

The Falcon Report

December 9, 2011

Holiday Season Hot Spots in New York City Editorial

Written by Billy Keller

There's no better place to be this holiday season than in the Big Apple. Everyone makes their way to the center of the world: New York City. Everyone loves the Big Apple. Well, what's so special about it? What is there to do? New York City is filled with sights and attractions that are fun for everyone.

The most common attraction is the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. The lighting of the tree has been a tradition for 75 years. This year's tree is 74 feet tall and is covered in 30,000 bright lights. It is a truly amazing sight. You'll have to see it for yourself!

The Christmas Spectacular at Radio City is a must-see. The show is filled with excitement and is lots of fun! *The Christmas Spectacular* stars the world famous Rockettes, who have been around for 80. The show also has appearances by the Parade of Wooden Soldiers who surprise the audience every year. You better hurry up and buy your tickets before it is too late!

Another big hit in the Big Apple are the ice skating rinks. There are a handful of rinks

Special points of interest:

- Holiday Season Hot Spots in NYC
- Winter Holidays
- *Of Mice & Men* Concert Review

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across the city. Rockefeller Center has an ice skating rink. There are two famous rinks located in Central Park. Wollman Rink located of the east side, and Lasker Rink in mid-Park.

If you are looking for something creative and artistic, there is nothing better than the window displays of Lord & Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue. For years, their creative displays have never disappointed. They combine animations, music and mechanics to produce a wonderful spirited creation.

This list can go on forever. From plays to ice-skating, New York City is the place to be this holiday season. You'll have to see it to believe it.

“Another big hit in the Big Apple are the ice skating rinks.”

Winter Holidays Editorial

Written by Amanda Giglio, Lindsay Cassillo, and Alicia Legland

During December many cultures come together to celebrate different holidays. Christians celebrate Christmas. As per religious beliefs, Christmas is the day Jesus Christ was born. All Christians celebrate his birth with the exchanging of gifts. Nowadays, in America, Christmas is symbolized by Santa Claus and adorned Christmas trees. Also, various cultures celebrate Christmas differently. Italian tradition is less commercialized. Instead of writing letters to Santa children in Italy write letters to their parents telling them how much they are loved. On Christmas Eve, Italians

Winter Holidays (cont.)

are suppose to have sevem different types of fish. La Befana is an important tradition too; La Befana is a kind old witch who gives out presents on the Feast of the Epiphany, which is on January 6th. In parts of Europe- Austria, Germany, and Switzerland- the Christmas season is celebrated up until January 6th. Also many "American" Christmas elements come from these countries. "Silent

Night" was composed in Austria, the Advent calendar is a German tradition, and it was German Thomas Nast, that gave us the modern image of Santa Claus. In Australia, since December is the middle of summer for them, Australians will eat cold seafood and pastas. In Egypt, they celebrate with feast gifts and fireworks, picnics and sports. All over the world Christmas is celebrated in various ways.



Image Credit:

<http://www.webdesignhot.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/SantaClausVectorClipart.jpg>

In addition to Christmas people are preparing for the New Year. In America, the New Year is celebrated with family and friends getting together and waiting to count down to New Years. In China, the Chinese New Year is different. The Chinese New Year lands on a different date each year since it is based on lunar and solar movements. Before the New Year, the Chinese try to rid themselves of the old year. The celebration was born out of fear of a wild beast at the end of each year. At the turn of the New Year, fireworks are displayed throughout cities.

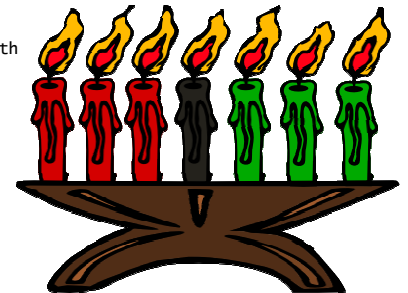
Also celebrated during this festive season of the year is the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. It's celebrated for eight nights, incorporating traditional foods eaten for historic reasons. Traditional Jewish meals consist of fried and dairy products during this season. They enjoy the fried items to honor the oil that burned for eight nights. Some food items they make are potato pancakes called

Winter Holidays (cont.)

latkes, or in Yiddish livivot. Those who celebrate make a fried dessert, much like jelly doughnuts, called Sufganiyot. Another foodstuff that the Jewish community eats during Hanukkah is dairy. The religiously historic event that began the tradition of consuming dairy was the story of Judith. According to the story, a clever woman named Judith had fooled the leader of a neighboring empire by bribing him with wine and cheese. Once the king of the other empire had passed out due to the alcohol, she assassinated him, creating the opportunity of a territory for the Jewish. She was revered as a hero and the consumption of dairy is still in place during Hanukkah. Common dairy items that are enjoyed are cheesecakes and blintzes.

Another holiday is the weeklong celebration of Kwanzaa honoring African American culture and heritage. This holiday includes the lighting of seven candles from December 26th until January 1st. Kwanzaa originated from the end of harvest festivals that occurred in Africa for thousands of years. The seven principles of Kwanzaa can be translated into unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, a sense of purpose, creativity, and faith. The feast of Karamu is held on December 31st where they enjoy traditional African American dishes. These dishes usually include sesame seeds, peanuts, sweet potatoes, collard greens, and spicy sauces that represent the common ingredients that were brought from Africa to the United States. The majority of dishes are created using southern influence and African spices. Karamu is celebrated using the traditional colors of black, red, and green. The green is for the land, black is for Africa's people, and red is for the bloodshed during the struggle for freedom. The seven symbols of Kwanzaa are represented by the unity cup, the candleholder, seven candles, the symbolic mat, an ear of corn, gifts, fruits, nuts, and vegetables. The mat is usually made of some type of African cloth or straw and it symbolizes the foundation of which communities were built. This year will be the celebration of the 47th Kwanzaa in the United States.

Image
Credit:
http://www.ohio.edu/cultural-center/programs/images/j4p4n_Kwanzaa_Kinara_-_Kwanzaa_Candles.jpg



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