

36th Annual *Candlelight Tour*



Have you ever wondered how the holiday season might be celebrated in one of the beautiful historic homes in Havre de Grace? Or maybe you just hoped to discover a unique decorating idea?

December 14th of this year (2008) is your opportunity to do just that! The Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House will welcome you to join the festivities of their 36th Annual Candlelight Tour. This holiday tradition will delight your senses of sight, sound and smell. The lighted trees and decorations that line the historic downtown, the luminaries that create a soft glow along Union Avenue where many beautiful historic homes sparkle in their holiday trimmings, will soon have you humming your favorite holiday tune!

Those lucky enough to purchase a ticket will excitedly arrive to peek inside the chosen homes for this year's tour. As we go to press,



Goldfish Gallery, © Kelly Heaton



Spencer Silver Mansion B&B, © Ed Heaton

(late September) it's too early to be able to give you details on this year's list of homes. But be assured, they'll be as beautifully appointed as they have been every year.

Each home that opens its door to the eager tiptoe of guests shares a bit of their personal lives for a few hours during this holiday event. After working for days, even weeks, to prepare for this special day, the owners will be ready to greet you warmly.

Antique model trains will wind their way on their holiday tracks. The notes tinkling in the air from a collection of music boxes may remind you of your own childhood. One year there was a marvelous collection of sand. Yes, sand! Organized in small baby food jars, the home's owner shared stories of places he'd visited or worked as he pointed out a particular sample. Never had I realized how many colors of sand there are!

The smell of hot cider, chocolate and coffee mingling with the tantalizing aroma of holiday pastries and cookies will tease your taste buds. Shops, museums, B&Bs, churches and beautiful homes will each offer their personal spice to the day's texture.

Cover Photo of the Lantern Queen, © Ed Heaton





Harold & Anna Goodman, Santa Carvers, at Vincenti Decoys, © Ellie Mencer

Ornaments on a family tree and decorations scattered throughout a home display years of family memories. A child's first Christmas, an annual decoration added through the years, a favorite Santa, a doll or toy that was made by Grandma or Grandpa and kept for decades – all of these treasures are shared.

It is exciting to enjoy the way someone else decorates their home for the season. So many beautifully creative arrangements can't help but inspire you to go home and see what you might do with your own collections.

Unique to this year's celebration is the addition of live music in every home on the tour. The Arts & Entertainment Committee of Havre de Grace Main Street, Inc. in cooperation with the Maryland Conservatory of Music will arrange for a harpist, small choir, string quartet and others to add that perfect ambience to the celebration and the season! Many of the shops, churches and B&Bs will also include music in their festivities.

The day will be a busy one. Starting with the museums being open from noon until 8 p.m., their gift shops will be stuffed to the rafters with wonderful ideas for your holiday gift-giving. Demonstrations and treats will also be available at each site: Lock House, Maritime, and Decoy Museums plus the Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling. And as you might expect, each will be beautifully decorated and ready to ease you into a nostalgic holiday season.

Magdalena Light's home, © Kelly Heaton



Currier House B&B, © Kelly Heaton



Island Jack, © Kelly Heaton



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A number of area churches will be included on the tour and will be open from noon until 8 p.m. Many downtown shops will be ready to offer you a warm reception starting at noon and will be very eager to help you discover the perfect gift for those special folks on your list.

The homes and B&Bs on this year's tour will only be open from 4-8 p.m. and tickets are required to enter. There's a limited amount sold each year. Contact the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock house, the Havre de Grace Visitors Center, Amanda's Florist and other locations. This event is sponsored by the Susquehanna Museum at the Lock House and it is their major annual fundraiser.



Vincenti Decoy Shop, © Kelly Heaton

Adding to the spirit of the season, the Skipjack MARTHA LEWIS will host their 3rd Annual Christmas Tea at the Vandiver Inn beginning at 1 p.m. Advanced tickets are required for this benefit tea. Call 410-939-4078. The Lantern Queen Riverboat will host a Post-Candlelight Tour Supper Cruise from 8:30 – 10:30 p.m. Relax and share your memories of the day while you enjoy a gourmet meal. Call 410-939-1468.

Throughout this special day and the entire season, enjoy the decorated businesses and homes. Pray for peace. Share with others. And savor all that is beautiful in your life. Happy Holidays!



Miriam's Joy, musicians, at the Picture Show, © Ellie Mencer



Decoys at Charlie Jobes Shop, © Marita O'Connell

For tickets to the Candlelight Tour
visit the HdG Visitors Center or call **410.939.2100**
or call the Susquehanna Museum at the
Lock House at **410.939.5780**
Visit **www.HavredeGraceTheMeetingPlace.com**
for continual updates to holiday activities.

For more on Ed and Kelly Heaton visit their websites:
www.EdHeaton.com or **www.KellyHeaton.com**