



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 17, 2017

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## **FREE PUBLIC TOURS HIGHLIGHT GANYC'S CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDES DAY ON FEBRUARY 21**

***Festivities Include Free Tours for the Public, Symposium for Travel Professionals***

NEW YORK, February 17 – February 21 is **International Tourist Guides Day**, and the **Guides Association of New York City (GANYC)** is celebrating with a series of free tours for the public throughout the week, as well as a symposium for tourist guides and tourism professionals on the day itself. This is the most robust program for International Tourist Guides Day in GANYC's history.

Now in its 27th year, International Tourist Guide Day is an initiative of the **World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations (WFTGA)** to alert government officials, local citizens and visitors, plus members of the media, to the quality and value of the work of professional tourist guides. In concert with local and national tourist guide associations, guides around the world will be offering free public and industry programs including tours, presentations and training courses.

The theme of GANYC's celebration is "Come Home to New York: The City of Cultural Diversity." The keynote event will take place on **February 21** at the China Institute at 100 Washington Street (entrance at 40 Rector Street) in Manhattan, where GANYC will host panel discussions celebrating the variety of Cultural Experiences in New York City. The event kicks off at **12:30pm** with a tour of Art in a Time of Chaos: Masterworks from Six Dynasties, China 3rd–6th Centuries. This will be followed by **Wanling Zhang**, Associate Director of Education for Language and Culture speaking on Introductory Chinese Language and NYC Landmarks in Chinese. Members of the GANYC delegation that attended the WFTGA Convention in Iran in January will report on the event, tourism in Iran, and the importance of multicultural exchanges via tourism. Author and Historian **Michael Henry Adams** will deliver the closing presentation on Gay and Lesbian Harlem and Preservation based on his upcoming new book: "Homo Harlem, A Chronicle of Lesbian and Gay Life in the African American Capital 1915–1995" in honor of Black History Month.

This event is free and open to GANYC Members, Licensed New York Tourist Guides and Certified/Licensed Guides from throughout the world, Travel Professionals, and members of the media. Reservations are required; please RSVP by visiting <http://www.ganyc.org/join-us-public-ganyc-events>.

**FAM Tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage 3:30 to 5:00 PM: In appreciation for what guides do, Museum Of Jewish Heritage open house for GANYC Members**

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Edmond J. Safra Plaza , 36 Battery Place New York, NY 10280

**RSVP:** [www.ganyc.org/calendar](http://www.ganyc.org/calendar)

Limit: 50 GANYC Members



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Following the event at **5:30pm**, everyone is invited to attend GANYC's quarterly networking happy hour at **Beckett's Bar & Grill**, 81 Pearl Street. This event is open to the public and no advanced reservations are required.

In addition to these events, GANYC members are offering a series of free public walking tours in order to give back to the New York community, as well as to raise the profile of professional tourist guides in New York City. Tours include:

- **Ground Zero/World Trade Center Tour:** February 21 and February 23 at 3 pm (1 hour)
- **Rockefeller Center and Secrets Beyond Tour:** February 21 at 11 am (2 hours)
- **Fulton Center Underground Tour:** February 21 at 11:30 am
- **The Big Public Square on 42nd Street (Bryant Park) Tour:** February 21 at 1 pm (45 minutes)
- **Features of Grand Central Terminal Tour:** February 21 at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm
- **Grand Central Terminal Tour:** February 21 at 11 am
- **Gleeks on Broadway Musical Theatre Walking Tour:** February 21 at 11 am (2 hours)
- **Pokemon Go Tour of Central Park:** February 21 at 12 pm (1 hour)
- **Woolworth Building Tour:** February 22 at 10:30 am (1 hour)
- **Museum of the City of New York Tour:** February 22 at 1 pm (1 hour)
- **Destination St. George, Staten Island Tour:** February 22 at 11 am
- **Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn Tour:** February 22 at 10:30 am
- **Magical Mosaics of Rockefeller Center Tour:** February 22 at 4 pm
- **W.C. Fields Broadway & Vaudeville History Tour:** February 23 at 12 pm
- **Little Syria: Downtown's Lost Neighborhood:** February 21 at 11 am, and February 24 at 10 am
- **Abraham Lincoln in New York:** February 26 at 12 pm

Each of these tours is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. To learn more about these tours and to RSVP, please visit

<http://www.ganyc.org/blog/international-tourist-guide-day-2017>.

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**ABOUT GANYC:** The Guides Association of New York (GANYC) is New York City's professional tour guides association. Founded in 1974 by licensed guides for licensed guides, GANYC is one of the oldest and most active tour-guide associations in America. All GANYC members are licensed by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. For more information about GANYC, please visit [www.ganyc.org](http://www.ganyc.org).