



You know Christmas is near when Mayor Fabrizi presents his annual reading of “*The Night Before Christmas!*”

(Bridgeport, CT) – On Monday, December 4 at 11:00 AM, Bridgeport Mayor John M. Fabrizi will read the cherished tale, “The Night Before Christmas,” by Clement Clarke Moore to children from the Housatonic Community College Early Childhood Lab School. This special annual event will take place at the Barnum Museum.

The museum also has a variety of exhibits that interpret the evolution of the holiday season on display now through January 7, 2007. Both period rooms are decorated for the Christmas season in styles reflective of the 19th Century, detailing how the holiday actually came to be a tradition in American society. Period costumes from the museum’s collection enhance the decorative Victorian tree displays.

Remaining Exhibition Gallery Talks and Lectures for the Holidays:

Kathleen Maher, Executive Director and Curator of The Barnum Museum is presenting a series of gallery talks and lectures discussing American Christmas traditions at the turn of the 19th century, and how the industrial revolution impacted the festivities of the holiday.

- Sunday, December 2, 1:00 PM – Slide Presentation and 2:30 PM –Gallery Talk
- Thursday, December 7, 11:00 AM – Gallery Talk
- Thursday, December 14, 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM – Gallery Talk

The Barnum Museum has three floors of absolutely fascinating exhibits that illustrate the extraordinary life of Phineas Taylor Barnum. P.T. Barnum, one-term mayor of Bridgeport and four-term member of the Connecticut General Assembly, was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is handicapped accessible.

What: Mayor John Fabrizi reads a holiday classic tale to children

When: Monday, December 4, 2006 at 11:00 AM

Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 203-331-1104

Regular Barnum Museum Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM,

Sunday, Noon - 4:30 PM

General Admission applies for touring the Victorian Christmas displays.

Adults: \$5, seniors & college students: \$4, Children 4 - 17: \$3, Under 4: Free

REMEMBER the Museum’s Special Holiday Hours:

Sunday, December 24 – Museum Closed, Monday, December 25 – Museum Closed

Sunday, December 31 – Noon - 4:30 PM, Monday, January 1, 2007 – Museum Closed

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