



Monday, March 25, 2002

Decorate boxes at the next Family Fun Day

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Oakland University's **Meadow Brook Hall** invites children and their parents to learn more about the extensive and elaborate mini box collection housed at the hall and originally owned by OU founder Matilda Dodge Wilson at the next Family Fun Day Saturday, March 30, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Children can let their creativity shine by decorating their own box to take home. Decorating supplies and boxes are included in the price, which is \$4 per child. The price includes one free adult (parent/chaperone required). Prepaid reservations also are required. To make a reservation, call (248) 270-3140.

The Family Fun Days series gives children and their families the opportunity to learn more about selected aspects of the hall through hands-on activities, lectures and tours. Each program is on the last Saturday of each month, depending on holidays, and features a new theme and children's activity to help interpret the history, architecture and collections of the hall.

"The idea behind the Family Fun Days is to introduce families to Meadow Brook Hall and show them we're more than just a museum," said Marketing Manager Shannon O'Berski. "They sell out quite regularly and are drawing more and more people. We try to hold enrollment to 30 people to keep the groups at a manageable size. The charges are nominal and are only for materials for the children's activity. The parents also are able to be involved and see the inside of Meadow Brook Hall, which the kids also love."

Family Fun Day events were first introduced last September with a "roaring twenties" festival.

Meadow Brook Hall is the fourth largest historic house museum in the United States and is especially renowned for its superb craftsmanship, architectural detailing and grand scale. Built in the 1920's as the residence of Oakland University founders Matilda Dodge Wilson (widow of auto baron John Dodge) and her second husband, lumber broker Alfred G. Wilson, the 110-room, 80,000-square-foot, Tudor-revival style mansion is complete with vast collections of original art and furnishings.

Listed on both the national and state registers of historic places, Meadow Brook Hall strives to preserve and interpret its architecture, landscape, and fine and decorative arts so visitors may be entertained, educated and inspired by its history.

Upcoming Family Fun Day Events:

- **April 27** – Paint your own masterpiece and learn about Matilda Dodge Wilson's collection of paintings and favorite artists.
- **May 18** – Create your own mosaic of art after touring Meadow Brook Hall's sun porch and viewing mosaic tabletops from the collection.
- **June 29** – Learn more about the architecture of Meadow Brook Hall through a scavenger hunt adventure and take home your own puzzle.
- **July** – Family Fun Day will not be held due to Meadow Brook Hall's Concours d'Elegance activities.
- **Aug. 24** – Check out the Tiffany stained glass windows and lamps at Meadow Brook Hall and make your own stained glass creation.
- **Sept. 14** – Meadow Brook Hall's Fall Family Festival is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids and their parents can participate in a variety of activities including Wizard of Oz walk to Knoke Cottage, 1930's dress up area, tap and swing dance demonstration and lessons, live music, and children's crafts and activities.

For more information, call (248) 370-3140 or visit the **Meadow Brook Hall** Web site.

SUMMARY

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