



BARTOW - PELL MANSION MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Something for Everyone on Bartow-Pell's Holiday Weekend

Storybook Christmas Trees, First Friday! Christmas Concert, Family Day and more

Bronx, New York, December 2, 2013 –

This Friday, Bartow-Pell begins the holidays with not one but *eight* trees bedecked—by an impressive cohort of artists and designers—with everything from nuts and berries to feathers and lace to evoke the magic and wonder of eight modern holiday classics from *Fancy Nancy* to *Olivia Helps with Christmas*.

The trees will be on view early enough to inspire, and late enough to be enjoyed after the holiday rush. December 6th is the festive kick-off—the eight Storybook Christmas trees will dazzle visitors from the moment the front doors swing open for the Holiday Luncheon. That evening, for *First Friday!*, guests may stroll the rooms to view the trees, listen to the fabulous MetropoliTones (back by popular demand!) and find the perfect gift in Bartow-Pell's holiday shop, curated again this year by Kensington Paper of Bronxville.

On December 7th, the trees make a magical backdrop for a photo with Santa and story-telling by City Island Theatre Group's Susan Rauh for Bartow-Pell's annual Holiday Family Day. That evening, at the Holiday Celebration to support the museum, there will be a live and silent auction, plus shopping, fine food and beverages—including locally brewed beer donated by The Bronx Brewery.

A full list of the Storybook Christmas Trees, information on their designers, and details on all holiday events follows. Please call 718.885.1461 for further details or see www.bpmm.org. Happy Holidays!

Bartow-Pell's Storybook Christmas Trees *(In order of appearance)*

In the entry hall...

The Smallest Gift of Christmas Storybook by Peter H. Reynolds; Tree design by Bronx Council on the Arts
A pioneering advocate for cultural equity, the **Bronx Council on the Arts** nurtures the development of a diverse array of artists and arts organizations, and builds strong cultural connections in and beyond the Bronx.

In the sitting room...

The 12 Days of Christmas Storybook by Robert Sabuda; Tree design by artist Joe Burck

Joe Burck is an artist and native City Islander best known for his work with the City Island Community Center Haunted House but he also extends his creative talents to the City Island Theater Group with both lighting and production design. During the holidays, look for Joe's signature holiday Lego display in a window on City Island Avenue...not to mention his Storybook Christmas Tree at Bartow-Pell.

In the north parlor...

Auntie Claus Storybook by Elise Primavera; Tree design by interior designer firm Franklin Eighth, Sarah Sarna and Tina Ramchandani

Franklin Eighth is a Manhattan-based interior design firm specializing in residential and commercial interiors. Founders **Tina Ramchandani** and **Sarah Sarna** focus on creating environments with a fresh, sophisticated perspective, drawing inspiration from the natural environment, history, literature, fine art, film, and fashion to engage their clients and provide as much detail relevant to the design process as possible. Sarah is also the founder of Live the Life You Dream About, a lifestyle blog with a focus on style, interiors, fashion, New York City, and life and Tina is the founder of interior design blog Life in Sketch.

In the dining room ...

Olivia Helps with Christmas Storybook by Ian Falconer; Tree design by artists Judy Moonelis and Jeff Mongrain
Judy Moonelis, a New York City artist, is currently Professor of Fine Arts at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. Her national and international exhibitions and site installations include the historic landmark Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA; historic NYC Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum; Temple Gallery, Rome; Groot Foundation Exhibition Space, Chicago; Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ; and Arts Westchester/Arts Exchange, NY. Moonelis' work is represented in major public collections, including the Smithsonian Institutions' Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC; Museum of Arts and Design, NYC; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

Jeffrey Mongrain has been professor of art and head of ceramics at Hunter College in New York since 1995. His works have been exhibited throughout the U.S., Mexico, Italy, Germany, Australia, and the United Kingdom at venues including the Museum of Arts and Design New York (Triennial), Museum für Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt, Germany (Triennial), The Berlin Biennial, The Sharjah Museum in the United Arab Emirates (Biennial), the Museo di Arte Sacra di San Gabriele in Teramo, Italy, and an upcoming solo show at the Daum Museum in Sedalia, MO.

In the upstairs parlor...

