; and 10 am-3 pm on Saturday. (Free)

Carl Sandburg's Home will

## Hanukka Highlights Jewish Year

By Kris Fusser

Now that the month of December is upon us, most people begin to think of Christmas and all of the traditional Christmas trimmings. For those members of the NCSSM community who are not Christians, this time of year may not have the same meaning.

In a society which is predominantly Christian, such as ours, the other religious and secular celebrations in December are often overlooked. However, it is important to remember that the Christian celebration of Christmas is not the only other thing that is happening in December.

December is also the time of the Jewish celebration of Hanukka or the Feast of Dedication. This celebration commemorates the Maccabean victories over the Seleucid King Antiochus IV Epiphanes and the rededication of the temple at Kislev in 164 BCE (Before the Common Era). This celebration is significant because it is held in honor of the first Jews who fought for their faith rather than their lives.

be opening Flat Rock, N.C. through January 6. Guided tours are daily, 9 am-5 pm (no charge). Gastonia's Schiele Museum presents "Star of Bethlehem" Dec. 17 (3 pm) and Dec. 18 (3 and 4 pm) and there is no charge. The museum also offers a colonial Christmas celebration on Dec. 18 (1-6 pm) which includes a candlelight service of scripture and carols.

The Green Hill Center for N.C. Art in Greensboro will hold its crafts display Dec. 4-23. Hours are 10 am-5 pm Tuesday-Friday, and 2 pm-5 pm Saturday-Sunday (free).

Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" will be presented Dec. 14-18 by the N.C. Shakespeare Festival at the High Point Theatre. This touching tale is performed at 8:15 pm each evening, with a 2 pm show on the 17th (\$8 general admission).

The Twelve Days of Christmas will be celebrated Dec. 14-25 in Kenansville with concerts, a tree-lighting, and many other activities. Most events begin at 6 pm. In Marion, N.C., craftsmen and merchants are preparing for an old-fashioned Christmas

(cont. on p.8)

The celebration of Hanukka was started in the Persian and Greco-Roman periods by Jewish authorities. The celebration begins on the 25th day of the month of Kislev in the Jewish calendar and lasts for eight days. This time corresponds roughly to the time of the Christian celebration of Christmas.

During Hanukka, one additional candle on the candelabrum, in remembrance of the temple lampstand, is kindled each of the eight evenings of the celebration.

Unlike major Jewish celebrations, Hanukka lacks work restrictions and is generally a time of gift-giving and festive songs and meals.

For other major religions, there is no festival or religious celebration which corresponds to Christmas. However, one of the two major festive days of Islam has a vague resemblance to the Christian celebration. The celebration of Id al-Fitr, which celebrates the end of the month of Ramadan, is also a holy

(cont. on p.8)

