



The Concord GRAPEVINE

THE TIMES SQUARE BALL DROP

The New York New Year's Eve tradition of the Ball Drop, which goes back more than a century, was conceived by an immigrant tycoon who wanted to celebrate his accomplishments and the city itself.

In 1904, German Jewish immigrant Adolph Ochs, who had just successfully lobbied to have Longacre Square renamed Times Square after the newspaper he owned *The New York Times*, moved to the area on 42nd and Broadway, into a state-of-the-art building and Manhattan's second tallest skyscraper. Ochs had much to celebrate but so too did New York City, as the first subway system known as the Interborough Rapid Transit Company or the Rapid Transit Commission, had just become active, according to Times Square's official website.

And so, Ochs figured a party for everyone in the streets would be the way to celebrate the changing landscape of New York City. He reportedly spared no expense for the party, which started during the day and featured a street festival and a massive fireworks display at midnight, according to Times Square's official website.

The new year—1905—was brought in with a bang as 20,000 people from all over the tri-state area packed the newly minted Times Square. Word of mouth from those who attended went on to make Times Square the "it" place to kiss the previous year goodbye and welcome the incoming one.

However, the city was not amused. Due to the amount of fireworks that Ochs brought in, the city banned the twilight illuminations in the air. But Ochs wasn't fazed, as he thought of something bigger and better: the Times Square Ball.

The first New Year's Eve Ball was built by a young immigrant metalworker named Jacob Starr, and for most of the twentieth century the sign company he founded, was responsible for lowering the Ball. The five-foot-diameter ball was made of iron and wood and weighed about 700 pounds and featured 100 25-watt light bulbs.

"The idea was to... have it illuminated with the brand new electricity that had just come up to the neighborhood," said Tama Starr, Jacob's Starr's granddaughter. "And it was lowered by hand...starting at one minute to midnight, and that was the way it was done for many years. "It was an adaptation of an old, useful thing," she added. "It was instantly popular. People just loved it."

To read more about this awesome tradition, please visit: <https://www.insideedition.com/the-start-of-new-yorks-biggest-party-the-history-of-the-times-square-new-years-eve-ball-drop-78629>

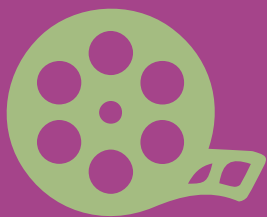


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JANUARY 2025

1st	New Year's Day
2nd	Hanukkah (End)
9th	Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
11th	Human Trafficking Awareness
12th	Kiss A Ginger Day
16th	Religious Freedom Day
20th	Inauguration Day
20th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
24th	International Day of Education
27th	Commemoration ~ Holocaust





Movie MADNESS

January 2025 Movie Releases



January 3rd~Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl

Wallace & Gromit are back in a new feature film that sees the return of a vengeful figure from their past!



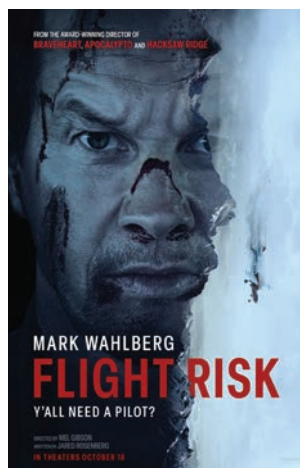
January 24th ~ Brave the Dark

When Mr. Deen discovers one of his students has been living out of his car and thrown into jail, he decides to bail him out. Determined to curb Nate's self-destructive behavior, Mr. Deen quickly discovers a host of dark secrets that are slowly tearing Nate apart. What started as a good deed becomes a desperate fight to save Nate from his own demons. As Nate spirals deeper into despair, Mr. Deen must decide how far he's willing to go to save a kid on the brink of losing everything—even himself.



