

Calendar of Events

Queens Theatre In the Park

Dec. 6-10, Musical Theater "Shangri La"; **Dec. 6, 7, 9, 10**, "Tim & Scrooge", tickets \$18-\$34, **Dec. 15**, Latin Jazz Coalition; **Dec. 16**, Ben Taylor Band; **Dec. 17**, 365 Days/365 Plays NYC Project, free; call 365 NYC Hotline, 212-539-8760 or go to www.publictheater.org/365; **Dec. 23**, Marc Salem: Mind Games Extra; **Dec. 27, 28**, The Nutcracker Ballet for Young Audiences; **Dec. 30**, Avner the Eccentric, ticket prices vary, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park; www.queentheatre.org or 718.760.0064.

Others

Dec. 6, Repetti Gallery, Strange Brew, 44-02 23rd St, 4th floor, LIC.

Dec. 7, Queens College Vocal Ensemble 50th Anniversary Concert, free, LeFrak Concert Hall, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing.

Dec. 9, Evening of Wonder Magic, The Raven, Sasso, Danny T; **Dec. 16**, Yurini the Great, Lee Alan Barrett, Thorsten Happel; **Dec. 23**, Suavee, Em, Miles Thorn; 917-520-5564 EOW Hotline.

Dec. 10, Noguchi Museum Second Sundays, Akari: An Enduring Legacy, \$10/\$5, 9-01 33rd Rd., LIC.

Dec. 13, Kew Gardens Community Center, Book Club: Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd., Suite 202; 718.268.5960.

Dec. 15, LaGuardia Community College, "The Nutcracker", Little Theatre, 47th Avenue, LIC.

Dec. 16, Italian Charities of America, Saturday dances, refreshments served, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst; 718.478.3100.

To Dec. 17, Greg M. Stowell photography "Looking for Gordon"; Artspace at Athanasiades Cultural Center, 2nd Floor, 30-98 42nd St., Astoria.

Dec. 20-23, 2 p.m., Dec. 28-30, 7:30 p.m., Queens Players "Pirate Pete's Parton"; Arthur Seelen Theatre, 250 W. 40th St., Manhattan; 347.724.4056.

Dec. 29, Martin Smoak: Frankly, Sinatra...My Way; Danny's Skylight Room, \$12 minimum, \$10 music charge, 346 W. 46th St., Manhattan; 212.265.8133.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Dances

Dec. 19, Forest Hills Community & Senior Center, Christmas-Chanukkah-Kwanzaa luncheon and party; 718.699.1010.

Fleas, Fairs, Fundraisers

Dec. 9 Italian Charities of America, flea market, refreshments served, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst; 718.478.3100.

Dec. 16, VFW Flanders Field Post 150, Holiday Fair/Craft Fest, browse the bargains, free admission; VFW Hall, 51-11 108th St., Corona.

Health

Dec. 13, Forest Hills Community/Senior Center, Mini Health Fair, Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale; 718.699.1010.

Mondays, Sahaja Yoga Meditation, free; Seaburn bookstore, 33-18 Broadway, Astoria; 718.626.6476.

Items of Community Interest

Dec. 6, Queens College, Jewish Lecture Series: From Minsk to Manhattan..., Kissena Boulevard, Flushing;

Theater Group Stages Musical Version Of 'Christmas Carol'

St. Adalbert's Blackfriars Theatre Group, in conjunction with Christ the King Regional H.S., will present a musical version of the Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. The show will take place at the newly dedicated Hugh P. Kirwan Performing Arts Center, located at Christ the King Regional H.S., 68-02 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village.

Performances are December 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. and December 10 at 2 p.m. For ticket information, call St. Adalbert Friary at 718-639-0212 or the theatre group's ticket hotline at 718-366-7400, ext. 330.

718.997.5730.

Dec. 7, Greater Astoria Historical Society, "The Magic of Steinway", seating limited, **ongoing**, "For the Moment" Portraits and Scenarios and shop 'til you drop at the store, Art-O-Mat, www.licweb.com/artomat.

Dec. 10, Queens Counseling Services of the Foundation of Religion and Mental Health, "How to Survive the Tough Times in Life", six languages; St. George's Episcopal Church, 135-32 38th Ave., Flushing; 718.461.6393 or 718.359.1171.

Dec. 11, Kew Gardens Community Center, Discussion: Tiffany Glass, 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd., Suite 202; 718.268.5960.

Dec. 13, Queens Interagency Council on Aging, Emergency Preparedness networking and breakfast, pre-register, free; Queens Borough Hall, Room 213, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens; 718.268.5954.

To Dec. 22, Flux Factory, "Why Tatlin's Monument to the Third International?", 38-38 43rd St., LIC; 718.707.3362.

Parks & Recreation

Alley Pond Environmental Center

Dec. 9, Nature Walk Series: Finding Permanent Residents, Find the City's Tallest Tree, dress for the weather, free; **Dec. 16**, An Evening with the Stars, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston; call for fees, 718.229.4000.

