

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN GRAND STYLE WITH *YULETIDE AT WINTERTHUR* STARTING NOVEMBER 22

Annual Showcase of Henry Francis du Pont's Treasured Traditions to Include a "Downton Abbey" Flourish

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE—*Yuletide at Winterthur*, a favorite annual exhibition that highlights the early 20th-century holiday celebrations of Henry Francis du Pont and his family, will include a *Downton Abbey* flourish this year. Guests will enjoy dazzling decorations and time-honored traditions displayed on three museum floors that will include a sparkling new Christmas tree honoring Winterthur's blockbuster exhibition, *Costumes of Downton Abbey*.

Yuletide opens November 22, 2014. Both Yuletide and the *Costumes of Downton Abbey* are open through January 4, 2015. They offer fascinating insights into how American country houses were cared for and operated, including the role that staff -- or "servants" as they were called in England and portrayed in PBS's *Downton Abbey* -- played in the flawless operation of the great estates of the period.

The stage for Yuletide is set in the first-floor entrance to the Court. The Court once was H.F. and Ruth du Pont's badminton court, but in the 1930s it also served as their movie-screening room. This year, visitors will see movie clips from the mid 20th century that recall the sporting life enjoyed by guests at American country estates like Winterthur. The inclusion of spaces specially designed to promote a sporting lifestyle both inside and outside the home was a defining feature of American country places, and one that distinguished them from their British counterparts. This observation was made by the Prince of Wales in a 1924 visit to a U.S. country estate in Long Island:

"...paintings, tapestries, old china, and armour would have been commonplace enough in a British country house; what was surprising was to find on the same property a squash-racquets court, a gymnasium, an indoor swimming-pool, and a Turkish bath."

When guests arrive on the fifth floor, they will be greeted by an enchanting Christmas tree decorated in *Downton Abbey* style, followed by grand entertaining and dining celebrations in the Baltimore Drawing Room (cocktails and caviar before dinner) and the du Pont Dining Room (formal dinner for 12 on yellow linens, with red orchids on the table and red poinsettias in window boxes). Amid such formality, visitors to the fifth floor might be surprised to find themselves in a Staff Sitting Room. This first-of-a-kind Yuletide display was created to remind guests of the many people who worked behind the scenes to make holidays at Winterthur -- and at British country estates -- the elegant, festive experiences for which they became known. Because H.F. du Pont valued his staff highly, he set aside a special room for their families and guests, overseeing the installation of a beautiful Christmas tree for their pleasure. Having such a space for staff to entertain was considered a luxury.

--more--

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2014



Montmorenci Staircase in Winterthur Museum.
Image Courtesy of Winterthur.

MEDIA CONTACT

Liz Farrell

lfarrell@winterthur.org

Phone: 302.888.4803

Fax: 302.888.4950

Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11.

Museum hours

10:00 am- 5:00 pm, Tuesday- Sunday.

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.



WINTERTHUR

Winterthur, Delaware 19735
302.888.4600 • winterthur.org

Yuletide would not be complete without a tribute to the family's treasured New Year's Calling tradition, which has been practiced every year since the du Pont family's earliest days in America. It is one that saw Ruth Wales du Pont entertaining upwards of 200 callers over the course of a single New Year's Day. Seasonal decorating wonders will be found in the elegant Chinese Parlor, which includes Ruth du Pont's beloved Steinway piano; in Montmorenci Stair Hall, where music and dancing reminiscent of H. F. and Ruth du Pont's parties will be on display; and in the Marlboro room, where baskets filled with gifts will recreate the family's tradition of opening of presents on Christmas Day, among other attractions on the fifth floor.

Another special treat will be found on the fourth floor, where Winterthur's own special Christmas trees inspired by the beauty of the Winterthur garden will be shown, including the magnificent Dried Flower Tree, which will be elegantly displayed in the Port Royal Entrance Hall.

Special seasonal programming, musical and dramatic performances, and other events will be held in concert with Yuletide, including the below. Please check the Winterthur website, winterthur.org, regularly for new additions and updates.

SHOPPING AND DINING

Yuletide Brunch with Santa

December 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Santa will appear from 9:00–11:00 am

\$34.95 per person; children, ages 2–12, half off, children under 2 are free. Members receive 10% discount on parties of up to four. For reservations, call 302.888.4826.

Downton Afternoon Tea Buffet

November 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 & 30, December 7 & 28 and January 4, 3:00 pm

Call 302.888.4826 for reservations.

In the Museum Stores

- December 1–8: Free shipping on all online purchases. Use code CYBERSHIP.
- December 4–7: Spend \$75 or more and receive a free pashmina.
- December 26–31: Free *Discover Yuletide at Winterthur* book with all online purchases.
- December 26–January 4: Annual After-Christmas Sale in the Museum Stores. Half off select Christmas items!

SPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES

Yuletide Touch-It Room Hours

Monday–Friday, 2:30–4:30 pm; weekends, 12:30–4:30 pm

Visit the family programs page for more information.

DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Holiday Workshops in the Brown Horticulture Learning Center:

Family Workshop: “Making a Terrarium”

December 7, 3:30–4:30 pm

Make a garden-inspired gift for the holidays with the expert help of our horticultural staff. Learn how to plant a simple terrarium that will grow in a bright location in your house. A small glass terrarium will be filled with soil and gravel, plants and moss will be added, and rocks and wood will be placed for decoration. *10-family limit. \$20 per child. Reservations required.*

Family Workshop: “Making a Mason Bee Box”

December 14, 3:30–4:30 pm

Make a garden-inspired gift for the holidays with the expert help of our horticultural staff. Mason bees are native pollinators of fruit trees and flowers. Learn how to make and manage a simple mason bee box made from recycled materials. *Box, glue, and paint will be provided; please dress appropriately. 10-family limit. \$10 per child. Reservations required.*

Teacher Workshop: "Yuletide!"