January 17th~Wolf Man

A man inherits a remote home after his father vanishes and is presumed dead. He and his family approach the house at night, and are attacked by an unseen animal. They barricade themselves inside the home as the creature prowls the perimeter. As the night stretches on, the man begins to behave strangely, transforming into something unrecognizable, and his wife will be forced to decide whether the terror within their house is more lethal than the danger without.



January 24th ~ Flight Risk

In this high-stakes suspense thriller, a pilot must transport an Air Marshal accompanying a fugitive to trial. As they cross the Alaskan wilderness, tensions soar and trust is tested, as not everyone on board is who they seem.



January 17th~September 5

The story unveils the decisive moment that forever changed media coverage and continues to impact live news today. Set during the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics, the film follows an American Sports broadcasting team that quickly adapted from sports reporting to live coverage of the Israeli athletes taken hostage. Through this lens, "September 5" provides a fresh perspective on the live broadcast seen globally by an estimated one billion people at the time.



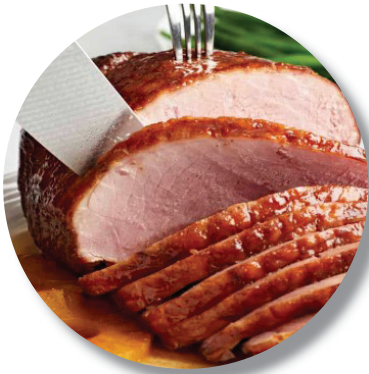
January 31st ~ Green and Gold

Foreclosure looms over a Wisconsin dairy farmer. With mounting debt and his land at risk, he refuses to give up without a fight. His granddaughter works alongside him but dreams of a career in music. Her aspirations are fanned by an emerging friendship with a famous musician, but chasing her dreams might take her far from the farm. With time running out, he places a daring Super Bowl bet on his beloved Green Bay Packers, risking it all to save everything he holds dear.



Culinary CREATIONS

New Year's Day food traditions that bring good luck!



Pork

Ham is often a holiday centerpiece, but pork is specifically thought to bring good luck on New Year's Day. So why is pork a New Year's food tradition? It has to do with the way pigs behave differently than other animals. According to some theorists, while chickens and turkeys scratch backward, a pig buries his snout into the ground and moves forward—in the same direction you want to head in the new year. Pork (and cabbage) eaten on New Year's is a German and Eastern European tradition brought to America by early settlers.

Black-Eyed Peas

Eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is a time-honored tradition. Black-eyed peas are actually a kind of bean, not to be confused with green peas (or the hip hop band). There are a few different reasons they're associated with luck on New Year's Day. One theory anchors the tradition in the Civil War, when Union soldiers raided the Confederate army's food supply, leaving behind only this bean. Another theory is anchored in African American history, where newly-freed enslaved people celebrated the January 1863 Emancipation Proclamation with dishes made of black-eyed peas—one of the few

foods available to enslaved people. But other theories date the legume's lucky reputation back to Ancient Egypt, suggesting that eating the pea—a vegetable readily available to even the poorest enslaved people—was a way to show humility to the gods.

Greens

It's all about the color green, which symbolizes money and prosperity. Also, according to some traditions rooted in the South, greens can be hung by the door to ward off any evil spirits that may come your way. It can't hurt, right?

Cornbread

One thing that many of the lucky New Year's foods have in common? (Besides being delicious, of course!) They represent—or even look like—things that represent wealth and good fortune. Cornbread's golden hue and often round shape (especially when made in a cast-iron skillet) represents gold—an obvious representation of good fortune in the new year. Corn spoon bread includes both cornmeal and fresh or frozen corn kernels for extra corn goodness.

Source: <https://www.realsimple.com/holidays-entertaining/traditional-new-years-day-food>

Helpful TIPS

Decorating Your Apartment!

