

e-Family Time Newsletter, brought to you by [Cool Culture](#)—February 2010

Wake Up and Discover the City that Never Sleeps at the Museum of the City of New York!



(exterior): Museum of the City of New York. Photo by Harry Zernike. Courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York.

Take an incredible journey across the Big Apple with a visit to the [Museum of the City of New York](#), where you and your family can explore the past, present and future of this magnificent metropolis.

"The museum is good for all ages," says Paula Zadigian, who is the manager of community programs here. "And the exhibitions are very visually

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Did you know that one day, each year, there's a mile long museum block party? Imagine Fifth Avenue, traffic-free, and filled with music and art.

Be part of the celebration: [Museum Mile, June 8th!](#)

**Join the Club—
[www.coolculture.org!](http://www.coolculture.org)**

Check out our brand new website! www.coolculture.org will help you and your family discover what's cool in cultural NYC!

It's bursting with resources for you and your family: **cultural highlights** that will give you an insider's view into what's hot, **trip tips** that will help families make visits a breeze, and **activities** that'll make learning a snap - for kids ages 1 to 101!

Join the Culture Club and start the adventure!

How Cool are You? Show & Tell!

Have you had an awesome museum adventure recently? Want to see your name in lights? Tell us about your recent museum

stimulating."

When you enter the museum, take the elevator to the third floor for a fantastic walk through a children's wonderland of stuffed animals, model trains, and dozens of cool playthings at the "New York Toy Stories" exhibition. As you and your family look through more than 200 years of childhood in this city, with toys owned or crafted by New Yorkers, think about how your toys can one day be added to this collection.



Peering into a doll house on view. Photo by C. Bay Milin. Courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York.

Especially interesting are the five dollhouses on display; take note of the miniature objects found in the various dollhouses - such as the candles and canopy beds - and then look for life-size versions of them in the "New York Interiors" exhibit. Here, you can peer into six rooms that have been recreated with furniture and everyday items used by New Yorkers to portray daily life in this city from the 1600s to the 1900s. As you do so, think about how ordinary and extraordinary daily life was compared to yours!

Wander through the exhibition "Trade" and find yourself out on New York City's port. Check out the tools, maps, photos and model ships that tell the fascinating story of New York City's waterfront.

Afterward, take a trip through the Big Apple's wild side at the "Legacy" exhibition. Ninety photographs of today's city parks transform these several rooms into a green wilderness, with majestic trees dancing on the walls and a silent river rushing across the floor. They may open your eyes to the often overlooked beauty that exists in this amazing city of New York.

"We are excited to see as many Cool Culture families as possible this year and hope they can join us for our events and exhibitions," Ms. Zadigian says. In addition to regular monthly activities, come discover more of

experiences for a chance to be featured on our [new website](#), [Family Time](#) and [Cool Culture Connect](#)!

It's easy as 1-2-3, just submit the following to familytime@cool-culture.org:

1. a photo of your family
2. a brief description of your museum adventure.
3. your full contact information, the name(s) and age(s) of your children, the name of the early childhood center they attend

Find Your Winter Adventure!

Winter is a perfect time to explore NYC's cultural institutions. With [Family Time](#), [e-Family Time](#) and [Cool Culture Connect](#), planning the perfect family staycation is a breeze. They give you the inside scoop on events and programs at cultural institutions from those who know: museum educators, early childhood staff and other Cool Culture families! Find these resources and more at www.coolculture.org.

Are You Planning a Trip?

In addition to [e-Family Time](#), [Family Time](#) and [Cool Culture Connect](#) are great sources for trip ideas, directions and hours.

Remember, the Family Pass is good for general admission for up to 5 individuals any time the cultural institution is open!

Have fun exploring NYC's arts and culture!

Check Out the Fun at the Museum of the City of New York

Sword Dance Festival

Saturday February 13th at 1:30pm and 3:00pm



Performers at the 2009 Annual New York Sword Dance Festival at the Brooklyn Museum. Photo courtesy of Sandy Fong.

New York during the **Museum Mile Festival** this June. "It's a great atmosphere and there a lot of activities for children," notes Ms. Zadigian. The Museum of the City of New York will be hosting a very special festival performer, so stay tuned to find out who!

Other Special Exhibit Activities Include:

- Tour the "["Legacy" exhibition](#) with a New York City Audubon educator and then create your own habitat or bird house in family workshops that begin at 1 pm on February 6th and 20th.
- Watch the [sword dance tradition](#) come alive in dazzling performances held at 1:30pm and 3pm on February 13th.
- Celebrate **Black History Month** with Keith Gamble and his ensemble, as they trace the roots of the blues in a musical voyage that starts at 3pm on February 20th.

