



# This Week in New York

## Covering New York State and City Government

A Publication of Pitta Bishop Del Giorno & Giblin LLC  
December 23, 2011 Edition



## In the News – New York State



### Account of A Visit from St. Nicholas

(from *The Troy Sentinel*, December 23, 1823, p. 3;  
repro. Troy, NY: Troy Public Library, 1998)

One hundred and eighty-eight years ago this very day, on December 23, 1823, “A Visit from St. Nicholas” was published anonymously in the *Troy Sentinel*, a semiweekly which ran from 1823 to 1832.

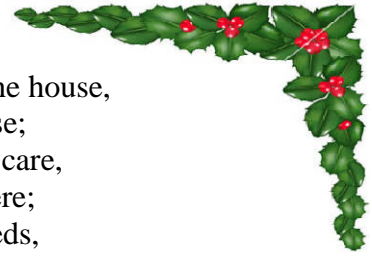
The poem’s origin is controversial. Poet Clement C. Moore has long been credited with the work and it was included in an 1844 anthology of his poems at the request of his children for whom, it was said, he wrote it. However, others assert that its true author Henry Livingston, Jr. penned the poem for his children.

Controversy aside, the poem is one of the most well-known, time-tested literary pieces. Below is a reprint of the original publication developed by the Troy Public Library. Merry Christmas!!

#### ACCOUNT OF A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

(from *The Troy Sentinel*, December 23, 1823, p. 3; repro. Troy, NY: Troy Public Library, 1998)

*We know not to whom we are indebted for the following description of that unwearied patron of children--that homely, but delightful personification of parental kindness--SANTÉ CLAUS, his costume and his equipage, as he goes about visiting the fire-sides of this happy land, laden with Christmas bounties; but, from whomsoever it may have come, we give thanks for it. There is, to our apprehension, a spirit of cordial goodness in it, a playfulness of fancy, and a benevolent alacrity to enter into the feelings and promote the simple pleasures of children, which are altogether charming. We hope our little patrons, both lads and lasses, will accept it as proof of our unfeigned good will toward them--as a token of our warmest wish that they may have many a merry Christmas; that they may long retain their beautiful relish for those unbought, homebred joys, which derive their flavor from filial piety and fraternal love, and which they may be assured are the least-alloyed that time can furnish them; and that they may never part with that simplicity of character, which is their own fairest ornament, and for the sake of which they have been pronounced, by authority which one can gainsay, the types of such as shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.*



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,  
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter,  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:  
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen,  
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem;  
"To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
"Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys--and St. Nicholas too: [*sic*]  
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:  
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,  
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:  
His eyes--how they twinkled! his dimples how merry,  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face, and a little round belly  
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jirk, [*sic*]  
And laying his finger aside of his nose  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle:  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight--  
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.



## Sandra's Egnog

*Recipe courtesy of Sandra Lee*



<b>Prep Time:</b>	3 min	<b>Level:</b>	Serves:
<b>Inactive Prep Time:</b>	--	Easy	12 cups
<b>Cook Time:</b>	--		

### Ingredients

2 (1-quart) containers store bought eggnog  
2 cups dark rum  
2 cups white chocolate liqueur  
Pumpkin pie spice, garnish

In a punch bowl, combine eggnog, dark rum and white chocolate liqueur.  
Stir and dust with pumpkin pie spice.

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## *In the News – New York City*

# **NYC Attracts Record Number of Tourists in 2011**

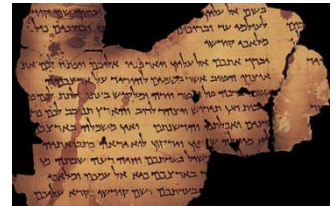
***50.2 Million Visitors by the End of 2011, Breaking Record Ahead of Schedule  
Record \$32 Billion in Visitor Spending and \$48 Billion in Economic Impact in 2011***

New York City will reach 50.2 million visitors by the end of 2011, achieving the goal of attracting 50 million visitors by 2012. Throughout 2011, the City maintained its position as the number one city destination and overseas destination in the United States. In announcing the record, Mayor Bloomberg was joined by New York Hotel & Motel Trades Council President Peter Ward and members of the City's tourism industry.

“Five and half years ago, we set an ambitious goal to reach 50 million visitors by 2015, and in 2008, we accelerated that goal to be the end of 2012,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “Today, we know that we will exceed this significant milestone by year’s end. New York City’s quality of life has contributed to this great success and we are confident we will sustain the success of our tourism industry in the months and years ahead.”

NYC & Company forecasts the City will attract a record-breaking 10.1 million international visitors in 2011, a 4 percent increase over 2010. The City also expects to attract a record-breaking 40.1 million domestic visitors – 2.9 percent more than last year.

New York City is also on track to generate \$32 billion in visitor spending, \$48 billion in economic impact and contribute to approximately 320,000 jobs across the five boroughs. The City remains the number one U.S. city destination for tourism spending.