When it comes to designing your apartment, it's important to know which elements work best together and will have the greatest effect on your living space. If you're looking to enhance where you live, check out some of the apartment decorating tips below:

Make small spaces feel larger. Glass or mirrored tables can keep furniture from feeling too heavy in smaller spaces. When choosing a bed, go for one that has shorter legs or even sits on the ground to make the ceiling feel higher. While painting white walls or using other light colors can also help make a room feel larger, painting a dark color on one accent wall can have a receding effect, which can give the appearance of more depth, and in turn, make something like a studio apartment feel bigger.



storage, shelving, and pegboards can all help you keep your things out of sight and organized in a neat and aesthetically pleasing way. By diminishing the amount of clutter in your space, you can optimize your use of it and focus more on your apartment decor.

Use mirrors. A good apartment interior design trick is to use mirrors. Mirrors reflect light and can open up the size of a space. Hang a mirror near a window in a dining room or small bathroom to make those rooms feel larger and brighter. Tall mirrors can make a ceiling feel higher, as well as bringing illumination to dimmer parts of the room.

Choose colors and patterns carefully. Stick with similar shades or themes of colors and patterns you can trace throughout each room. For instance, the silver threading on a throw pillow works with the slate shower curtain in the bathroom, or the wood grain of your nightstand is in the same theme as the coffee table in the living room. Little patches of cohesion can create a relaxing space.



Pick a statement piece. Having a focal point in your apartment, like a splashy area rug or sharply painted bookshelf, will draw the eye towards that area and away from any problematic ones (like a big dresser that's bolted to the wall). Your statement piece can also be an accent wall—a bold wall color painted only on one side to focus the eye's attention.

Use smart storage. Get creative with how you utilize your storage space. Collapsible furniture, stackable or hidden

Make a gallery wall. Hanging up your photos, paintings, puzzles, or other kinds of art on an empty wall can give a room interest and depth, even if there's not a lot of space to spare. A gallery wall keeps things out of the way and on display, filling your space with color and character. (Note: use adhesive strips, hooks, or even suction cups to hang pictures without damaging the walls.)

Use an area rug to divide the space. If you live in a small apartment with an open floor plan, use an area rug to define the separate spaces of your room. The rug by your couch is the area where social activity takes place—or the rug by your bed designates the boundaries of your bedroom. You can set up dividers if you want more clearly delineated spaces, however, an area rug is a simpler way to define your spaces.



~Source: www.masterclass.com/articles/tips-for-decorating-any-apartment

Create Sparkly Snowflakes!

Here's what you'll need:

- Popsicle sticks (4 sticks per snowflake)
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- White glue
- Sequins, buttons, glitter, or jewels
- Dabber Dot Markers

1. Pre-glue four popsicle sticks together to make a snowflake using a hot glue gun.
2. Decorate the popsicle sticks with the Dabber Dot Markers. After the marker dried, the kids covered their snowflakes with white glue and then started adding sparkles!
3. Once the snowflakes are finished, add a ribbon loop to them using a hot glue gun and then they can be hung on a door or window or wherever!

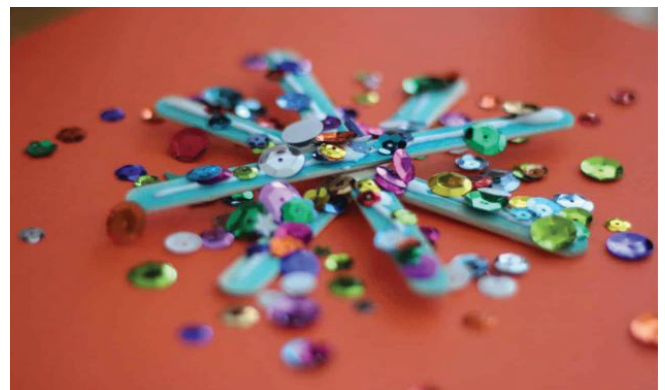
1.



2.



3.



~Source: www.toddlerapproved.com/sparkly-snowflake-craft-for-kids/