

A 'French Colonial' Christmas

Ste. Genevieve, MO – October 26, 2010 – Ste. Genevieve will host a number of special events commencing on Saturday & Sunday, December 4th & 5th with an old fashion **Christmas Parade** that winds it way throughout the Historic District. The stores and historic sites will be dressed in their **holiday décor and Ol' St. Nick** will be strolling the streets to greet the young ones. The parade begins at 11am with a **Country Christmas Walk** continuing through the weekend.

Also, a '**Holiday Art Show and Sale**' will be held that weekend at the 'French Quarter' on the town square with a 'Meet the Artist' from 4 to 6 pm on Saturday.

The 2nd Annual **Christmas Variety Show** will be held Friday, December 10th at 7pm at the Orris Theatre, 265 Merchant St. This year benefiting the Young Mothers' Support Group of Ste. Genevieve. Once again, local & regional talent like you've never seen it! Goodies and a 50/50 with prize raffles as well. \$10 General Admission, children under 5 are FREE. Donations of new infant and toddler items for the group's closet will be collected.

Sunday, December 5th at 2pm, hear the **Ste. Genevieve Catholic Church's Bell Choir** perform Christmas music.

Sunday, December 12th, 1 to 6 pm the Felix Vallé House State Historic Site will celebrate **Le Réveillon, a French Christmas** open house at the site located at 2nd and Merchant Streets. The event is free and open to the public. This candlelight celebration features the customs, decorations, music, and food of an early French Christmas celebration. There will be traditional, live musical entertainment throughout the afternoon by the "Peacocks", and costumed interpreters will explain the customs and decorations seen in French homes during the early 1800's. Visitors will experience the foods of "Le Réveillon", traditionally celebrated on Christmas Eve, featuring thirteen traditional desserts with samples of the *Buche de Noël*.

Friday, December 31st (New Years Eve) the season and month is topped off by a very unique French ritual called **La Guianée** (or in some areas called *La Guignolée*). This 250+ year old tradition celebrates the coming of the new year through a song sung by a group of troubadours going door to door (pubs, businesses or whatever) singing for food or drink. Come join in the fun, you'll learn the words quickly.

What: Holiday Events – Christmas in Ste. Genevieve, MO
When: December 2010
Where: Historic District
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670
Contact: 800-373-7007
sgtourism@sbcglobal.net
Website: VisitSteGen.com



The table at Le Réveillon



Santa and Mrs. Clause in the Parade

Town Gears Up For Holiday Christmas Event

Ste. Genevieve is gearing up for its annual Christmas Walk, and this year is expected to be bigger and better than ever.

The Holiday Christmas Walk will take place on Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5. The festivities begin Saturday at 11 a.m., with the parade. Local and regional dignitaries, the French Marines and other militia groups, bands, floats, the Shriners' mini-motorcycle brigade, beauty queens, horses and classic cars will be featured in a parade that promises to be bigger and brighter than last year's. Plus, it marks the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in town.

Throughout the weekend local shops, galleries, restaurants and other businesses will be open and offering holiday treats and specials. A live nativity, French pastorelle and other traditions of the season are planned at various locations.

But what sets Ste. Genevieve's holiday event apart from other communities' celebrations are performances by local and regional musicians, covering over 800 years of holiday musical history. Performers include the Lindenwood University acapella singers and brass quintet, Southeast Missouri String Quartet, a violin soloist, a classical guitar virtuoso, jazz musicians and the legendary Morris Ardoin Creole Band, as well as the local handbell choir, organist Al Keiser, the Ste. Genevieve Symphonic Woodwind Ensemble, French carolers, local musicians Mimi and Natalie Miget and Eddie Naeger, the Ste. Genevieve High School Madrigal Singers and Les Petits Chanteurs.

"And that's not even the whole list," a spokesman for the Holiday Christmas Walk said last week. "Last year we added an impressive line-up of musical entertainment, and this year there will be more variety and more venues. I think everyone involved believes this will be one of our best holiday celebrations to date."

Most activities are free, including horse-drawn wagon rides, photos with Santa, and crafts for kids. Children under age 12 (accompanied by an adult) will eat free at the outdoor eatery at Lions Park.

For more information call the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center (1(800)373-7097 or 883-7097), request information by e-mail at sgtourism@sbcglobal.net, or visit <http://www.visitstegen.com> on the Internet.

Article from the Ste. Genevieve Herald newspaper.

Christmas activities at the Historic Houses

Guibourd House

- Sat, Dec. 4: Regular tours (passport or reg admission) 10-5
Open House (free admission) 6-8 pm
(includes music, spinning wool, tours, knitting)
French ginger bread and spiced cider all day
- Sun, Dec. 5: Regular tours (passport or reg admission) 12-5

After that weekend, they will only be open Sat and Sun 12-5 pm for the winter.

Felix Valle House

- Dec. 4 & 5 Open for regular tours Sat: 10-4, Sun: 12-5
French pastries available all weekend
- Sat, Dec. 11 Open House 1-6 pm (no charge)
Tours 10-1 (usual charge)

Winter hours begin Nov. 1:

Closed Mon, Tue, Wed
Open Thu, Fri, Sat: 10-4, Sun: 12-5

Bolduc House

- Dec. 4 Gingerbread fair begins after tree lighting in the evening
Candlelight walkthrough of Bolduc House and garden after tree lighting
Bolduc, LeMeilleur, and Linden Houses will be festively decorated and open
from 6-9 pm that night (free admission after tree lighting)
Open 10-9 that day only

Winter hours are the same as the current hours.