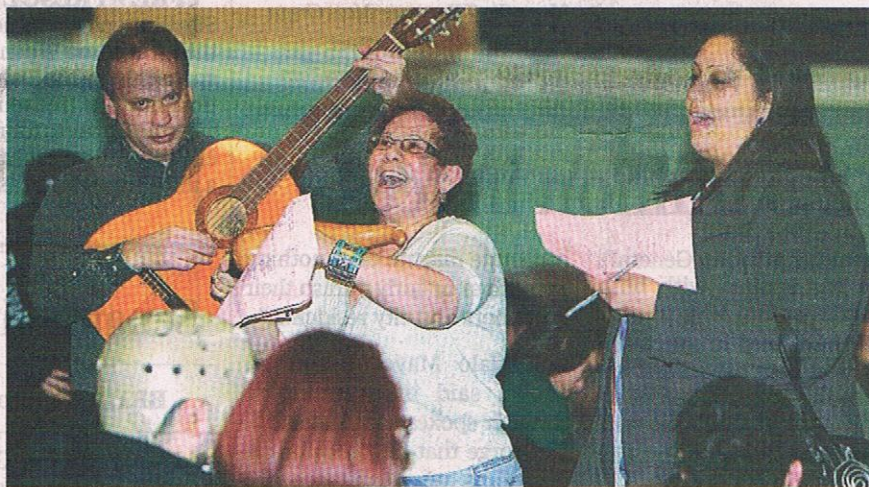


CITY & REGION

THE BUFFALO NEWS / FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

Three kings bearing gifts / School 76 celebration



Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News
Hispanic tradition: El Día De Los Tres Reyes Magos — or Three Kings Day — was celebrated Thursday evening in Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy, School 76. Above, retired teacher John Sinclair gives a gift to Max Matos, 2, who is being held by his mother, Marisol Madera. At left, Hispanic carols are led by school counselor William Breen and bilingual special education teachers Marta Rodriguez and Hamiffa Khan. More photos on Picture Page, C8.

Three Kings Day celebrations set

NEWS STAFF REPORTS

The Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York invites everyone to celebrate the Hispanic tradition called El Dia De Los Tres Reyes Magos — or Three Kings Day.

The custom dates back to the early 16th century and is celebrated 12 days after Christmas to commemorate the biblical story of Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar, the three kings who visited Jesus after his birth bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On Jan. 5 in many Latin American countries, children prepare boxes filled with hay to represent the manger baby Jesus lay in. The boxes are placed under the youngsters' beds, and

the next morning, they wake up to find three gifts in their boxes that represent the three gifts that were given to baby Jesus.

The observance also is called the Feast of the Epiphany.

Three Kings Day will be celebrated at a variety of venues this weekend and next, the Hispanic Heritage Council announced. The celebration often includes gifts for children in the community.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, One World Tribe, a music and dancing show that includes funk, Latin and world beat sounds featuring performers from Africa, Jamaica and Puerto Rico, will headline the celebration in Albright-Knox Art Gallery, 1285 Elmwood Ave.

The day also will be celebrat-

ed:

- At 5:30 p.m. Friday in Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy School 76, 315 Carolina St.

- At 4 p.m. Saturday in the Pucho Olivencia Center, 261 Swan Street.

- In a Spanish Mass at 11:30 a.m. Sunday in St. Anthony Catholic Church, 306 Ingham St., Lackawanna.

- At 12:30 p.m. Sunday in Holy Cross Catholic Church, 345 Seventh St.

- At 10:40 a.m. Jan. 13 in Frederick Law Olmsted School 64, 345 Olympic Ave.

For information, go to www.facebook.com/HispanicHeritageWNY.

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