Hayes Home Holidays features Christmas traditions

Be part of a recently added Christmas tradition at the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums: Hayes Home Holidays. These popular Christmas-themed evening tours of the Hayes Home return for their second year and will include stories from later generations of the Hayes family, who lived in the home until 1965. Hayes Home Holidays is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20 – Sunday, Dec. 22, in the Hayes Home and museum. Tours last about 45 minutes and are offered every half hour from 5 to 7 p.m.

A guide will lead participants from the museum to the historic Hayes Home by lantern light. Then, costumed greeters will welcome guests into the home in the evening, a time the house is not usually open for tours. Visitors will tour the home and learn about the Hayes family’s Christmas and New Year’s traditions, as well as celebrations for President Rutherford and First Lady Lucy Hayes’ wedding anniversary, which was Dec. 30. This year, the tour includes parts of the second floor of the house.

Guests will enjoy wassail, a non-alcoholic drink that was served during the president and first lady’s day. The tour also will include an interactive experience. The home will be modestly decorated to be historically accurate as to how the Hayes family, including the later generations, would have kept the house at the holidays.

Included in the ticket price is viewing of the “Hayes Train Special” model train display in the museum. Also in the museum, hands-on activities and light refreshments will be available. Activities are inspired by White House Christmases and will include an indoor snowball fight. Guests can come early before their tour and see the “Hayes Train Special” and participate in activities in the museum. Those who take earlier house tours can see the train display and participate in the museum activities after their tour.

Tickets are available online at rbhayes.org/events. Tickets are also available by calling Jacque Baker at 419-332-2081, ext. 238. Advance tickets are recommended. Tickets are non-refundable. Tickets will be sold at the front desk the days of the event, subject to availability.

Tickets are $20 for adult Hayes Presidential members, $25 for adult non-members, $8 for members ages 6-18, $10 for non-members ages 6-18 and free for kids 5 and younger (members and non-members). The Museum Store also will be open during this event for any last-minute holiday shoppers.

Kids can enjoy Victorian Christmas at Kids Days @Hayes

Kids can create a Christmas craft and discover Victorian Christmas traditions, including how the Hayes family would have celebrated the season, during Kids Days @ Hayes from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Father Christmas (the Victorian predecessor to Santa Claus) will make an appearance. Cost is free for kids and grandkids of Hayes Presidential Library & Museums members at the major level and higher and $3 for non-members. Kids Days at Hayes is an interactive, educational program for kids through age 12. RSVPs are requested and can be made online at rbhayes.org/events or by contacting Education Coordinator Joan Eardly at 419-332-2081 or jeardly@rbhayes.org. Please include the names and ages of the kids for whom you are RSVPing. Title sponsor is Impact Credit Union. Event sponsor is ABC INOAC Exterior Systems, LLC.

‘Hayes Train Special’ open through Jan. 5

The “Hayes Train Special” is open through Sunday, Jan. 5. This year, six trains wind through multiple areas and travel a Victorian winter scene. Also included is a scavenger hunt in the display to find creatures that will be featured in the upcoming exhibit “Ohio: An Unnatural History.” The creatures include Bigfoot, Dogman and the Loveland, Ohio, Frog. Members are admitted for free. Access for non-members is included with regular admission. An admission coupon can also be found at rbhayes.org. The “Hayes Train Special” is sponsored by Croghan Colonial Bank and the Gordon W. Knight Family.
Welcome, October new members!
Rod Combs of Fremont, OH; Allan Harker of Wakeman, OH; M/M Ted Karchner of Monroe, OH; Arlene B. McCloskey of Sandusky, OH; Linda Murr of Winchester, VA; Gloria Quaintance of Clyde, OH; Kami Sayre of Port Clinton, OH

Holiday hours and closings
All facilities at the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas Day and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day. The research library will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, for Christmas Eve. The Hayes Home and museum will close at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24, for Christmas Eve. The last tour of the Hayes Home will be at 2 p.m. that day. The home will be lightly decorated in the style the Hayes family kept it at the holidays from the evening of Friday, Dec. 20 through Sunday, Jan. 5.

Volunteer Notes (Joan Eckermann, special events/volunteer coordinator, 419-332-2081, ext. 245; jeckermann@rbhayes.org)

Volunteer Opportunities
Hayes Home Holidays – We’re still in need of volunteers from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20; Saturday, Dec. 21, and Sunday, Dec. 22, to be storytellers in the Hayes Home, costumed maids to serve wassail, lantern escorts to guide guests from the museum to the home, activity workers in the auditorium and dishwashers. Please let Joan know if you can help with this festive event!

Volunteer Hours
Please remember to record your volunteer hours for October, November and December in the binders in the museum, or email them to Joan by Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Volunteer Birthdays in December
Our best wishes go to our volunteers celebrating birthdays in December: Barbara Brooks, Jon Brough, Brooke Coan, Larry Cook, Joe Fick, Frances Fleet, Nancy Francis, Ann Marie Muehlhauser and David Overmyer.

Happy Holidays!
We wish our volunteers a Happy Christmas and a healthy and peace-filled New Year!