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DECEMBER 2008

# Rocky Mountain Monthly

IESNA ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

WWW.IESRMS.ORG

## IESNA Holiday Lights Tour IES, Friends, and Fun!

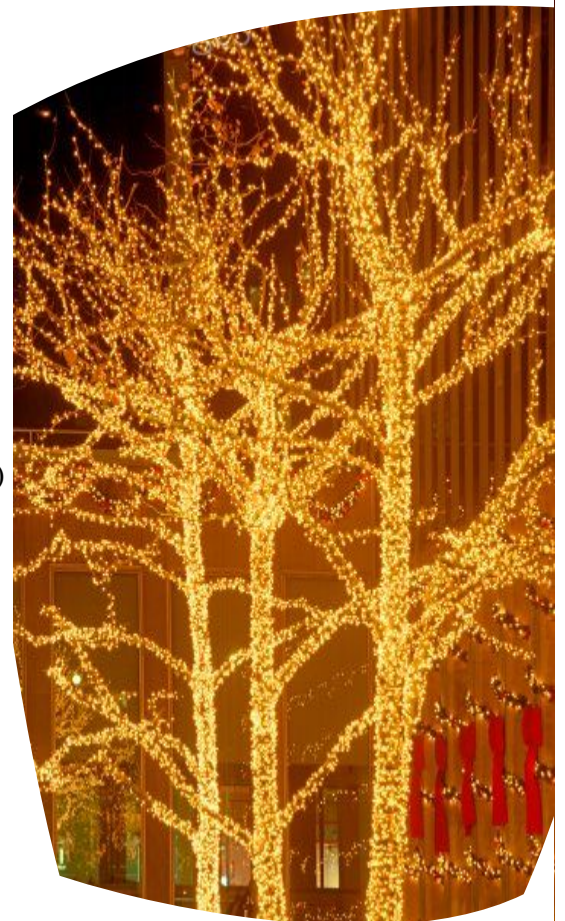
Like any great urban center, Belmar offers an eclectic assortment of dining and entertainment choices. Dinner and movie, or coffee...it all depends on where you point your feet.

Join the IES for this family-oriented night of fun (and free) activities! We'll take those interested on a tour of the lighting design of the streets at Belmar. For others, shops will be open selling all the gifts you need for the holiday season. The Rink at Belmar will be open for those wishing to skate.

As a special benefit, enjoy date night with two-for-one skating AND two-for-one dining at participating Belmar restaurants.

Pre-registration is required (click the link below to RSVP today) but the event is free for you, your family, and all friends that wish to attend!

Delight your family this winter and participate in this fun holiday event, all our gift to you, from your Rocky Mountain IES Section!



## BELMAR FAMILY NIGHT DETAILS

Register for this meeting right now!



Click here to be automatically directed to the registration website.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 9, 2008

**Location:** Belmar Plaza (408 S. Teller St., Lakewood)

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Cost:** FREE Members  
FREE Non-Members  
FREE Students

Students attend free thanks to...



DIRECTIONS?  
CLICK HERE



Wisdom,

Wonders,

and

Wit

# Holiday Lighting Traditions

The Hanukkah Menorah (Hebrew: *הרנומן menorah*) is, strictly speaking, an eight-branched candelabrum lit during the eight-day holiday of Hanukkah, as opposed to the seven branched-menorah used in the ancient Temple or as a symbol. The ninth holder, called the *shamash* ("helper or servant"), is for a candle used to light all other candles.

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple after the successful Jewish revolt against the Seleucid monarchy. According to Jewish mythology, the victorious Jews found only enough ritually pure olive oil to light the menorah for one day, but the supply miraculously lasted eight days until a new supply could be obtained. To symbolize of this miracle, the chanukkiyah has eight branches for eight candles or oil lamps, none higher than any other, except for one higher branch for the auxiliary candle, or *shamash*, which guards against secular use of the other lights and is also used to light them.

