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**Seattle Author Writes About Brazil's Shantytowns
and the Turbulent Realities of Creating a Center for Impoverished Girls**

Dance Lest We All Fall Down: A Journey of Friendship, Poverty, Power and Peace
by Margaret Willson

SEATTLE, Washington - December 18, 2007 – Seattle anthropologist Dr. Margaret Willson details her experiences living in a Brazilian shantytown and helping to found an education center for impoverished girls in her newly released book, *Dance Lest We All Fall Down: A Journey of Friendship, Poverty, Power, and Peace*. Willson describes how she, a middle-class white American, joins forces with an African-Brazilian shantytown activist, Rita Conceição, to change the violence and despair they see around them. Their pledge to the shantytown residents to create a top-quality educational center for girls becomes a remarkable journey that takes readers from the shantytowns of Northeastern Brazil to urban Seattle to high-society London. With the author, readers will experience a world of drug dealers, street urchins and *capoeiristas*, English socialites and power-hungry ‘do-gooders.’

Dance Lest We All Fall Down is a true story, a tale of hope, inspiration, courage, passion and intrigue. Just released, it follows in the genre of such works as Tracy Kidder’s *Mountains Beyond Mountains* and Greg Mortenson’s *Three Cups of Tea*. Readers are already describing *Dance Lest We All Fall Down* as “compelling,” “a real page-turner,” and “the most riveting book I’ve read in years.”

Margaret Willson has lived in the United States, China, Australia, Papua New Guinea, England, and Brazil. She did her Ph.D. at the London School of Economics and has taught in universities in the United States and Europe. Bahia Street, the nonprofit organization that Willson and Rita Conceição created, is now in its eleventh year, with three of its first students in university. Willson currently serves as Bahia Street’s International Director and lives in Seattle where she was recently awarded the Thomas C. Wales Award for Passionate Citizenship for her work in Brazil.

Dance Lest We All Fall Down is available through major distributors. All proceeds support Bahia Street programs.

Margaret Willson is available for interviews. Please contact her at margaret@bahiastreet.org or (206)633-1724.

Upcoming book events:

February 21, 2008: Book discussion and signing, Columbia City branch of Seattle Public Library (6:30-7:30pm)

February 23, 2008: Writers Weekend at Port Ludlow

For more information:

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