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# Arts

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## Spare Times

Published: December 16, 2005

Photo: MUSEUMS -- A detail from Robert Walter Weir's "St. Nicholas." (Photo by Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture at the New-York Historical Society)

### Attractions

### Museums and Sites

**FRAUNCES TAVERN MUSEUM**, 54 Pearl Street, second floor, Lower Manhattan. The museum, in a former tavern, is dedicated to the study and interpretation of early American history and culture. Tuesday night at 6:30, "Sing We All Merrily," a musical celebration of an 18th-century Christmas, with Linda Russell & Companie; fee, \$15 (members, \$10). Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Sundays and Mondays. Admission: \$4; \$3 for those under 18 and 65+; free for children under 6. (212) 425-1778.

**HISTORIC RICHMOND TOWN**, Staten Island Historical Society, 441 Clarke Avenue, Richmond Town. More than 25 buildings from the late-17th to the 19th centuries, restored and furnished. Tomorrow at 5 p.m., a candlelight tour of holiday preparations of the period; fee, \$27.50; members of the Staten Island Historical Society, \$22; prepaid reservations necessary: (718) 351-1611, ext. 280. Hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Museum admission: \$5; 62+, \$4; students and children 5 to 17, \$3.50; children under 5 and members, free. (718) 351-1611.

**MERCHANT'S HOUSE MUSEUM**, 29 East Fourth Street, East Village. This preserved late-Federal brick house with a Greek Revival interior, once owned by Seabury Tredwell, a wealthy hardware dealer, was built in 1832. Through Jan. 9, "The Gifts of Christmas Past: A Mid-19th-Century New York Holiday," with the museum decked out in period splendor. Self-guided tours are available on weekdays, guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays. Hours: Thursdays through Mondays, noon to 5 p.m. Admission: \$8; students

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and 65+, \$5; members and children under 12, free. (212) 777-1089.

**MOUNT VERNON HOTEL MUSEUM AND GARDEN**, 421 East 61st Street, Manhattan. Candlelight tours with seasonal music and refreshments. Tonight at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30; and tomorrow at 4, 5 and 6 p.m. The 4 p.m. tour tomorrow is geared to children 4 and older; fee, \$15, members, \$12; children, \$6; reservations recommended. Also tomorrow night at 7:30, a holiday concert featuring the Bond Street Euterpean Singing Society, an a cappella group; tickets, \$20; members, \$18; children, \$10. Tickets for both the tour and concert, \$30, \$28 and \$16. Museum hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$5; students and 62+, \$4; under 12, free. (212) 838-6878.

**MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**, Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street. Sunday, "Posadas y Pastorelas: A Traditional Mexican Holiday Celebration," with music, cooking and craft workshops, at 2 p.m.; a play at 3 p.m.; a Posada procession at 3:30 p.m.; and a party with piñatas and refreshments at 4 p.m.; free with museum admission. Presented with the Center for Traditional Music and Dance and Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders. Festivities included in suggested museum admission: \$7; 62+ and students, \$5; families, \$15. Hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (212) 534-1672.

**MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE**, 36-01 35th Avenue, Astoria, Queens. "Digital Play Goes to the Movies," a three-part series devoted to films that have inspired video games; tonight at 7:30, "The Warriors" (1979), directed by Walter Hill. A Laurel and Hardy retrospective continues with screenings of "Blockheads" (1938), directed by John G. Blystone (tomorrow and Sunday at 2 p.m.); a Laurel and Hardy "Talkie Shorts" program on Sunday at 4 p.m. with the films "Unaccustomed as We Are" (1929), directed by Lewis Foster; "They Go Boom!" (1929), directed by James Parrott; "One Good Turn" (1931), directed by James Horne and "Helpmates" (1931), directed by James Parrott. Also, a Laurel and Hardy series in Spanish with "La Vida Nocturna" ("The Night Life," 1930) and "Politiquerias" ("Playing at Politics," 1931), tomorrow at 4 p.m. Other screenings this weekend: "Kirikou and the Sorceress" (1998), directed by Michel Ocelot (tomorrow and Sunday at noon); and "Sunrise" (1927), directed by F. W. Murnau (tomorrow night and Sunday night at 6:30). Through Feb. 10, screenings Wednesdays through Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. of the classic movie serial "Spy Smasher" (1942), directed by William Witney, with a new episode each Saturday. Through Jan. 16, "Gumby and the Art of Stop-Motion Animation," an exhibition on that animated clay figure. Museum hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and by appointment. Film and video showings are free with admission unless otherwise noted. Museum admission: \$10; 65+ and students, \$7.50; ages 5 to 18, \$5; free for members and children 4 and younger and for everyone on Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m.; Friday-night screenings are extra. [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us) or (718) 784-0077.

**NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, 2 West 77th Street, Manhattan. Through January, "Winter Wonderland," an exhibition of holiday and seasonal artifacts including an 1837 painting of St. Nicholas by Robert Walter Weir and the desk on which Clement Clarke Moore is said to have written "A Visit From St. Nicholas," which inspired the Weir painting. Through March 5, "Slavery in New York," a multimedia exhibition with paintings, documents, video re-enactments and audio narratives; and "Finding Priscilla's Children: The Roots and Branches of Slavery," which documents the story of a 10-year-old girl taken from her home in Sierra Leone in 1756 and sent to a South Carolina plantation. Tuesdays through Fridays at noon, throughout the exhibition, Charles Turner, an actor, will read from the "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an

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American Slave." Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture is a permanent gallery on the fourth floor. Museum hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: \$10; students and 62+, \$5; under 12, free. (212) 873-3400.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 111 Amsterdam Avenue, at 65th Street, Lincoln Center Plaza. Through April 1, 2006, "Vaudeville Nation," an exhibition about the history of vaudeville from the late 1800's to the 1930's, featuring joke books, scripts, contracts, photographs, posters and other items. Also on view through Jan. 14, "The Juilliard School, 1906-2005: Celebrating 100 Years," a display of photographs, posters, playbills and other items. Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, noon to 8 p.m. Free. (212) 642-0142.

## Gardens

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, Southern Boulevard and 200th Street, Bedford Park, the Bronx. Through Jan. 8, the Holiday Train Show, the annual display that includes familiar New York landmarks, with added treats like Yankee Stadium and sites from the Hudson Valley. Also through Jan. 8, "Glasshouse Winter Flowers," a conservatory display of exotic flowers, like rain forest anthuriums and bromeliads. Through Jan. 22, "Flowers by Redouté: Artist for an Empire," an exhibition on the life and work of Pierre-Joseph Redouté, a botanical illustrator. Through March 15, "The Luminous Lens of Mick Hales: Photographs of the New York Botanical Garden." Also on view, "Plants and Fungi," a multimedia exhibition with items from around the world. Holiday hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, and Monday holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; the Garden will close at 3 p.m. Christmas Eve and is closed Christmas Day. Garden grounds admission: \$6; 62+, \$3; students, \$2; children 2 to 12, \$1; under 2, free. Combination ticket, weekdays through Dec. 22, including all admissions and a tram tour: \$13; 62+ and students, \$11; children 2 to 12, \$5; under 2, free; weekends (including Fridays) through Sunday and daily Dec. 23 through Jan. 8, \$16, \$11 and \$5. Tram tours daily, every 40 minutes. Conservatory admission: \$5; students and 62+, \$4; 2 to 12, \$3; under 2, free. Grounds admission free on Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Parking: \$7. (718) 817-8700; nybg

WAVE HILL, Independence Avenue and West 249th Street, Riverdale, the Bronx. The 28-acre site includes gardens, greenhouses and woodlands. Events this weekend: tomorrow and Sunday at 1 p.m., Festive Foil Mobiles, a family art project using cones, leaves and sprigs to create holiday hangings; Sunday at 1 p.m., Illuminated Cards, a workshop in making a seasonal card with gold leaf and handmade paints; fee, \$15; members, \$10; registration required: (718) 549-3200, ext. 305. Hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission: free, December through February. (718) 549-3200.