Queens Botanical Garden

Dec. 14, Terrariums, most workshops \$5 p.p., QBG members free, Main Street, Flushing; 311.

Others

School Events & News

Register Now for January Classes, LaGuardia Community College, Adult and Continuing Education Classes; 718.482.7244 or www.lagcc.cuny.edu/ace.

YMCA's

Dec. 16, noon, Cross Island YMCA, "Beacon Extravaganza" performances in drama, dance, karate and other after-school classes, free, 93-11 101st Ave., Ozone Park; 718.659.7710.

Queens Players Present 'Pirate Pete's Parrot'

The Queens Players, a Queens-based theater group, presents a special Christmas run of "Pirate Pete's Parrot" at The Arthur Seelen Theatre (under The Drama Book Shop, Inc., 250 W. 40th St., Manhattan, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 20, Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22 and a special matinee on Saturday, December 23 at 2 p.m. (Santa Claus may be in the neighborhood for this one!)

Post Christmas performances are at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 28 and Friday, December 29, and one final Christmas show featuring Santa on Saturday, December 30 at 2 p.m.

"Pirate Pete's Parrot" is a family show that will genuinely appeal to both adults and children. It is written and performed in a style closely allied to the traditional English pantomime that is occasionally ribald but unerringly decent. Pete's mother is played by a man (Chris Jobin), Bruce the Lion would rather be King of Comedy than King of the Jungle, and if you thought the Grinch was grumpy or Scrooge contemptible, they have nothing on villain Baron Bigbutt. The show also features six great original songs by ASCAP award-winning songwriter and playwright Richard Mazda. The Queens Players are so confident that everyone will enjoy the show that they offer a total, no-quibble refund to anyone who doesn't have a great time.

For more information and reservations, call 347.724.4056. Credit card ticket sales are available through www.thequeensplayers.com.

Trouble In Toyland: Magnetic Toys Under Fire

BY LIZ GOFF

Deadly baby dolls? Magnet mayhem? Mr. Potato Head mashed? Say it ain't so!

It's sad, but true. The "Playtime Baby Triplets" made it to the top of the annual list of dangerous toys released recently by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).

The triplets may look cute and cuddly, but they are among 19 toys deemed potentially hazardous by NYPIRG because they are being sold without choke hazard warnings or because sales of the toys are geared toward children too young to understand the hazards of swallowing small parts or accessories, NYPIRG attorney Tracy Shelton said. The dolls are sold with small, detachable pacifiers that could be swallowed by young children, the report states.

"Think in terms of safety when buying your children's toys," Shelton said. "Take time to look at the items to determine how safe they are, and adhere to age guidelines listed on the package. Don't just think about which toy is the greatest, the hippest that kids want to have."

This year's report is focused on toys containing magnets, because those toys can lead to serious injury, Shelton said. NYPIRG officials described toys with magnets as a growing hazard which must be foremost in the minds of adults purchasing toys for young children.

The report lists Magnetic Building Sets and other toys manufactured by Magnetix, along with "Claire's Magnetic Earrings" by Cititoys as containing parts small enough for youngsters to swallow.

The list was released on the same day the Consumer Product Safety Commission (PSC) announced that Mattel was recalling 4.4 million of its "Polly Pocket Dolls" and accessories after three small children were hospitalized for swallowing magnets that detached from the toys. If a child swallows more than one magnet, the magnets can stick to other in the intestines, which can be fatal. PSC officials said the agency is aware of 170 incidents involving magnets that fell off the dolls. The three children underwent intestinal surgery to remove the magnets and all three children have since recovered, officials said.

The list also identifies potentially hazardous toys that could lead to choking and/or strangulation, toys that break the sound barrier and toxic toys. They include:

- Kid Connection Mini-Activity Cube
- Claire's Club Baby Hair Bands and elastics
- Hot Wheels Rev-Ups Speed Shifters
- Claire's Rings and Bracelets
- Home Depot Light and Sound Wrench
- Thomas and Friends Timber Yard Portable Play Set
- Take-Along Bob the Builder "Muck The Dump Truck"
- Baby Buddy Pacifier Holder
- Disney Pooh's First Birthday Balloon
- Gullame's "Thomas and Friends Balloon
- Orbit Ball
- Diddle Letter Necklace
- Who Loves Baby Photo Book
- "Just Animals" Purple Hippo
- I-Tattoo Electronic Tattoo Pen
- Chikz "Make-Up Play Set"
- Elite Operations "Astro Blaster Set"

The report states the Astro Blaster Set emits an ear-pounding 90-plus decibels of "pure noise" when activated. "There's nowhere to hide from the noise when this toy is activated," NYPIRG researchers said.

Shelton said almost 73,000 youngsters under age 5 were treated at hospital emergency rooms across the U.S. last year for toy-related injuries. Twenty children died of toy-related injuries in the past year, statistics show.

For the complete listing of hazardous toys or for more information, visit www.nypirg.com