

The BARNUM MUSEUM

Celebrating P.T. Barnum's 200th Birthday!

Learn the Parlour Games your Great Grandparents Played at The Barnum Museum

On Tuesday April 13 and Thursday, April 15 beginning at 2:00 p.m., The Barnum Museum will host for the second year a fascinating children's interactive program featuring *Parlour Games*. Children visiting The Barnum Museum for this unique event will discover that these games are just as much fun today as they were more than 100 years ago. A craft activity will be included in the program. Children will create a blindfold for use in one of the games and then take it home, all materials will be supplied.



During Victorian times, parlour games were often the highlight of social gatherings. Victorian families were among the first ever to be blessed with abundant free time. Long before TV, movies and the Internet, Victorian party games such as bridge, dominoes and charades kept kids and adults engaged and entertained during long evenings in the parlour, the room in many Victorian homes set aside to entertain guests.

The only function of many of these games was to produce laughter. Games such as The Bellman, Musical Chairs, Hot Boiled Beans, Smells, Recognition, and Moving Statues, Throwing the Smile, The Sculptor Fisherman, Pinch, My Ladies Toilet and O'Grady Says brought many hours of fun to Victorian families.

Hot Boiled Beans is a game where one person is sent out of the room and the rest of the group hides a small item. When the player comes back everyone says, "Hot boiled beans and bacon for supper, hurry up before it gets cold." Then the player begins to look around the room for the item while the others give "hot and cold" clues by saying "you're freezing," or "you're getting warmer" etc.

Grandmothers Trunk was a popular word game as were table games, included Up Jenkins, Checkers, Dominoes and Squares, marble games and card games such as Old Maid and Solitaire.

Please RSVP for this drop-off program by e-mailing Jaime Knoedler at jknoedler@barnum-museum.org or calling 203-331-1104 ext. 102.

Who: A program for children age 3 to 12
What: Parlour Games and Crafts
When: Tuesday April 13 and Thursday, April 15 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT

Cost: The event is free with General Admission*
Adults: \$8, Seniors and college students: \$6, Children 4 - 17: \$5, Under 4: Free
*Children who join the new Barnum's Kids Club for \$10 will receive free admission for one full year when accompanied to the museum by a paying adult.

Regular Barnum Museum Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Noon - 4:30 p.m.
For more information call 203-331-1104 ext. 106 or visit www.barnum-museum.org

Celebrating the 200th birthday of Phineas Taylor Barnum, born July 5, 1810 in Bethel CT, during 2010 The Barnum Museum will chronicle the life and times of this extraordinary showman and the history of Bridgeport where Barnum served as Mayor. For a complete listing of anniversary year events celebrating this amazing – and sometimes outrageous – showman, civic leader and politician, visit www.barnum-museum.org. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.