

## DECEMBER CALENDAR: EVENTS FOR EACH DAY THIS MONTH

Welcome, officially, to the holiday season. Complement your calendar with these stimulating offerings—some to get you in the festive mood, others offering an escape from it—in our guide to the top New York talks, tours and screenings in December.

**Tuesday, December 1.** Ride along with some intrepid journalists, as they describe their experiences [reporting war news](#) in the midst of the Middle East. [National September 11 Memorial & Museum](#).

**Wednesday, December 2.** Lick your lips as a culinary historian traces our city's eating traditions and gastronomic institutions—all part of "[Savoring Gotham](#)." [New York Public Library - Mid-Manhattan Library](#).

**Thursday, December 3.** Register a full-throated appreciation of a man once known simply as The Voice, in this talk by the author of *Sinatra's Century: One Hundred Notes on the Man and His World*. [The Cooper Union – The Great Hall](#).

**Friday, December 4.** Ponder a 3,000-year-old mystery: Could [King Tut have been murdered](#)? A Long Island University mummy expert makes his case. [Premiere 5th Avenue Exhibitions](#).

**Saturday, December 5.** Watch some up-and-coming young dancers perform the [Nutcracker Winter Suite](#), a new work to old music (Tchaikovsky's, of course) by ex-New York City Ballet principal Valentina Kozlova. [Symphony Space](#).

**Sunday, December 6.** Improve your research skills by learning about the [International Tracing Service](#), an Allies-established post-World War II archive, at this lecture that displays documents and describes the collection's resources. [Queensborough Community College](#).

**Monday, December 7.** Join a batch of playwrights and performers in saying "[Happy Birthday, Eric Bentley](#)" (the man of theatrical letters, whose accomplishments include translating and introducing the works of Brecht to American audiences) at this tribute concert. [The Town Hall](#).

**Tuesday, December 8.** Pay your respects to those who commemorate the dead, in a talk that traces [changing tastes in tombstones](#), monuments and mausoleums throughout the past hundred years. [Green-Wood Cemetery](#).

**Wednesday, December 9.** Reconnect with a classic story—an immigrant girl trying to adjust to life in America—at this all-female panel of discussion of [Bread Givers](#), a recently republished hit novel of 1925. [Tenement Museum](#).

**Thursday, December 10.** Take a mind-bending trip (in a vicarious way) as a psychotherapist lectures on the seductive relationship between [psychedelic substances and death](#) or near-death experiences. [Morbid Anatomy Museum](#).

**Friday, December 11.** Reflect on the influence of “[Social Media in the American War Zone](#)”: the fact that a soldier nowadays can talk, text or click a computer key to make instant contact with the home front. [92nd Street Y](#).

**Saturday, December 12.** Get a crash course in music appreciation by learning [how to read an opera score](#)—in this case, from Puccini’s sublimely romantic *La Bohème*. [Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts](#).

**Sunday, December 13.** Make a dent in that holiday shopping list with handcrafted dolls, jewelry, hats and other goodies, at this Harlem Aesthetic-sponsored [arts and crafts fair](#). The Gadson Gallery.

**Monday, December 14.** Listen in as [the two stars of the Amazon Studios series \*Transparent\*](#), Jeffrey Tambor and Judith Light (who’s also currently on Broadway in *Thérèse Raquin*), discuss their roles as, respectively, a transgender and his former spouse. [92nd Street Y](#).

**Tuesday, December 15.** Steel yourself to enter [The Strange Library](#), a concert augmented by eerie projections that musically recreates the Murakami graphic novella of the same name, about a little boy who comes under the sway of a strange old librarian...[The Center for Fiction](#).

**Wednesday, December, 16.** Follow the fight led by [James Madison](#) to create the Bill of Rights (no, it wasn’t a done deal back in 1789) as told by an authority on the founding fathers, Richard Brookhiser. [New-York Historical Society](#).

**Thursday, December 17.** View [China and her development](#) over 40 years through the eyes of five writers who covered the country for *The New Yorker*, reminiscing about their experiences with magazine editor David Remnick. [Asia Society and Museum](#).

**Friday, December 18.** Kick back to some [jazz standards](#) (or get up and dance, if you prefer) and light refreshments at this pop-up café that comes to life the third Friday of each month at the venerable [New York Society for Ethical Culture](#).

**Saturday, December 19.** Share the inspiration that New York has offered two different creative types—[pastry chef/sculptor Amelia Coulter and her uncle, director Allen Coulter](#) (the film *Hollywoodland* and the upcoming TV series *Vinyl*) in this dual interview. [New York Public Library - Mid-Manhattan Library](#).

**Sunday, December 20.** Attend a [holiday concert](#) that punctuates its varied roster, from “O Chanukah” to the “Hallelujah” chorus, with comments on how each piece embodies the concept of justice. [Aesthetic Realism Foundation](#).

**Monday, December 21.** Gaze at the stars under the guidance of some gifted astronomers at a [Winter Telescope Party](#) (cocoa included!) at the Hayden Planetarium. [American Museum of Natural History](#).

**Tuesday, December 22.** Practice that triple lutz or Salchow on the free ice rink that forms the centerpiece of the [Winter Village at Bryant Park](#).

**Wednesday, December 23.** Pick up some last-minute stockings stuffers amid the candy cane-colored booths filled with artisanal foods and goods at the [Union Square Holiday Market](#).

**Thursday, December 24.** Cheer on a [miniature choo-choo](#) as it zips around foliage replicas of NYC sites, attractions and monuments, while staying comfy and warm within a conservatory at the [New York Botanical Garden](#).

**Friday, December 25.** See if you can spot Santa's sleigh from the observatory of the [Empire State Building](#), which is open 365 days a year.

**Saturday, December 26.** [Tour the once-teeming streets of the Lower East Side](#)—retracing the daily round of the immigrants who settled here during the turn-of-the-20th-century—with the [Tenement Museum](#)'s 90-minute “Outside the Home” walking expedition.

**Sunday, December 27.** Usher in [Kwanzaa](#) at this 37-year-old annual festival, featuring a commemorative movie and musical tribute to its narrator, Maya Angelou. [American Museum of Natural History](#).

**Monday, December 28.** Go back in time on this virtual tour of the [Borscht Belt](#), the entertainment circuit of Catskills hotels that hosted a bevy of comics in the mid-20th century. [New York Public Library - Mid-Manhattan Library](#).

**Tuesday, December 29.** Entertain the kids during their week off at this [paper sculpture workshop](#), where they can make models of transportation, à la the ocean liner in the Alfred Stieglitz photo “The Steerage,” on view at [The Jewish Museum](#).

**Wednesday, December 30.** Get the weather forecast for the planet, as climatologist James Hansen analyzes the findings of the [2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) in Paris. [Rubin Museum of Art](#).

**Thursday, December 31.** Ring in the New Year with a dose of serenity at the candlelit [Concert for Peace](#); the program includes “Chichester Psalms” by Leonard Bernstein, who began the concerts back in 1984. [Cathedral of St. John the Divine](#).