## Events

### New York City

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE, Mercantile Library Center, 17 West 47th Street, Manhattan. Today, Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; tomorrow, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (212) 755-6710.

UNION SQUARE HOLIDAY MARKET, southern end of Union Square Park, intersection of 14th Street, Broadway and Park Avenue South. With more than 100 exhibitors.

Through Christmas Eve. Hours: Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Open Christmas Eve, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP EXPO, Park Avenue, at 50th Street. Annual outdoor gift display sponsored by St. Bartholomew's Church. Daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., through Christmas Eve.

VANDERBILT HALL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR, Grand Central Terminal. Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. Through Christmas Eve.

'SARAH BERNHARDT: DIVINE IMAGES,' International Poster Center, 601 West 26th Street, Chelsea. An exhibition and sale of posters, prints, photographs, letters and other items relating to the actress. Today, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; tomorrow and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Through Jan. 8. (212) 787-4000.

COLUMBUS CIRCLE HOLIDAY MARKET, entrance at Central Park West and 59th Street. Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Through Christmas Eve. (212) 529-9262.

FÊTES DE NOËL, Bryant Park, Avenue of the Americas, at 42nd Street. Holiday sale featuring more than 100 vendors. Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Through New Year's Day.

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK GRADUATE CENTER, 365 Fifth Avenue, at 34th Street. Tonight at 7, a performance by the Mexican Folkloric Ballet of New York; tickets, \$15. (212) 817-8215.

'A CHRISTMAS CAROL,' Christ and St. Stephen's Church, 120 West 69th Street, Manhattan. A staged reading of the Dickens's classic, featuring the actors Simon Jones, Robert Lydiard and others. Members of the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera will also perform a cappella Renaissance carols. Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Association of Theater Actors and Opera Singers and JR Associates. Tickets: \$20; 62+, students and children, \$10. (212) 706-1437.

SORRENTO CHEESE CHRISTMAS IN LITTLE ITALY, Mulberry Street, between Broome and Canal Streets. A weekend holiday festival concluding tomorrow. Tonight at 6:30, a tree-lighting ceremony with performances by the singers Jacqueline Thompson and Cheryl Warfield, the Red Mike Festival Band and others. Tomorrow at 2 p.m., a parade with the actor Dominic Chianese as grand marshal, and appearances by carolers and marching bands. Presented by the Little Italy Merchants Association. (212) 764-7241.

'SCATTERED AMONG THE NATIONS: JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF INDIA, GHANA, ZIMBABWE, PERU AND UZBEKISTAN,' Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica at Congregation Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street, Manhattan. An exhibition of more than 30 photographs of isolated Jewish communities by Bryan Schwartz, on view through March 16. Sundays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. emanuelnyc.org.

'UPSOUTH,' Skylight Gallery at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. An exhibition of photographs and videos by Brooklyn teenagers that contrast life in central Brooklyn and in Marvell, Ark. Organized by Red Clay Arts; presented by the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. Wednesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through Jan. 14. redclayarts.com.

WATSON ADVENTURES Tomorrow at 5:30 p.m., "The Murder at the Met Hunt," a search for a curator's murderer through the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Fee: \$30, including museum admission; advance purchase required. Meeting place and other information: (212) 726-1529.

'AEROSPACE DESIGN: THE ART OF ENGINEERING FROM NASA'S AERONAUTICAL RESEARCH,' Pratt Manhattan Gallery, 144 West 14th Street, Greenwich Village. Through tomorrow, an exhibition of 100 models that illustrate the importance of industrial design in the creation of aircraft. Noon to 5 p.m. Free. (212) 647-7778.

SMALL WORKS SHOW, Brooklyn Fine Arts Gallery, 515 Court Street, Carroll Gardens. Through Sunday, a sale featuring the works of more than 100 Brooklyn artists to benefit the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition, celebrating its 25th anniversary. Hours: 2 to 5 p.m. (718) 596-2506.