By Erin Cassin

For more information about **family events** at the Museum of the City of New York, [click here](#). For more information about **educational programs** at the Museum of the City of New York, [click here](#).



More sword dancers at 2009 Annual New York Sword Dance Festival. Photo courtesy of Sandy Fong.

Comments, Feedback?

Contact Cool Culture Staff

Email familytime@cool-culture.org.

For a list of Cool Culture partners, check out the Cool Culture [website](#).

FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR—Warm up with festivities for the whole family!

For the complete Family Time Winter Events Calendar in English and Spanish, [click here](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR KEY:

FP = Free with Cool Culture Family Pass

FREE = Free to all, Cool Culture Family Pass not necessary

Saturday, February 6

ARE WE THERE YET? 1-2.30pm

From flying carriages in the sky to elaborate ships at sea, discover how characters in works of art get from one place to another. After the gallery discussion families will paint their own scenes, including modes of transport inspired by objects in the museum.

AMERICAN FOLK ART MUSEUM, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP.  DIAL 29#

[Click here](#) for more events at the American Folk Art Museum.

Saturday, February 6

MOON OVER MANHATTAN 1-4pm

Ring in the Lunar New Year at Asia Society! Enjoy a professional lion dance, an excerpt from the Peking Opera classic Journey to the West, and activities inspired by Lunar New Year traditions.

ASIA SOCIETY, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP.

[Click here](#) for more events at Asia Society.

Sunday, February 14

MOSAICS, 2-5pm

Use little stones to create mosaics or a mini New York Street!

CHILDREN'S GALLERIES FOR JEWISH CULTURE, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP.

[Click here](#) for more events at the Children's Galleries for Jewish Culture.

Sunday-Thursday, February 14-18

FEBRUARY BREAK DISCOVERY WEEK 1-3pm

Explore the world's deserts and rainforests with your family right here at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. We'll be investigating plants from around the world with hands-on activities indoors and then sending you off to discover the Steinhardt Conservatory on a scavenger hunt!

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN, Brooklyn. ALL AGES FP.  DIAL 16 #

[Click here](#) for more family programs at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Saturday, February 20

MUSIC, MOZART AND THE MANOR, 1pm

Mozart's music was just as popular 200 years ago as it is today! Come learn about Mozart, play music, and make a craft!

KING MANOR MUSEUM, Queens. AGES 4+ FREE.

[Click here](#) for more events at the King Manor Museum

Saturday, February 20

WILDERNESS AND WILDLIFE IN NEW YORK CITY, 1pm

Join us for an afternoon exploring the wilderness in New York City parks and the wildlife that calls it home! Families will tour the photography exhibition and then create their own bird houses.

MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP.

[Click here](#) for more events at the Museum of the City of New York

Sunday, February 28

THE MAGIC AND MUSIC OF THE KAZOO 2-4pm

Did you know that the kazoo was invented by Alabama Vest, an African American? Join us as we celebrate Vest by fashioning cardboard paper towel rolls into kazoos and tooting his "horn."

STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP.  DIAL 18 # or 19 #

[Click here](#) for more events at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Looking Ahead to March Events!

Thursday, March 4

KITE DESIGN, 12-5pm

Explore the design of the kite by creating your own using sticks and tissue paper.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE ARTS, Manhattan. AGES 5+ FP.

[Click here](#) for more events at the Children's Museum of the Arts

Saturday, March 6

WEATHER VANES 10am-12pm

Come create a model weather vane out of poster paper, paint and clay using designs that date back to the Colonial Era!

MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION, Manhattan. AGES 5+ FREE with registration. Call 212 923 8008.

[Click here](#) for more events at the Morris-Jumel Mansion

Saturday, March 6

FASHION AS COLLAGE, 1pm

Make a hand sewn garment for your doll or stuffed animal using multiple kinds of fabric and trim. Hand sewing techniques will be taught. Bring your doll or stuffed animal and any scraps of fabric, trim or ribbon you'd like to incorporate into your design.

COOPER-HEWITT NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM, Manhattan. AGES 5+ FP.  DIAL 15 #

[Click here](#) for more events at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum

Saturday, March 6

HIDDEN TREASURES, 1-2:30pm

Explore paintings, quilts, and sculptures and think about what might be concealed within. After the gallery discussion families will use clay and found objects, such as buttons and wire, to create their own works of art inspired by objects in the museum.

AMERICAN FOLK ART MUSEUM, Manhattan. ALL AGES FP.

[Click here](#) for more events at the American Folk Art Museum.

COOL CULTURE SPONSORS

Cool Culture thanks our sponsors for their continued support.