December 6, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Get a behind-the-scenes peek at our annual holiday tour and learn neat gift-wrapping techniques using cellophane. *Active teachers only. Call 800.448.3883 to register. \$15 per person. Members free. Credit is available through the Delaware Teacher Center.*

CONCERTS & PERFORMANCES

Master Players at Winterthur Concert Featuring Sixwire (For Winterthur Members Only)

December 7, 4:30–5:30 pm

Enjoy the world-traveling duo of Xiang Gao and Cathy Yang as they perform crossover music on the violin from classical tango to Chinese traditional. *Copeland Lecture Hall. Members only. \$15 per adult. \$10 per student (ages 12–17). Free to Benefactor-level-and-above Members. Reservations required.*

Master Players at Winterthur Featuring Great Musical Families (Open to the General Public and Winterthur Members)

January 11, 3:00–4:30 pm

Witness a sensational vocal performance featuring baritone Jonathan Lasch and his wife, soprano Caitlin Lynch, as they perform a selection ranging from opera arias to Broadway musicals. *Copeland Lecture Hall. \$15 per Member. \$25 per nonmember. \$10 per student (ages 12–17). Reservations required.*

Yuletide Jazz & Wine Series

November 26 & December 3, 10 & 17, 6:00–8:30 pm

Relax and celebrate the season with a glass of wine, beautiful decorations, and lively jazz. Cash bar (wine and beer); fruit and cheese for purchase. Enjoy entry to the Galleries and *Costumes of Downton Abbey* exhibition. *Members free. Included with a Yuletide general admission ticket. For nonmembers who are not purchasing a Yuletide general admission ticket, tickets are \$15 and include live jazz and entry to the Galleries. Yuletide Tour is an additional \$10 fee. Advanced booking encouraged.*

Plus:

November 26: Cartoon Christmas Trio

December 3: Gina Roché

December 10: Tony Smith Trio

December 17: Ron Cole Trio

A Christmas Carol

Thursday, December 4, 1:00 and 6:00 pm

This heartwarming one-man show is performed live by Gerald Charles Dickens, the great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens, who depicts 26 characters of the classic tale. *A book signing will follow. The Visitor Center Café will be open until 6:00 pm. Performance-only tickets: \$15 per Member; \$18 per nonmember; and \$10 for children under 12. Package price (performance and general admission): \$35 per nonmember; \$20 per child. For tickets, call 800.448.3883. For more information about Gerald Charles Dickens' performances, visit the Byers' Choice website.*

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Costumes of Downton Abbey

March 1, 2014–January 4, 2015

Costumes of Downton Abbey is an original exhibition of exquisite designs from the award-winning television series. Approximately 40 historically inspired costumes from the television show will be displayed and supplemented by photographs and vignettes inspired by the fictional program and by real life at Winterthur.

--more--

The Flowering of American Tinware

Through January 4, 2015

This pocket-size exhibition highlights the collection of decorated tinware that Henry Francis du Pont acquired from antiques dealers in New England and Pennsylvania, particularly from Ephrata, Lancaster, Carlisle, and York. These beautiful, hand-painted objects feature decorative techniques that have been in use from the early 1700s to today.

The Diligent Needle: Instrument of Profit, Pleasure, and Ornament

Through July 5, 2015

For centuries, women have used a needle to both earn a living and create objects of beauty. This exhibition presents embroidery from the impressive Winterthur collection, highlighting the fascinating intersection of “work” and “art.”

Members-Only Day: Farewell to *Costumes of Downton Abbey*

January 5, 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Members are invited for one last chance to visit and bid farewell to *Costumes of Downton Abbey*, meet and greet exhibition curators and designers, and enjoy a special 1:00 pm lecture and book signing by Carol McD. Wallace, author of *To Marry an English Lord*. *Members only. Members free. Reservations required. No house tours or garden trams.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Timed Yuletide Tour tickets are required for both Members and nonmembers. Members are free. Purchase tickets online at Winterthur.org, or by calling 800.448.3883 or 302.888.4600. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

Yuletide house tours are sold out for Saturday, November 22*. Limited tickets for *Costumes of Downton Abbey* are still available.

- No house tours will be offered 11/11 - 11/21/14; however, tickets to the *Costumes of Downton Abbey* exhibition are available during this period.

Daily Hours

Winterthur is open daily (including Mondays) during Yuletide, 9:30 am–6:00 pm. Last Yuletide Tour tickets sold at 3:45 pm. Last *Costumes of Downton Abbey* tickets sold at 4:15 pm. Visitor Center Café and Cottage Café open until 4:00 pm. Galleries and stores open until 6:00 pm.

Extended Hours

Enjoy our evening hours on Wednesdays, November 26 and December 3, 10, and 17:

Last tour tickets sold at 6:45 pm
Galleries open until 8:30 pm
Cottage Café open until 6:30 pm
Stores stay open until 8:00 pm (except on November 27).
Yuletide Jazz & Wine 6:00–8:30 pm

Early Closing

December 24 & 31 and January 1, early closing:

Last tour tickets sold at 2:15 pm. Galleries close at 4:00 pm. Museum Stores close at 4:00 pm. Cottage Café and Visitor Center Café close at 4:00 pm.

For more information, visit Winterthur.org. For tickets, call 800.448.3883 or 302.888.4600.