#### Walking Tours

#### New York City

NYC DISCOVERY TOURS Tomorrow and Sunday, at 2 p.m., "Victorian Christmas," focusing on Christmas in old New York; at 5:15 p.m., "Historic Greenwich Village Taverns at Christmas"; fee for each, \$13 (drinks additional on tavern tour). Meeting place and reservations: (212) 465-3331.

UNION SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR examines the theatrical roots of the area, meeting every Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Lincoln statue at the 16th Street transverse in Union Square Park, Greenwich Village. Free. Sponsored by the Union Square Partnership. (212) 460-1204.

HARLEM HERITAGE TOURS Today and tomorrow at 1 p.m., "Hamilton Heights-Sugar Hill Walking Tour," meeting in front of Hamilton Grange, 141st Street and Covenant Avenue; fee, \$20. (212) 280-7888.

GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL Two historical tours. At 1 p.m., "Grand Central Terminal: Crossroads of a Million Private Lives," sponsored by Joyce Gold History Tours of New York and meeting on the southwest corner of 42nd Street and Park Avenue; fee, \$12; (212) 242-5762. At 3 p.m., "Splendid Grand Central Terminal," led by Adventure on a Shoestring, meeting on the northeast corner of 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue; fee, \$5; (212) 265-2663.

THE MUNICIPAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW YORK Today at 11 a.m., "Art Deco Midtown," meeting at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, at 51st Street. Tomorrow at 1 p.m., "Middle Europe in Yorkville," meeting outside Glaser's Bake Shop, 1670 First Avenue, at 87th Street. Sunday at 10:30 a.m., "Prospect Heights," meeting in Brooklyn in front of Pintchik's Hardware, Flatbush Avenue and Bergen Street. Fee for each: \$15; members, \$12. (212) 935-3960.

GREENWICH VILLAGE LITERARY PUB CRAWL Saturdays at 2 p.m., with actors leading a tour of bars with a rich literary history, meeting at the White Horse Tavern, 567 Hudson Street, at 11th Street. Fee: \$15; \$12 for students and 60+, not including drinks or food. Sponsored by Bakerloo Theater Project. Information and reservations:

(212) 613-5796.

**STREET SMARTS N.Y.** Tomorrow at 2 p.m., "A Village Christmas" covers Christmas lore and customs, meeting at the Washington Arch. Sunday at 2 p.m., "Christmas in Old Chelsea" visits the neighborhood of Clement Clarke Moore, author of "A Visit From St. Nicholas," meeting in front of the Flatiron Building, at the intersection of Broadway, Fifth Avenue and West 23rd Street. Fee for each: \$10. (212) 969-8262.

'**HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS TOUR**' covers the history of New York holiday sites and songs, meeting Sunday at 1:30 p.m. on the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and 59th Street. Fee: \$15. Sponsored by I'll Take Manhattan Tours. (732) 270-5559.

**BIG ONION WALKING TOURS** Today at 1 p.m., "Historic Harlem," meeting at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 135th Street and Lenox Avenue. Tomorrow at 1 p.m., "The 'Official' Gangs of New York Tour," stopping at sites associated with the 1928 book by Herbert Asbury and the 2002 film directed by Martin Scorsese, meeting at City Hall Park, on the southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, Lower Manhattan. Fee for each: \$15; 63+, \$12; students and New-York Historical Society members, \$10. (212) 439-1090.

**METRO TOUR SERVICE** visits Brooklyn Heights, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, today through Sunday at 2 p.m., and downtown Brooklyn, with a stop for gospel music, on Sunday at 10 a.m. All meeting in front of the Marriott, Adams and Tillary Streets, downtown Brooklyn. Fee for each: \$25. (718) 789-0430.

Recreation

New York City

**NYRR HOT CHOCOLATE** 15K Hot chocolate and bagels are served after this 9.3-mile race through Central Park. Begins tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. on the East Drive, at 101st Street. Sponsored by the New York Road Runners. Advance registration fee: \$20; \$14 for members; \$10 for 18 and younger and 62+. Race-day registration: \$30, \$20 and \$12. (212) 860-4455; nyrrc.org.

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