

ice isn't available to the public, good odds are there's a hockey game or practice happening; if you're a puck fan, stop by to cheer on the adult and youth teams that frequent the spot.

Trump Rink Central Park, enter at W 59th St at Sixth Ave (212-439-6900, wollmanskatingrink.com). Subway: N, Q, R to Fifth Ave–59th St. Mon, Tue 10am– 2:30pm; Wed, Thu 10am–10pm; Fri, Sat 10am–11pm; Sun 10am–9pm. \$11–\$17, seniors \$5–\$9, children 11 and under \$6; skate rental \$7. Through Apr 1. If you decide to check out this famed rink, be prepared for hordes of children and slowmoving newbies. There won't be room for speed skating or fancy tricks, but braving the crowds is worth it for the aweinspiring Central Park views. If you're a skating greenhorn yourself, take heart Wollman Rink is home to the largest

learn-to-skate program in the country.

Van Cortlandt Park Ice Skating
Rink Van Cortlandt Park, enter at Broadway at 242nd St, Bronx (718-432-1492, vcpicerink.com). Subway: 1 to 242nd St-Van Cortlandt Park. Mon-Thu, Sun noon—8pm; Fri, Sat noon— 10pm. \$5—\$8. Skate rental \$5. Through March. If you're fed up with the crowds and queues in Manhattan's outdoor iceskating spots, consider hopping a northbound 1 train to Van Cortlandt Park. A project four years in the making, this rink debuted in the Bronx's 1,000-acre green space in November 2012. In addition to daily public-skating hours, the rink also offers skating and hockey classes for kids.

## Zoos and gardens

#### **New York Botanical** Garden

Bronx River Pkwy at Fordham Rd, Bronx (718-817-8700, nybg.org). Subway: B, D to Bedford Park Blvd or 4 to Bedford Park Blvd-Lehman College, then take the Bx26 bus; or Metro-North to Botanical Garden. ous; or Metro-North to Botanical Garden. Tue-Sun 10am-6pm; \$20-\$25, seniors and students \$18-\$22, children 2-12 \$8-\$10, children under 2 free. Grounds only \$10, seniors and students \$5, children 2-12 \$2, children under 2 free; Wed 10am-6pm, Sat 10-11am free.

"Tropical Paradise" Escape the cold weather with a visit to the permanent collection of NYBG's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, where the temperature hovers around 70 degrees. The glasshouse is home to colorful plants such as orange-yellow crotons and fuchsia bromeliads. Photos from the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition accompany the greenery. Through Feb 24.



## Museums

#### American Museum of **Natural History**

Central Park West at 79th St (212-769-5100, amnh.org). Subway: B, C to 81st St-Museum of Natural History; 1 to 79th St. Daily 10am–5:45pm. Suggested donation \$25, seniors and students \$19, children 2–12 \$14.50, children under 2 free

"The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter" Temperatures climb to a balmy 80 degrees in the 1,200-square-foot vivarium, returning for its 15th year. The 500 specimens flying around include monarchs, zebra longwings and iridescent blue morpho butterflies (\$25, seniors and students \$19, children 2–12 \$14.50). Through May 28

"Our Global Kitchen: Food, Nature, Culture" The American Museum of Natural History investigates human nutrition at this wide-ranging showcase: Displays look at early diet staples and the history of agriculture, as well as current environmental, health and safety concerns relating to the food industry. Visitors can sample seasonal treats (such as cookies and gingerbread houses), view images and artifacts of sustenance through the ages (including a Han Dynasty miniature pottery stove) and discover how to grow food yearround (yes, even in a sub-400-squarefoot apartment) (\$25, seniors and students \$19, children 2-12 \$14.50). Through Aug 11.

#### City Reliquary Museum

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n. Suggestea aonation \$5.

"Greetings from the City of Yew York" City Reliquary, repository of civic pride, presents an array of vintage postcards from the collection of enthusiast postcarus from the concentration of chimosans. Lon Black. The correspondence all dates to the "Undivided Back Era," the time before 1907 when the U.S. Postal Service refused to deliver postcards that had anything besides the address on one side. The resulting snapshots of New York feature notes, messages and jottings overlaying the images themselves. Opening Fri 15 6–9pm. Fri 15–Apr 28.

