

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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**The Planetarium at the State Museum of Pennsylvania Presents *Season of Light*
December 18 through December 30, 2007**

Harrisburg, PA – This is a time of darkness and quiet and cold. The Sun rises late, and goes to bed early. The nights are longest now, and the stars burn cold and bright. The State Museum of Pennsylvania Planetarium presents *Season of Light* a holiday show for the whole family.

This is a time when the land sleeps under its winter blanket, a time for upturned collars, and hot cocoa, and the cheer of a wood fire against the gloom. It is the coldest and darkest of seasons and yet this season holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year. In the past, it was the winter solstice that people celebrated to renew the promise of life. Today, we keep the season through the observances of Christmas, the Jewish Festival of Lights, and the raucous beginning of the New Year. Take a look at how many of our modern traditions have their roots in the winter festivals of long ago. For in every age, it has always been our custom to turn this time of darkness into a *Season of Light*.

A visit to the Planetarium at the State Museum of Pennsylvania includes the 25 minute feature presentation as well as a 5 minute preview of the constellations and other objects visible in our current night sky. Please allow 10 minutes extra time for entering and exiting from the venue once you have arrived at the Planetarium.

Public presentations of *Season of Light* are offered Saturday and Sunday, December 22 & 23 and December 29 & 30 at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Also showing, on Saturdays, are *Mars* at 11:00 a.m. and *Astronaut* at 11:30 a.m. Weekday showings are available December 18 thru 21, 26, & 28 with *Season of Light* at 11:00 a.m., and *Astronaut* at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased prior to the show at the Museum Information Desk on the ground floor. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults; \$3.00 for children 12 and under and Senior Citizens. Members of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society® receive a discount rate of \$2.50. Members should present their membership cards at the Museum Information Desk to receive the discount. Group rates are available, call (717) 772-6997.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located at 300 North Street, is one of 25 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trails of History®, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-6778 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. For more information on *Season of Light* as well as other planetarium shows, programs, exhibitions and events at The State Museum, click on www.statemuseumpa.org

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