



Thursday, November 20, 2003

Take a global tour during the MBH Holiday Walk

Feliz Navidad. Joyeux Noel. Mele Kalikimaka. Kala Christougenna Kieftihismenos. Happy Holidays. Experience the holidays "around-the-world" as **Meadow Brook Hall** prepares for its annual Holiday Walk Friday, Nov. 28, through Tuesday, Dec. 23. The festive celebration offers tours, arts and crafts, stories and more to share the spirit of the season with visitors and provide a glimpse into the past.

This year's event transports guests back to 1935 – the year Frances Dodge, daughter of Oakland University founder Matilda Dodge Wilson, took her family on a grand tour of the world. Experience the grand tour during the Holiday Walk by retracing the journey of the Dodge-Wilson family. From India to Greece, Meadow Brook Hall will transform each room into a festive location visited by the family. Guests will receive their boarding passes upon arrival into the Great Hall where they will be part of a festive "bon voyage" before embarking on their grand tour adventure.

Meadow Brook Hall's 2003 Holiday Walk offers a variety of events designed to capture the imagination of children and parents alike. Every Saturday and Sunday, children can enjoy holiday story time and visit jolly old Saint Nick. Other activities include writing letters to Santa, designing personalized ornaments and holiday cards, and learning about the Polish tradition of finding pickle ornaments. More than 10 pickle ornaments can be found hidden in the holiday trees throughout the hall. Children also will receive an informative activity booklet, so they can experience **Meadow Brook Hall** through their own eyes.

A special breakfast with Santa is set for Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 at 9:30 a.m. The cost of the breakfast is \$30 for adults and \$25 for children. In honor of Matilda Dodge Wilson's renowned tea parties, a holiday high tea will be served Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. The cost for the tea is \$55 per person, and reservations are required.

A black-tie holiday gala is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 5. Prepared by Meadow Brook Hall's executive chef Danny Martinez, the evening begins with a champagne reception and tour at 6:30 p.m., followed by a four-course gourmet meal. Held in the Christopher Wren Dining Room, the evening is complete with an afterglow including cigars and cordials served on the terrace and musical entertainment to serenade guests. Tickets are available for \$200 per person.

Open to the public, the Holiday Walk tour times are Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last admittance at 4 p.m.). The cost is \$20 for adults, \$12.50 for children under 12 years and children under 2 are free.

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 1920s as the residence of Oakland University founders, Matilda Dodge Wilson (widow of auto pioneer John Dodge) and her second husband, lumber broker Alfred G. Wilson, the 110-room, 88,000-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 art so visitors may be entertained, educated and inspired by history.

All Holiday Walk proceeds are used for the preservation and interpretation of this significant historic property.

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

SUMMARY

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