Olive the Other Reindeer Storybook by Steve Moore; Tree design by The JFM Group
Over the past 20 years, **The JFM Group** has provided a unique brand of fundraising expertise to raise millions of dollars for not-for-profits around the globe. JFM provides the support that aligns strategic planning, fundraising action plans, project management, and program production with specifically tailored objectives and goals. Each project is one of a kind, which is reflected in a sampling of some of their most recent clients: The Olana Partnership, a historic Hudson Valley museum; New York Landmarks Conservancy; Bottomless Closet; Carter Burden Center for the Aging; George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film; and NewYork- Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College.

In the Lannuier bedchamber...

A Christmas Tree for Pyn Storybook by Olivia Dunrea; Tree design by Bronx Parks 125

As 2013 is the 125th anniversary year of the creation of the Bronx parks system, **Bronx Parks 125** was formed to lead the celebration and to build support for the continued stewardship and improvement of this marvelous legacy. The celebration of this anniversary highlights the historic nature of the parks system, the importance of park development to the creation of the Bronx and the City as a whole, and the current development of new parkland that the Bronx is witnessing.

In Clarina Bartow's bedchamber ...

The Mitten Storybook by Jan Brett; Tree design by decorator Jane Bell

Jane Bell has worked as a residential designer for over 20 years at her firm Jane Bell Interior Design based in Scarsdale. A native New Yorker who grew up in Manhattan, Jane received a BFA in Interior Design from The Fashion Institute of Technology. Historic preservation is an important issue to Jane and she is honored to be helping at The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum this holiday season.

In George Bartow's bedchamber ...

Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas Storybook by Jane O'Connor; Tree design by Bartow-Pell docents Linda Sacewicz and Christine Williams

Docent **Linda Sacewicz** and Curatorial Assistant and Book Buyer **Christine Williams** are members of Bartow-Pell's indispensable corps of volunteers. As such they are well versed on the mansion's history and period as well as on its little-known secrets and lore. Linda's talent as a fine artist and craftswoman (as well as her work as a nurse), paired with Christine's depth of knowledge in historic decorative arts will bring a unique perspective to the design of their tree.

HOLIDAY 2013 EVENTS

Holiday Luncheon

Friday, December 6, 12:30–2 p.m.

Start off the holiday season with a festive luncheon at the mansion. Enjoy delicious food, shop for gifts and home-baked goods, and catch up with friends. *Falalalala...* Reservations required, 718.885.1461 or info@bpm.org for information.

Holiday First Friday! with the MetropoliTones

Friday, December 6, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Experience the mansion decked out for the holidays and delight in the festive, a cappella sound of the 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, 718.885.1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost \$12 adults, \$10 seniors & students; members free.

Annual Holiday Family Day: A Storybook Christmas

Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Holiday spirit abounds during this fun-filled day. Children (and parents) will delight in holiday storytelling and crafts, professional photographs with Santa, holiday shopping, and more. Storytelling at 10:15 and 12:15; holiday crafts and photos with Santa are on-going. Space is limited, registration required, 718.885.1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost \$20 children one year and up; member children \$15 (adults and children under one year free) Photos with Santa additional \$20 fee.

Holiday Evening Celebration

Saturday, December 7, 7–10 p.m.

Celebrate—and support—the mansion in holiday splendor. Enjoy cocktails, holiday fare, caroling, auction, and more! Reservations required. Call 718.885.1461 for tickets and info.

Bronx Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 14, 1 & 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 14, 6–8 p.m.

Experience the mansion by candlelight with costumed docents highlighting 19th-century holiday traditions. Victorian carolers add to the festive atmosphere, performing while you enjoy light holiday fare and wassail in the Orangerie. Plus Christmas trees throughout the house decorated by designers and artists inspired by contemporary children's books. Reservations required, 718.885.1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, students, & members.

Bronx Arts Ensemble Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 15, 1 & 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.

Birding at Bartow

Saturday, December 21, 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Start the holidays with a bird walk, searching for the legendary owls that winter at BPMM. Barred, long-eared, saw-whet, and great horned owls have been returning year after year to harbor in the pines and woods around the mansion. Also of interest are rare visitors such as crossbills and pine siskins that may be migrating through. Registration requested, 718.885.1461 or info@bpmm.org. Cost \$10; seniors, students, & members \$8.

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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.*