



***Celebrate the Season in Victorian Style when the
Holiday Exhibits Open at The Barnum Museum!***

(Bridgeport, CT) – Starting Friday, November 17, The Barnum Museum galleries will be decorated for the Christmas Season. For the sixth year at 10:00 AM on that day, the museum will stage a presentation that interprets the evolution of the holiday season. Both period rooms will be 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 will enhance the decorative Victorian tree displays. The exhibits will be up through January 7, 2007.

Additional Exhibition Gallery Talks and Lectures for the Holidays:

- Thursday, November 30, 11:00 AM
- 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 Talks

This series of gallery talks and lectures will be conducted by Kathleen Maher, Executive Director and Curator of The Barnum Museum. Each will chronicle the evolution of the Christmas celebration during the 19th century. The presentations discuss how the Christmas tree came to be part of a newly developing ‘tradition’ in American households, and how the industrial revolution impacted the festivities of the holiday.

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: Celebrate the Season events

**When: November 17 – January 7, 2007
See dates and times for special presentation above
Holiday Exhibits are open regular museum hours**

**Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT
For information call 203-331-1104 or visit www.Barnum-Museum.org**

**Cost: Gallery Talks and Lectures are FREE to Museum members, for others
General Admission applies.
Adults: \$5, seniors & college students: \$4, Children 4 - 17: \$3, Under 4: Free**

Regular Barnum Museum Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sunday, Noon - 4:30 PM

Special Holiday Hours

Thursday, November 23 – Museum Closed

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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