

FREE WEBINAR For GCFM Members

Sprit of Christmas Past With Ken Turino



Four Centuries of Christmas In America NOVEMBER 4, 2025 7:00 PM EST



This richly illustrated lecture reveals how Christmas in America has evolved from its controversial beginnings in 17th-century New England—when it was banned!—to the cherished holiday we celebrate today. Discover surprising origins behind beloved traditions, among the topics discussed are how Christmas trees were raised, halls were decked, and Santa Clause came to town. You'll see how Christmas shifted from raucous revelry to the warm, family-centered celebration we know and love.

Perfect for history buffs and holiday enthusiasts alike, this presentation will illuminate the fascinating story behind the making of a "traditional" American Christmas.

Ken Turino Biography

Ken Turino is a curator, educator, and author with a deep focus on community engagement, historic interpretation, and public history. As Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at Historic New England, he has overseen numerous regional projects and exhibitions. His award-winning films, such as "Back to School: Lessons from Norwich's One-Room Schoolhouses," have aired on PBS.