



PRESS RELEASE

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Christmas at Blithewold

Fairy Tales and Fantasies

November 27, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Sunday – Wednesday 10 am – 5 pm

Thursday – Saturday 1 pm – 8 pm

Gingerbread Wonderland

December 12 – 27 1 pm – 8 pm

Fairy Tales and Fantasies await visitors to Blithewold this Christmas season. Entering the mansion, guests will encounter the magnificent 18 foot “tree of fantasy” soaring to the ceiling and twinkling with thousands of lights.

Alice in Wonderland’s “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” is the setting in the dining room where the blues and whites of the family’s Delft collection inspire the decorations for this fanciful tea.

The living room is awash with colorful lights, topiaries and nutcrackers of every size and color, in keeping with the “Nutcracker Suite” theme. In the Billiard Room the dark greens of the forest surround Hansel and Gretel who have just come upon the tantalizing sweet- treat -covered gingerbread house of the old witch.

The magical holiday display continues up the stairway to the second floor rooms where designers have interpreted children’s literature and Christmas fantasies. Santa soars over the Mt. Hope Bridge in a 1910 Piper Cub and arrives at Blithewold for a magical Christmas celebration.

Marjorie's room is the setting of Clement Moore's classic poem "The Night Before Christmas" featuring Christmas letters written to and from Blithewold family members. In Augustine's room join Edward Lear's 'Owl and Pussycat' as they set sail on an enchanted Christmas cruise to the Caribbean. Snowflakes and snowmen can be found in the nursery depicting a scene from the classic 1950s 'Frosty the Snowman'. The master bedroom is aglow with candlelit trees and firelight in celebration of the tale of "Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates" and Dutch Christmas traditions.

Afternoon tea will be served in the Dining Room every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 2 & 3 pm. Tickets will be an additional \$10 with admission to the mansion on a first-come basis. Guests are able to sit, relax and enjoy the lovely decorations.

Live musical performances take place each week from Thursday through Saturday at 6:30 pm. We will celebrate the season as many of our favorite performers from years past, as well as new ones, continue this popular holiday tradition. Children's story time will return on Wednesdays at 4 pm and Blithewold's Holiday Gift Shop is open in the Breakfast Porch of the mansion offering many exciting gifts, books, and decorations, many of which you will see used to decorate the rooms.

The Carriage House will once again play host to the "Gingerbread Wonderland" exhibit. December 12 – 27. Families will be delighted by these sweet creations done by some of the communities leading bakers.

\$10 Adults

\$8 Seniors/Students with valid ID

\$2 Children 6-17