



Create a Gingerbread House, Make a Tree Ornament and Sing Along at The Barnum Museum Family Holiday Festival on December 5

Delight in the spirit of the holidays and bring the family to celebrate the holiday season with crafts and caroling at The Barnum Museum on Saturday, December 5 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Celebrate the Season events and displays are being presented this year by the Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) of Bridgeport.

Plan ahead to participate in the second annual create a Gingerbread Village contest. For contest rules see below, visit www.barnum-museum.org or call Jaime Knoedler at 203-331-1104 ext. 102 for more details. There is no cost to enter and the winner of the Gingerbread contest will receive a family 4-pack of tickets to see the Opening Night, December 30, 7:00 p.m. performance of *Disney On Ice presents Princess Classics*® at the Arena at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport. The runner up will receive a special gift bag filled with goodies from the Barnum Museum. The announcement of the Gingerbread creation winner and one runner up will take place at 2:30 p.m. Winners do not need to be present to win and will be notified by phone or e-mail.

Children of all ages will be able to create Victorian tree ornaments, holiday cards, snowflakes and more. The Coastal Chordsmen will perform from 1:45 and 2:15 p.m. while holiday décor will surround you as you sip on hot chocolate and eat cookies to warm your holiday spirit. Find fabulous Connecticut, Barnum and circus themed gifts in the shop and Barnum Museum members will receive a 25% discount on their entire purchase any time on December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 pm., following the tree lighting. Your purchase helps support The Museum.

Also on December 5, the City of Bridgeport's annual holiday tree lighting and festivities will take place down the street from the museum on the McLevy Green from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Stroll the wonderful historic streets of downtown Bridgeport and stop back by the museum if you wish to come inside and enjoy the Celebrate the Season displays. A discounted admission to the museum will apply.

Gingerbread contest Rules: Gingerbread creations should be delivered prior to noon on Saturday December 5 so they may be placed on display for the rest of the year as part of one fantastic village! Only children 12 and under are allowed to enter, all entries must be made up of edible materials, the Barnum Museum is not responsible for damage to any tasty entries, and those wishing to have their creations returned, must pick them up during normal museum hours by January 10, 2010. Working from a gingerbread kit is fine. Visit your craft store or search on line to find suggestions.

The Barnum Museum has three floors of 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.

- What:** **Holiday Festival followed by the Annual McLevy Green Tree Lighting**
- When:** **December 5: Festival 1:00 -3:00 p.m. and Tree Lighting 5:00 -7:00 p.m.**
- Where:** **The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street and the corner of Main and State Streets in Bridgeport, CT** For more information contact 203-331-1104, ext. 102 or visit www.barnum-museum.org
- Cost:** **Holiday Festival is free with General Museum Admission and Tree lighting completely free, with museum admission discounted during the lighting festivities.** Adults \$7, seniors and college students \$5, children 4-17 \$4 and children under 4 free.