



BARTOW - PELL MANSION MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ellen Bruzelius
718-885-1461, ebruzelius@bpmm.org

A Storybook Christmas at Bartow-Pell

Historic House Holiday Celebrations Center on Designers' Storybook Trees

Bronx, New York, November 12th, 2012 – The holiday forecast for Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum: a swirl of events from late November 30th through December.

Storybook Christmas trees, located throughout the mansion, will be at the center of the holiday glow. Local artists and well-known interior designers from Manhattan, City Island, and Westchester will translate favorite children's stories into eight magical story-telling trees. Storm warning: What mischief will Eloise and Curious George get up to? Can they foil the Grinch?

From crafts to music to the fully decorated magic of the mansion, adults and children of all ages will be captivated by the spirit and beauty of the holidays in this gracious 19th-century setting. Award-winning children's book author Pamela Dalton will sign books and demonstrate the art of *scherenschnitte* —or paper cutting—at Friday's holiday kick-off luncheon. French-born artist Caroline Borderies will premier a shadow puppet show, *A Year with the Bartow Family*, and lead children in creating their own shadow puppets at the Holiday Family Day on December 1st. At that evening's grand celebration, guests will enjoy the mansion in full holiday splendor, with cocktails, carols, delicious food, and friends.

Music plays a major part of the holiday experience at BPMM with First Friday! on December 7th featuring the ever popular a capella Metropolitanes and concerts of Music for St. Nicholas by the Bronx Arts Ensemble the afternoon of the 15th and 16th. On the evening of the 15th, Victorian carolers, docents in costume, delicious wassail, and the candlelit beauty of the mansion will give guests the full flavor of 19th-century holiday traditions.

Plus, a holiday shop, home-baked goods, and silent auction — and those beautiful Storybook Christmas trees gracing every room. Come, celebrate the season in the mansion's holiday splendor. Skies glistening, trees adorned, snowflakes possible!

THE TREES

Merry Christmas, Curious George Storybook by H.A. Rey; Tree design by Bartow-Pell docents **Linda Sacewicz and Christine Williams**

Eloise at Christmastime Storybook by Kay Thompson, tree decorator; City Island artist **Anoosh Donahue**

Paddington and the Christmas Surprise Storybook by Michael Bond; Tree design by interior designer **Jennifer Mehditash**

How the Grinch Stole Christmas Storybook by Dr. Seuss; Tree design by New York artist **Mary Rumser**

The Velveteen Rabbit Storybook by Margery Williams; Tree design by interior designer **Tamara Matthews Stephenson**

Babar and Father Christmas Storybook by Jean de Brunhoff; Tree design by City Island artists **Mary Colby and Marguerite Chadwick-Juner**

Christmas Eve Blizzard Storybook by Andrea Vlakhis; Tree design by artist and Wave Hill Family Art project manager **Ilse Murdock**

Raggedy Andy Stories Storybook by Johnny Gruelle; Tree design by interior designer **Bryant Keller**

HOLIDAY 2012 EVENTS

Holiday Luncheon

Friday, November 30, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Booksigning and demo by paper artist Pamela Dalton, New York Times award-winning children's book illustrator. Call 718.885.1461 for details

Annual Holiday Family Day

Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Holiday spirit abounds during this fun-filled day. Children will delight in a shadow puppet show, *A Year with the Bartow Family*, by French artist Caroline Borderies. Professional photographs with Santa (additional fee), holiday shopping, caroling, and more. Puppet shows at 10:15 and 12:15; puppet making with Caroline at 11:15. Other holiday crafts and photos with Santa on-going. Space is limited, registration required. Cost \$20 children one year and up; member children \$15 (adults and children under one year free)

Holiday Evening Celebration

Saturday, December 1, 7–10 p.m.

Support the museum while enjoying cocktails and holiday fare, caroling, and more! Call 718.885.1461 for details

First Friday! with the Metropolitones

Friday, December 7, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Experience the magic of the mansion decked out for the holidays and delight in the festive, fun sound of the a cappella Metropolitones. Do a little holiday shopping and enjoy refreshments. The free Bronx Seaside Trolley makes a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost \$10 adults; \$8 seniors & students; members free

Bronx Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 15, 1 and 3 p.m.

The Bronx Arts Ensemble and Singers present a wonderful holiday concert with music for St. Nicholas. Concert is free, but space is limited and tickets are required. Call Bronx Arts Ensemble at 718.601.7399 for tickets. The museum will not be open for tours on Saturday.

Holiday Candlelight Tours and Victorian Carolers

Saturday, December 15, 6–8 p.m.

Experience the mansion by candlelight with costumed docents highlighting 19th-century holiday traditions. Victorian carolers add to the festive atmosphere while you enjoy light holiday fare and wassail in the Orangerie. Christmas trees throughout the house evoke beloved characters in children's books. Reservations required. Cost \$12 adults, \$8 seniors & students

Bronx Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 16, 1 and 3 p.m.

The Bronx Arts Ensemble and Singers present a wonderful holiday concert with music for St. Nicholas. Concert is free, but space is limited and tickets are required. Call Bronx Arts Ensemble at 718.601.7399 for tickets. The museum will not be open for tours on Sunday.

###

About Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

*A National Historic Landmark located in New York City's largest park, **Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum**, an 1840s Greek Revival mansion, is the last of the country estates in the Pelham Bay area. BPMM is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. For more information about Bartow-Pell, visit www.bpmm.org.*