**Dead Sea Scrolls: Life and Faith in Biblical Times" at Discovery Times Square**



**Rockefeller Center 2011**

“On behalf of the many thousand men and women working in New York City’s hotel industry, I would like to congratulate Mayor Bloomberg, George Fertitta and the NYC & Company team on this great accomplishment,” said New York Hotel & Motel Trades Council President Peter Ward. “With 25.8 million room nights sold in 2010, New York City has once again proven to be a place people from around the world aspire to visit. Of course, we will remain dedicated to providing world-class service and an unmatched visitor experience – as we set our sights on filling every single one of the 90,000 rooms across the five boroughs on a daily basis.”

By year’s end, New York City will be home to more than 90,000 hotel rooms throughout all five boroughs, a 24 percent increase since 2006. The City is also on track to sell a record 27 million hotel room nights, 4.5 percent more than 2010, when NYC sold 25.8 million room nights.

## *In Brief*

### **2012 State of the State Address to be Held in Empire State Plaza Convention Center on January 4<sup>th</sup>**

The 2012 State of the State Address will be held in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center on January 4th at 1:30 pm. New Yorkers wishing to attend should visit the Governor's homepage to register: [www.governor.ny.gov](http://www.governor.ny.gov).

The registration period takes place from Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 9:00 am to Thursday, December 29 at 5:00 pm. In the event that the number of requests exceeds available seating, attendees will be selected by lottery. Guests will be notified of their selection via email by January 2, 2012.

### **Comptroller DiNapoli: State Tax Collections Continue to Trail Projections**

Tax collections through November were \$71.7 million below recently adjusted estimates, reflecting an economy that continues to struggle, according to the November 2011 cash report released this week by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

“We’ve seen the growth in tax collections slow throughout the year,” Comptroller DiNapoli said. “Financial sector downsizing, as well as lower profits and bonuses on Wall Street, may result in lower than expected state revenues over the next several months. The Personal Income Tax (PIT) actions taken by the governor and the Legislature this month should reduce projected deficits in the near-term, but balancing next year’s budget will again be a struggle, and current conditions add risk to the upcoming state budget.

According to the Comptroller, the budget plan adopted earlier this month should offset some of the projected budget shortfall this year as well as over the next three years. While these actions will help, more information on Wall Street bonuses and profits and December tax collections will indicate whether more actions are needed to plug budget gaps.

### **IBO: NYC Budget Picture Not So Bleak**

According to the Independent Budget Office’s (IBO) review of New York’s latest economic, tax revenue, and spending projections, the City faces a budget shortfall of \$1.2 billion next fiscal year. This figure is nearly \$800 million less than the Bloomberg Administration estimated last month. IBO also projects that over the next two years, the City will create about 89,000 new jobs, roughly 27,000 more than the Mayor anticipated in the November financial plan.

The IBO did provide the caveat that its expectation of shrinking budget shortfalls could be thrown off course by worsening problems in the euro zone, declining aid from Washington and Albany, or settlements with the City's labor unions.

## **Governor Approves NYC Taxi Legislation, Awaits Agreed Upon Chapter Amendments**

### ***Agreement Ensures Taxicab and Livery System is Accessible for Persons with Disabilities***

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation (Chapter 602 of the Laws of 2011) as part of an agreement to provide taxi service to all five boroughs of New York City and improve access to taxi and livery cabs for persons with disabilities. Under the agreement, the Governor approved the legislation and the legislature has agreed to introduce a chapter amendment in the next legislative session.

The agreement includes the creation of a new class of hail-accessible inter-borough livery licenses, 20% of which will be for vehicles accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) will be authorized to issue up to 18,000 of these new licenses and will be required to provide grants of up to \$15,000 to retrofit vehicles to accommodate the disabled or to purchase accessible vehicles. The agreement also authorizes the city to sell 2,000 new medallions, all of which will be restricted to vehicles that are accessible to the disabled.

The agreement requires the TLC to prepare a Disabled Accessibility Plan that will ensure improved accessibility of all taxicabs, liveries and the new hail-accessible vehicles over a period of years through the gradual phase-in of accessible vehicles to the fleet. The Disabled Accessibility Plan will be prepared in consultation with disability rights groups and other stakeholders. The plan will be submitted for public comment and to the City Council, and for approval to the New York State Department of Transportation. Only 400 of the new taxicab medallions may be issued prior to the approval of the Disabled Accessibility Plan.

## ***Coming Up***

### ***New York City***

***Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>***

***Committee on Finance, 250 Broadway - Committee Rm, 16th Fl, 10 a.m.***

***Int 0644-2011*** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the establishment of the Westchester Square business improvement district.

***Res 1174-2011*** Resolution concerning the increase in the annual expenditure for the 34th Street, the Grand Central, the 125th Street, the Mosholu-Jerome-East Gun Hill Road, the Fordham Road and the Bayside Village Business Improvement Districts, and the setting of the date, time and place for the hearing of the local law increasing the annual expenditure for such districts.

**Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**City Council Stated Meeting, Council Chambers - City Hall, 12 p.m.**  
*Charter Meeting*

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