The common reason for the number of the candles is that they symbolize the eight days of the miracle. Each night an additional light is kindled – one on the first night, two on the second night; and so on – until on the eighth night of Hanukkah all eight lights, plus the *shamash*, are lit.

Another interpretation for the eight-day ceremony is that it commemorates the story of Hannah and her seven sons. The story depicted in the Talmud and in the Book of Maccabees accounts how Hannah's seven sons were tortured and executed according to Antiochus' policy when they refused to bow to a statue and to taste pork. Hannah herself committed suicide after the death of her sons.



A luminaria or *farolito* is a light or little lantern, usually a candle inside a paper lamp shade, which is of significance among New World Hispanics at Christmas time. A *farolito* is carried by the leader of a Posada procession. Las Posadas is a nine-day holiday beginning December 16 and ending December 24.

In the states of New Mexico, Arizona and west Texas, luminarias are made from brown paper bags weighted down with sand and illuminated from within by a lit candle and traditionally displayed on Christmas Eve. These are typically arranged in rows to create large and elaborate displays. Artificial luminarias, which are made of plastic and using light bulbs instead of candles, are also available. The hope among Christian believers is that the lights will guide the spirit of the Christ child to one's home. In recent times they are seen more as a secular decoration, akin to holiday lights, and have gained popularity in other parts of the country.



Santa Fe and Old Town Albuquerque are well known for their impressive Christmas Eve luminaria displays.

In some Southwestern states, such as Arizona, Texas and New Mexico, luminarias are also occasionally used as Halloween decorations, sometimes featuring Jack O' Lantern faces drawn on the paper bags.

# LEUKOS

The Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

[click here to link to the latest issue of LEUKOS](#)

## Illumination Awards Update

“The only thing that remains constant is change”. Just in case you’re considering submitting a nomination for the lighting awards this year and you have not looked at the IES web sight, please consider this; the new cost for each nomination is \$100.00 per entry, but don’t despair they’ve allowed an extra 50 words, for a total of 300 words, to you narration. There is very little information in the IES web sight; they say that entries will be required to be submitted some time in late January. All judging will be done on line and judges will be chosen from a wide field lighting professionals, there will be a total of 400 judges reviewing nominations, not sure yet who the judges will be or how that is going to work.



I have a lighting designer who likes to use Photo Shop to clean up dust and hair particles from his photos—nothing more. I suggested to him that any time a judge sees that the photo has been manipulated even for a small item such as dust removal, it looks suspicious, and the nomination may be disqualified.

Not taking my word for it the designer submitted samples, one photo untouched and one photo retouched. I submitted these photos to IES in New York for their assessment and recommendation as it pertains to the rules. As soon as I get the ruling I will pass it on.

For those of you who manage to win an Award of Merit, these come directly from New York, please note; if your company has more than one office your are eligible to receive additional copies to hang in each respective office.

Stay tuned for more exciting news.

Have a great idea?

Want to submit an article?

LET US KNOW!

Send your bright ideas to us at [newsletter@iesrms.org](mailto:newsletter@iesrms.org), and we will do the research for an article or publish *your* article in the next issue!

GET INVOLVED!

## WELCOME NEW SECTION MEMBERS

Anna-Lisa R. Conners,  
Liesl Lighting, Denver

Lance Paulson,  
Holophane, Denver

Lu B. Stoddard II,  
Retro-LEDs, Westminster

Ryan Weigel,  
Lights on Colorado,  
Denver

### Holiday Lights Tour

Belmar Plaza

December 9

Bring along your friends and family for a FREE EVENT as we enjoy hot chocolate and snacks, and take a tour of the highlights of holiday lights around Belmar!

### 2008-2009 Upcoming Section Events

### Denver After Dark

Union Station

April TBA

This April we return as one of the highlights of the Doors Open Denver event; an exclusive look at lighting downtown from a unique perspective.

