

From: MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET
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EGG ROLLS AND EGG CREAMS FESTIVAL
One-of-a-Kind Block Party Celebrates Chinese and Jewish Traditions and
Highlights the Evolution of an Iconic New York City Neighborhood

TODAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009 FROM 12-4 PM

Lower East Side, New York...A unique slice of Lower Manhattan— where Chinatown meets the Jewish Lower East Side – comes to life at the Museum at Eldridge Street's annual **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival** on Sunday, June 7 from 12 to 4 PM. The festival kicks off with a klezmer march and Chinese acrobatics along the street, and features Chinese and Jewish musicians, dancers, folk artists, language teachers, mahjongg players, and food presenters sharing their traditions and art forms. The **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival** takes place on Eldridge Street between Canal and Division Streets, with the newly restored Eldridge Street Synagogue – a magnificent 1887 National Historic Landmark – as its centerpiece.

Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival celebrates the two cultural groups that have lived and worked on the block, from the East European Jewish immigrants of a century ago to the Chinese community of today. A Hebrew and a Chinese scribe sit side by side in the synagogue sanctuary while outside on the street a Chinese Opera singer performs followed by a klezmer ensemble. Adults and children alike relish an old-fashioned egg cream while watching a mesmerizing performance of Chinese acrobatics. A free event, **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams** draws thousands of visitors from the neighborhood and around the city.

Performances and demonstrations will showcase the ways in which these ethnic cultural forms are unique or have intertwined – stylistically, geographically, and historically. Highlights of the festival include performances by a Chinese folk-music ensemble, Chinese acrobats and klezmer group; hands-on demonstrations by a Torah scribe, yarmulke and tefillin makers, and a paper-lantern maker; Yiddish and Chinese children's games and art making, and, of course, delicious, kosher egg creams and egg rolls. An exhibit of art work by local Chinatown students will be on display. Visitors to the festival can participate in a host of interactive activities, including mahjongg and Yiddish and Chinese lessons. Interpretive materials will be available in both English and Chinese.

Both the Chinese and Eastern European Jewish communities place enormous value on traditions that have endured uninterrupted from ancient times to the present. The **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival** will highlight the importance of preserving cultural traditions and artifacts, including the magnificent Eldridge Street Synagogue – a community anchor since 1887 and a National Historic Landmark since 1996.

The **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival** is produced by the **Museum at Eldridge Street**, which is preserving the historic Eldridge Street Synagogue as a center for historical reflection, aesthetic inspiration and spiritual renewal. Concerts, literary events, art installations, workshops for school children, and other cultural and educational programs at the site serve audiences of diverse ages and backgrounds.

LISTING INFORMATION: The Museum at Eldridge Street's **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival** celebrates culture and traditions of the Chinese and Eastern European Jewish communities. Music, crafts, language lessons, folk art demonstrations, and, of course, kosher egg rolls and egg creams give a taste of the traditions and art forms of these two communities. **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival will take place on Sunday, June 7, from 12 to 4 PM, at the landmark Eldridge Street Synagogue and its Lower East Side block.** The **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival is FREE.** For more information, please call 212.219.0888. **Directions:** The Eldridge Street Synagogue is located at 12 Eldridge Street between Canal and Division Streets. **F** train to East Broadway; **B** or **D** train to Grand Street; #15 bus to Canal and Allen Streets; and the #9 bus to East Broadway and Market Streets.

The **Egg Rolls and Egg Creams Festival** is supported in part by the Folk Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

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