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CELEBRATE A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AND OTHER HOLIDAY MERRIMENT AT MAYMONT

The charming traditions of Christmas past will delight generations of families during Victorian Christmas at Maymont on Sunday, December 8 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Victorian ladies and gentlemen graciously welcome guests to celebrate the season and experience the warm and wonderful holiday spirit that fills the estate.

Inside the Dooleys' Gilded Age mansion, visitors will marvel at hundreds of ornaments on the 12-foot Christmas tree, the elegant dining room set for a feast, and the gifts and games of 1893. New this year, guests will meet Mrs. Walker, the Dooleys' head cook – portrayed by actress Morgan McCoy, who will share some cooking secrets and describe the long days of preparation for the Dooleys' grand Christmas celebration in their new home. In addition, children and collectors will be enchanted by the Gilded Age Christmas books, dolls and toys on display, including a German bisque doll given by James Dooley's sister to a local girl in 1895 and recently donated to Maymont by her descendants.

Horse-drawn carriage rides will transport guests back in time during jolly trips, complete with jingle bells, around the Maymont Mansion. Other festivities include listening to tales by the charming Victorian Storyteller, making Victorian ornaments and old-fashioned toys, writing letters to Santa, and taking pictures with jolly old St. Nick himself. Lamar Banister will serve as the Dooleys' coachman at the Carriage House, sharing details about the unique vehicles on display and introducing guests to his lively Saint Bernard.

A schedule of merry live music will brighten the joyous day with performances by local schools and community groups, including East End Brass, Godwin High School, The Press Gang, Whitechapel Hand Bell Choir and Young Midlothian Singers.

Guests can even find a treasure or two at the artisans' Marketplace featuring local vendors selling wreaths and decor, Victorian ornaments, Alpaca scarves, soy lotions and candles, and refreshments will be available from Espresso A-Go-Go, Carpe Donuts and Kitchenette.

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Admission to the event is free; fees vary for activities. Guided mansion tours are \$5 per person and \$4 for Maymont members and children ages 12 and under. Carriage rides are \$8 per person and \$6 for members and children ages 12 and under. Pinecone winter birdfeeders – one to take home and one for the birds at Maymont are \$5 for two.

The rest of the 2019 season will be just as delightful, with additional holiday events happening November through January.

Maymont Mansion Holiday Tours

Tuesdays-Sundays, November 22, 2019-January 5, 2020, 12-5pm, Maymont Mansion

****Special Monday Openings: December 23 & 30. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.***

James and Sallie Dooley's Gilded Age home brings the wonders and festivities of Christmas past to life and is sure to put everyone in the holiday spirit! Guided tours of the upstairs available every half-hour; last tour begins at 4:30pm. Tour capacities are limited. \$8 ages 13 and older/\$6 ages 4-12. Free for Maymont members and children ages 3 and under. For information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 329.

NEW! Holiday Design & Wine Workshop at Maymont

Tuesday, December 3, 6-8pm; Wednesday, December 4, 6-8pm; Thursday, December 5, 6-8pm

Stone Barn

Learn from Maymont's experts the special techniques needed to make and take home two festive evergreen centerpieces – one for the table and one for a window or mantle. \$45 per person/\$37 for members. For information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

Wreath Workshops at Maymont

Wednesday, December 4, 9am-12pm; Thursday, December 5, 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm

SOLD OUT: Friday, December 6, 6-9pm

Stone Barn

Learn how to create the spectacular evergreen wreaths that adorn the estate. Create one special wreath to take home, and another to decorate Maymont. \$35 per person/\$30 for members. For information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

St. Nick's Christmas Party at Maymont

Sunday, December 8, 12-1pm (SOLD OUT), 1:30-2:30pm & 3-4pm, Garden Hall

The entire family is sure to enjoy an afternoon of merriment and surprises as St. Nick joins Maymont's charming Christmas Fairy to host a party filled with magical wishes and animal friends, games, crafts and special treats! \$15 per child/\$5 for adults and children ages 12 and older. For information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 329.

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SOLD OUT: Maymont by Moonlight

Fridays, December 13 & 20, 5:30-9:30pm, Maymont's Historic Estate Entrance

These enchanting holiday evenings sold out quickly for 2019. Maymont currently has a waitlist for interested individuals; call 804-358-7166, ext. 304.

SOLD OUT: Christmas Tea at Maymont

Saturday, December 28, 3:30-5pm, Garden Hall

This delightful seasonal tea sold out quickly for 2019. Maymont currently has a waitlist for interested individuals; call 804-358-7166, ext. 304.

For more information about Victorian Christmas and other holiday delights happening at Maymont, visit maymont.org/holiday-merriment or call 804-358-7166, ext. 310.

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