

SPARE**Times**

May 11 - May 17

Around Town

Museums and Sites

MERCHANT'S HOUSE MUSEUM, 29 East Fourth Street, East Village. Sunday at 1:30 and 3 p.m., "Annual Mother's Day Tea," with finger sandwiches and other delicacies, followed by a tour of the museum; \$50 per couple, \$40 for members (each additional guest, \$20). Reservations required. (212) 777-1089. Free. Hours: Thursdays through Mondays, noon to 5 p.m. \$8; \$5 for students and 65+; free for members and under 12.

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 2 West 77th Street, Manhattan. Tuesday night at 6:30, a panel discussion on religion as a form of political activism, with scholars and authors; \$15, \$10 for members and 65+, \$8 for members. Through May 20, "Audubon's Aviary: Natural Selection," a display of watercolors of 21 different bird species; and "Carry Me Home: Dispatches From the Civil War," an exhibition of letters, photographs and other documents that illustrate firsthand accounts of the war from the front lines. Through July 1, "Elegy in the Dust: Sept. 11 and the Chelsea Jeans Memorial," a glass-encased time capsule of items from that retail store at the time of the 9/11 attack, along with photographs from the society's collection that document events that day. Through July 4, "A New Light on Tiffany: Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Girls," an exhibition of lamps, windows, mosaics and other items designed by Driscoll, who worked in the Tiffany Studios. Through Sept. 3, "New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War," a display of historical documents, photographs, political cartoons and other items. Through Sept. 30, "The World of Asher B. Durand: The Artist in the Antebellum New York," a display of more than 70 pieces of art. Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; to 8 p.m. on Fridays. (212) 873-3400. \$10; \$7 for educators and 65+; \$6 for students; free from 6 to 8 p.m. on Fridays, free at all times for children under 12. nyhistory.org.



RAPATHON The goal of any hip-hop artist is to make hit records. But this weekend, 100 rappers will gather at the Hip Hop Culture Center in Harlem in the hopes of creating a different sort of record. From 9 p.m. tomorrow until 9 p.m. on Sunday the artists will take turns rapping non-stop — without vulgarities — for what could be the first ever 24-hour "Rapathon." The event was conceived as a fundraiser for the culture center, which uses hip-hop to attract youths in need in order to educate them on politics, economics,

and diet and nutrition, said Curtis Sherrod, the center's executive director. The festivities kick off with two events. The first is a block party outside the culture center tomorrow, featuring dance performances and contests organized by the radio station Hot 97. That will be followed by a dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the center, where politicians and community leaders, including the hip-hop pioneer DJ Kool Herc, above, will offer career advice. For the main event 100 rappers previously selected at auditions will take the

stage and take turns free-styling for a minute and a half each and then pass the mike. Should anyone get nervous or stumble, a free-style expert will be on hand to jump in and keep the flow going, Mr. Sherrod said. The audience also can step in if need be, he added, and contribute a few lines of "Rock/ and don't stop/ keep on/ and don't stop." (The Hip Hop Culture Center, 2309 Frederick Douglass Boulevard, second floor, (212) 234-7171, www.globalartistscoalition.org; \$100.)

ANAHAD O'CONNOR

er Manhattan, (212) 777-1089. \$5 for under 12. Reser-

'HOOFERS ON PARADE' (Friday) Busby Berkeley inspiration for this mutation between the year and the Nature Theater of the Town Art, 61 East Fourth Street, Village, (212) 479-0888.

'THE SANDWICH KID AND DISABILITIES' (Friday) Manhattan will present to Jace King, 12, interview with siblings who had also a personal odyssey. Keri Bowers, the producer Taylor, has high-fun screening the JCC at Canha, a 17-year-old Amsterdam Avenue 5708, jccmanhattan.org.

MARIA SANGIOLIO (Saturday) often associated with this one is firmly devoted. Sangiolo will entertain interactive concert 7 p.m., 1109 Fifth Avenue 3337, thejewishmuseum.org. \$12 and \$8.

SKATE FOR HEALTH (Saturday) blade, in conjunction skating schools across the city. Free group in-line skating equipment. The Center for Information and Education (CIE) (212) 777-1089. Free skate.

'SPRANG THANG' (Sunday) Rainey, Bessie Smith Washington will be the first new musical by the students of the Rosetta Lenoire Music Center (Through May 20), 115 MacDougal Street, Greenwich Village, students and 65+.