You're invited....

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This year, more than any other, we all need a strong dose of sugar plums and old-fashioned holiday cheer. Please join us.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6 TO 8 P.M.

ANNUAL 19TH-CENTURY HOLIDAY PARTY

The House will be in festive holiday dress— with boughs of holly, wreaths and topiaries, swags and garlands, spice pomanders and fruits, a traditional table-top tree, cornucopia — and "kissing balls."

The Wassail bowl will be filled, and the house will be alive with music and holiday spirit. Candlelight tours and holiday savories and potables. Holiday raffle, too. $20. Members free.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to a fund for the families of the eleven firefighters from Engine 3/3/Ladder 9, our neighborhood firefighters, who lost their lives on September 11.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

WORKSHOP, WREATHS & EVERGREEN DECORATION

The use of greenery goes way back — 2,000 years — to the Druids, the Norse, and the Romans, who decorated their homes with greens, which didn't die in the dismal and dark winter. Because evergreens grew in the cold and darkness, and some like the holly and mistletoe even blossomed, they were thought to be magical and became a symbol of immortality. The greens were made into different forms including garlands, roping, and wreaths, a classical inspiration. Our front door is graced this holiday season with a magnificent wreath generously donated by the Incredible Christmas Store.

Illustrated slide lecture by noted architectural and cultural historian Sybil Groff will herald the season and St. Nicholas Day, December 6. Reception follows. $12, members $10.

(One thanks to Sybil for the historical information she provided for this Newsletter.)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 6:30 P.M.

LECTURE

THE HOLIDAYS IN 19TH-CENTURY NEW YORK

Celebrations, Customs, and Costumes

So many of our holiday traditions today took root in 19th century New York City: the New York Knickerbockers transformed the mainly St. Nicholas into the jolly Santa Claus, and we began caroling, shopping (or Christmasing, as it was known), giving gifts, sending cards, decorating department store windows, and feasting. Christmas became the most popular holiday in America.

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AN APPEAL AT YEAR’S END....

With the necessary (and appropriate) cancellation in early October of our largest annual fundraising event — the NYC Oyster Festival — the Museum now faces an unprecedented budget shortfall for the year.

Along with all that you are doing to help others in this time of extraordinary need, please consider also a contribution to Merchant’s House — its continued survival in the historical course of New York City has never meant more.

YES, I want to preserve this unique landmark of 19th-century New York for generations to come with a tax-deductible donation of:

[ ] $   [ ] $1,000  [ ] $500  [ ] $250  [ ] $100  [ ] $50

Please make checks payable to the Merchant’s House Museum or charge your contribution to:

[ ] American Express  [ ] Visa  [ ] Master Card

Card No.  Exp. date  Signature

The Museum’s House acknowledges with gratitude these Members and Friends who have been especially generous in their support over the past year:

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Karen A. Treadmill

We are left without adequate words to express our sorrow for the loss of eleven firefighters from Engine 33/Ladder 9, our neighborhood firehouse on Great Jones Street. They were our friends. We take great pride in their heroism. A portion of the proceeds from our 19th-century Holiday Party on December 12 will be donated to a fund for their families.

The Museum’s public education programs are sponsored in part through the generous support of the Public Service Award program of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.