### **Discovery Times Square**

226 W 44th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (866-987-9692, discoverytsx com). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority: N, Q, R, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St-Times Sq. Mon-Thu, Sun 10am-8pm; Fri, Sat 10am-9pm, \$25, seniors \$22.50, children 5-12 \$19.50,

"Spy: The Secret World of
Espionage" The CIA, FBI, NRO
(National Reconnaissance Office) and
spy-book author H. Keith Melton all contributed rare items to this intelligence-gathering survey. Vintage hardware on display includes a WWII
Enigma machine, which decrypted Nazi
messages; Charlie, a robot catfish used
by the ClA; a KGB pinhole drill kit; and
artifacts from the FBI file on Russian spy Anna Chapman. Through Mar 31.

#### The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Ave at 36th St (212-685-0008, themorgan.org). Subway: 6 to 33rd St. Tue–Thu 10:30am–5pm, Fri 10:30am-9pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-6pm, \$15; seniors, students and children 12–16\$10; children under 12 free. Fri 7–9pm free.

# Critics' picks The five best events this week



#### "Greetings from the City of New York" City Reliquary Museum

Think 140 characters is tough? See how postcard-senders scribbled messages in the margins of the image side before the USPS changed its rules in 1907. ▶ Fri 15-Apr 28

Missed Connections Valentine's Day Party Grand Central Terminal, Vanderbilt Hall

With or without a Valentine, you can still chuckle at the missed connections of others while imbibing a few drinks at the 100-year-old hub. ► Thu 14

Cheese-Sculpting Demonstration

3 Cheese-Sculpting Delilorisation If you remain awed by the mashed-potato scene in Close Encounters, don't miss this event, where cheddar cheese will be painstakingly carved into a six-foot replica of Mount Rushmore. ▶ Fri 15, Sat 16

The Sweetheart Soiree Stone Rose, Time Warner Center Crooner Michael Arenella masterminds this ritzy bash for lovebirds and Jazz Age aficionados, with picturesque Central Park views. > Sun 17

Cringe Freddy's Bar Participants dredge the depths of their adolescent awkwardness by reading from high-school diaries and love notes at this well-named series. > Thu 14

"Treasures from the Vault" The Morgan digs into its archive of manuscripts, correspondence and other printed material for this exhibit. Items include a letter from Hobbit master J.R.R. Tolkien, a manuscript of Percy Bysshe Shelley's On Life and music scribbled by Beethoven himself. Through May 5.

#### The Museum at FIT

FREE Seventh Ave at 27th St (212-217-4558, fitnyc.edu/museum). Subway: 1 to 28th St. Tue-Fri noon-8pm, Sat 10am-5pm.

"Fashion and Technology" This display looks at innovations that altered the course of fashion, from game changers like the sewing machine and synthetic fibers to modern developments such as fashiondesign software and globalized production. Featuring 18th-to 21st-century examples from the museum's collection, the exhibit highlights materials and accessories alongside pieces by designers including Elsa Schiaparelli and André Courrèges. Through May 8.

**'Shoe Obsession"** Clothes may make the man, but ladies know it's the shoes that really count. More than 150 pairs will be on display at this survey of haute footwear, some borrowed from the envyinducing closets of Daphne Guinness and Baroness Monica von Neumann. Drool over the artistic creations of Christian

Louboutin, Alexander McQueen, Manolo Blahnik and Alessandra Lanvin (Aperlaï), and marvel at the dangerously tall Lady Pointe stilts that Noritaka Tatehana designed for Lady Gaga. Through Apr 13.

#### Museum of Arts & Design

2 Columbus Circle at Broadway (212-299-7777, madmuseum.org). Subway: A, C, B, D, 1 to 59th St-Columbus Circle. Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun 11 am-6pm; Thu, Fri 11am-9pm. \$15; seniors and students \$12; members, high-school students and children 12 and under free.

Thu, Fri 6-9pm pay what you wish.
"The Art of Scent 1889-2012" Perk up your nose at this exhibit on olfactory art. A dozen scents—including Guerlain perfume Jicky (1889); Hermès Parfums scent Osmanthe Yunnan (2006), created by Jean-Claude Ellena; and the iconic Chanel No. 5 (1921)—outline the evolution of perfumery, the introduction of synthetic materials and the science of designing fragances. Through Mar 3.

"Doris Duke's Shangri La: Architecture, Landscape, and Islamic Art" See works from the collection of philanthropist Doris Duke, who gathered Islamic Art from the '30s until her death in 1993. Contemporary works on display come from artists who