



Ramapo Press Release

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Supervisor

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Town Board: *Yitzchok Ullman, Patrick J. Withers, Daniel Friedman & Brendel Charles*

For Immediate Release

Lafayette Theater Celebrates 91st Anniversary with Free Showing of Polar Express – December 5th

The Historic Lafayette Theater will hold a Gala 91st Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, December 5th, featuring the screening of the Christmas Classic “*The Polar Express*” at 3:00 PM, **Admission Free**, sponsored by The Town of Ramapo. Seating is on a first come first served basis, doors will open at 2:30 PM.

The Historic Lafayette Theater is one of the oldest movie palaces in the country still screening first-run and classic movies. The Theater opened its doors on March 3, 1924, showing the silent film *Scaramouche*. It has been named by USA Today as one of the Top Ten Classic Movie Theaters in the Country.

The free screening of The Polar Express will take place in memory of Robert Benmosche, a resident of Suffern and former Chairman of MetLife Insurance who saved the Lafayette Theater from demolition in 2001, and began renovating the facility. On February 27, 2015 Robert Benmosche lost his battle with Cancer. The final years of his life were devoted to his family, the Lafayette Theater, and engineering one of the greatest turnarounds in American corporate history as the Chief Executive Officer of American International Group (AIG). Bob Benmosche’s belief “that small communities are the life blood of America” is reflected in his Lafayette Theater endeavors. Ari Benmosche, following in his father’s footsteps, now serves as the Lafayette Theater’s Director of Operations and Programming.

The free showing of The Polar Express at 3:00 PM will be part of Downtown Suffern’s December 5th Christmas Celebration, which includes a Gala Christmas Parade at 6:00 PM.

The Lafayette Theater is located at 97 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY. Nearby parking is available in the Theater lot, Suffern’s Municipal lots and Avon’s parking lot at 35 Washington Avenue. Come early to the film and stay for the parade.

(For further information contact Phil Tisi at 845-357-5100 ext. 201)