### LED Expo

Original Brooklyn's

February 10

Join us as we invite manufacturers to bring you the latest products and technologies in the LED industry along with demonstrations and discussions on the industry.

### Daylighting Design Expo

Original Brooklyn's

March 10

As the world turns to energy savings, we invite exhibitors to share new innovations in daylighting products along with a discussion on designing with daylight.

### Happy Holidays...

...from your friends  
at IESRMS



# Will Lighting Trump Tower Kill Birds?

an editorial by Blair Kamin, Chicago Tribune



I took a verbal pounding from greenies and bird lovers last week when I suggested on my blog, "The Skyline," that Donald Trump light the soon-to-be-installed spire atop his 92-story Chicago hotel-condo tower. They hurled these two arguments at me: (1) How can you condone wasting energy with silly decorative lighting? and (2) Don't you know that migrating birds can get killed by these vanity displays? I went home properly chastised—wings clipped, so to speak. But now that I've done a little research, I've decided to fly back into the fray and urge: "Light that spire, Donald."

First, as skyscraper experts tell me, lighting the top of a building consumes only a small fraction of its total energy.

It's the floors of a building, not its crown, that enlarge the carbon footprint.

Saving energy is good, these experts say, but why throw out the bright new baby with the green bathwater? Then you wouldn't have had Chicago's skyline sparking in the background Tuesday night as Barack Obama addressed cheering crowds in Grant Park.

"If we are not careful, we will all retreat into bunkers and the beauty of life will be lost," Antony Wood, executive director of the Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, wrote in an e-mail. "Is a planet without the things that inspire us worth saving anyway?" Call it the "bright lights, big city" theory of urban planning: By doing a modest amount of decorative lighting, you prevent the city from feeling like a ghost town. That encourages more people to live in dense urban areas. And density saves energy. You spend a little energy to save a lot of energy. A green city is not a blacked-out city.

Now, let's take up the bird issue, which is more real than the spurious "lighted spires waste energy"

argument. In Chicago and other cities, thousands of migrating birds die each year because of collisions with skyscrapers and other tall buildings whose bright lights and reflective glass make them disoriented. Or they fly around the lighted high-rises until they fall to the ground from exhaustion.

But the solution to this problem doesn't appear to be getting rid of lights—at least not entirely. It's turning them down at times when they're most likely to kill birds.

In 1999, Chicago became one of the first U.S. cities to encourage building owners to dim lights during bird-migration season, which the city defines as lasting from mid-March to early June and from late August to late October.

The city's "Lights Out" program calls for steps such as lowering or turning off exterior decorative lights to protect migrating birds. More than 100 buildings, including the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Center, participate, according to Annette Prince, secretary of the Chicago Audubon

Society. And the program has achieved real results. The optimum time for turning off decorative spires and other building lights, Prince said, is from 11 p.m. to sunrise because that's when migrating birds tend to fly.

The Chicago program correctly recognizes that a building isn't fully green unless it responds to the needs of birds as well as the needs of people.

Another city that has taken this lesson to heart, Toronto, has developed a new rating system for "bird-friendly buildings." It outlines recommended safety features such as special glass treatments that cut down on reflectivity. Some developers plan to incorporate the recommendations in new condominium towers.

While these measures don't promise to eliminate bird/building deaths entirely, they do suggest that a high-rise can be bird friendly rather than a bird killer. Given that the architect of the Trump skyscraper, Chicago's Adrian Smith, has made green design a hallmark of his new practice, there's every reason to think that lighting for the Trump spire can be both sensitive to migrating birds and energy efficient.

There, now—does that ruffle any feathers?



We'll be awarding yet another new product from Apple at the end of this year, so be sure to make our monthly meetings! You can plan ahead using our online calendar or the newsletters Upcoming Events feature. Remember, the most attended person gets our prize again this year!

Congratulations to last years winner of an iPod Nano,  
**Julianna Ruffalo of Illumination Systems!**

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