

HAPPY NEW YEAR

9 ways to welcome 2009 in DeKalb County

The end of 2008 is less than a week away. Those looking for a way to welcome the new year right here in DeKalb County have a number of options. Here's a sampling.

1) New Year's Eve dinner at Villa Christina's

Executive Chef **Andreas Georgakopoulos** is whipping up something special for the last night of 2008.

On Dec. 31, Chef Andreas will present a distinctive menu

that features such items as an appetizer of grilled calamari steak with frisee, Kobe beef medallions with caramelized sweet potatoes and tempura asparagus or roasted Chilean sea bass with mirin-scented Japanese rice. For an indulgent finish to the meal, ring in 2009 sampling an almond Genoise pastry layered with strawberry compote and orange blossom mousse, served with champagne sorbet. Dinner is \$60 per person plus tax and \$85 per person plus tax for dinner with select wines chosen to complement each course.

Reservations are required. To secure a table or for more information, call (678) 686-4272 or visit www.villachristina.com. Villa Christina is located at 4000 Perimeter Summit, Atlanta.

2) A private party at the DeKalb History Center

The DeKalb History Center is available for private gatherings and is offering a 20 percent discount on all events booked through Jan. 31, 2009. "The neo-classic

features of the Old Superior Courtroom with its elegant marble interior, terrazzo floors, and Palladian windows are complemented by the intimate setting of the Harrison Room and can accommodate groups of 50 to 250. Your guests will feel like they have stepped back in time once they enter the lobby of the grand Old Courthouse," states information from the center.

A catering kitchen is available and renters may choose from the center's list of cater-

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ers to handle the event. Rental rates are competitive with other historic sites and venues. Parking is available at various locations for a daily fee or free at some locations on the weekends. Call (404) 373-1088 ext. 20 or e-mail sales@dekalb-history.org for more information.

3) The New Year's Eve Extravaganza at PushPush Theater

PushPush Theater has promised to "blow the doors off the theater with shows, screenings, music, food, improv, dancing and wild fun (we may even drink a little)! Come enjoy the show, and dance with the cast 'till you fall off the stage. It's the coolest party in town and cheaper than anything else you'll find." The line up includes complimentary appetizers and cash bar at 7 p.m.; the show *screwmachine/eyecandy* at 8 p.m.; dinner buffet with short comedy film screenings at 9:15 p.m.; The Doug Dank Project will be presented at 10:30 p.m. and at 11:30 p.m. a DJ will spin favorites into the new year and beyond with dancing and a champagne toast at midnight.

Tickets to the New Year's Eve show and party are pay-what-you-can \$40-\$75 available with advance reservations only. After-show tickets are available by reservation or walk-up. New this year will be giveaways and door prizes. PushPush Theater is located at 121 New St., Decatur. For reservations or more information, call (404) 377-6332 or visit www.pushppushtheater.com.

4) Snow Mountain in Stone Mountain Park

The last day of 2008 marks the first day for Stone Mountain Park's newest attraction—Snow Mountain. Using artificially created snow—made with water from a lake at the park rather than from the DeKalb County water supply—Snow Mountain offers Georgians a rare opportunity to play in the snow, no matter the weather forecast. For more information, visit www.stonemountainpark.com.

5) New Year's Eve in the Callanwolde Mansion

This tends to be a popular event and based on bookings in previous years, it may already be too late to get in on this one. Prices vary and go up as Dec. 31 approaches. To purchase tickets, call 1-866-824-8212. Callanwolde Mansion is located

at 981 Briarcliff Road, Atlanta.

6) Bluegrass music at Eddie's Attic

Those who enjoy bluegrass music may want to bring the new year in with a concert of their favorites. Called A Bluegrass Kind of New Year, the concert features Little Country Giants, Packway Handle Band, and The Barnrats. Eddie's Attic is located across from the courthouse at 515 North McDonough St., # B, Decatur. For more information, call (404) 377-4976 or visit www.eddiesattic.com.

7) Nightclub parties

A number of DeKalb County nightclubs will feature special entertainment, food and drink specials and the like on New Year's Eve. Among them are Club Miami, a large club that features hip-hop, Caribbean and Tex-Mex music, 3011 Buford



Highway, Atlanta, (404) 929-9991. Club Intrigue will be the site of Legends Ball, a Black and White New Year's Eve Party, featuring Waggy Tee, Area Code 876 and Natural Vibes. Club Intrigue is located at 5171 Memorial Dr., Stone Mountain, (678) 612-3855. At Jays Place II admission to the New Year's Eve party is two for \$15 in advance. The nightclub is located at 4812 Redan Road, Stone Mountain. Call (404) 501-0430 for more information or to reserve a table or visit www.jaysplaceatlanta.com

8) Watch Night church services

A number of DeKalb County churches, particularly those with predominately African-American congregations will be

holding Watch Night services on New Year's Eve. Some, such as Gresham Park Christian Church, 2819 Flat Shoals Road, Decatur, (404-241-4511) will have a social event in the fellowship hall with food and games, then shortly before midnight the preacher will give an inspirational message before members pray in the new year. Others such as New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia will hold services in the sanctuary. New Birth, located 6400 Woodrow Road, Lithonia, will hold two Watch Night Services this year, at 5 and 10 p.m. For more information, call (770) 696-9600 or visit www.newbirth.org. Saint Philip A.M.E. Church is holding an After Watch Night Service Jazz Brunch, New Year's Day morning, 12:30-3:30 a.m. The event includes a full breakfast, cappuccino and a live jazz band. Tickets are \$26 for adults, \$13 for children. Saint Philip A.M.E. Church is located at 240 Candler Road SE, Atlanta. For more information, call (404) 371-0749, ext. 8455, or visit www.saintphilip.org.

9) Jubilee Day Program

For many in the African-American community, Jan. 1 is not just New Year's Day its also Emancipation Day or Jubilee Day, celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863—the document declaring freedom for persons held as slaves in states in rebellion against the United States. The DeKalb County branch of the NAACP will hold its 31st annual Jubilee Day program Thursday, Jan. 1, at 10 a.m. Georgia State Rep. **Stephanie Stuckey-Benefield** will be mistress of ceremonies. The speaker will be **Darrin Rankin**, vice presi-



dent for enrollment services and student affairs, Clark Atlanta University. The program, with the theme "From Emancipation to Inauguration," will be held at Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, 1879 Glenwood Ave., Atlanta, where the Rev. Dr. **William E. Flippin Sr.**, is pastor.