



For immediate release

Contact: Patrick Keefe

631-854-5562 – office

patrick@vanderbiltmuseum.org

Celebrate the Most Festive Season at the Vanderbilt Museum

December: Decorated Mansion Tours, Holiday Dinner, Tree Lighting

CENTERPORT, NY (October 29, 2014) – December has several seasonal events that have become popular holiday traditions at the spectacular mansion of William K. Vanderbilt II – the tree lighting in the mansion courtyard, the holiday dinner, and tours of the mansion, decorated by local designers and garden clubs.

Friday, November 28 – Tuesday, January 6

Tours of the Decorated Vanderbilt Mansion

The Friday after Thanksgiving is the first day each year that visitors can see the decked halls of the Vanderbilt. The spectacular results of the volunteer decorators charm hundreds of visitors throughout the season. Tours cost \$5 person, plus general admission – \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors 62 and older and students with ID.

Saturday, November 29

Annual Tree Lighting: Vanderbilt Mansion Courtyard,

This free event, open to the public, begins at 4:00 p.m. with a performance by the Northport Chorale of holiday favorites and Christmas carols – followed at 4:30 by the lighting of the tree and the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

All who attend may pick up complimentary tickets to the Chorale's concert on Friday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. at Northport High School.

Saturday, December 6

Holiday Dinner in Vanderbilt Mansion

This popular event, held in the festively decorated Vanderbilt Mansion, offers limited seatings of 50 at 6:00 and at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person. A benefit for the Museum's education programs, the dinner sells out quickly, so early reservations are strongly recommended. To purchase tickets, call 631-854-5579.



Dinner in the Vanderbilt Mansion is a time-machine trip to the 1930s, a taste of the elegant Gold Coast life of a lost era. The evening begins with wine and hors d'oeuvres in one of the natural-history galleries, followed by a guided tour of the festively decorated mansion. The formal dinner is served in the mansion's glass-walled Northport Porch overlooking the harbor lights, with dessert in the Lancaster Room.

Friday-Sunday, December 26-28

Twilight Tours of the Vanderbilt Mansion

These evening (7:00 to 9:00) tours, offered each year Christmas and New Year's Eve, include hot chocolate and cookies. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$9 for students and seniors (62 and older), and \$5 for children 12 and under.

This event is a treat for visitors, and the only time of the year the Vanderbilt family's private living quarters can be seen at night.

* * * *

MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM INFORMATION

Fall Hours – Museum and Mansion

Through November 2: The Museum and Mansion are open Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturday 11:00 to 5:00, Sunday: 12:00 to 5:00. *The Museum and Mansion are closed Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.*

Fall Hours – Charles and Helen Reichert Planetarium

Through November 2: Daytime shows Tuesday and Friday at 2:00 and on Saturday and Sunday at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00. Evening shows Friday and Saturday at 8:00 and 9:00. *The Planetarium is closed Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.*

Observatory – Year-round viewing of the night sky (weather permitting), Friday only, 9:00-10:00 (free with show ticket; \$3.00 without show ticket)

Planetarium Show Schedule – Fall 2014

For details on each show, visit www.vanderbiltmuseum.org

Through November 2

Tuesday and Friday

2:00 - Stars

Saturday and Sunday

12:00 - One World, One Sky

1:00 - Solar System Odyssey

2:00 - Stars

3:00 - **Black Holes - NEW!**

4:00 – **Earth, Moon, and Sun - NEW!**

Friday Night

8:00 - Long Island Skies

9:00 – **Musical Space Journey - NEW!**

Saturday Night

8:00 - **Black Holes - NEW!**

9:00 – **Musical Space Journey - NEW!**

Planetarium Show Schedule – Early Winter 2014

November 3 - 27

Tuesday

2:00 - Stars

Saturday and Sunday

12:00 - One World, One Sky

1:00 - Solar System Odyssey

2:00 - Stars

3:00 - **Black Holes - NEW!**

4:00 – **Earth, Moon, and Sun - NEW!**

Friday Night

8:00 - Long Island Skies

9:00 – **Musical Space Journey - NEW!**

Saturday Night

8:00 - **Black Holes - NEW!**

9:00 – **Musical Space Journey - NEW!**

Museum Admission

General museum admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students with ID and seniors (62 and older), and \$3 for children 12 and under. General admission includes estate-grounds access to the Marine Museum, Memorial Wing natural-history and ethnographic-artifact galleries, Nursery Wing, Habitat Room, Egyptian mummy and Stoll Wing animal-habitat dioramas. For a mansion tour, add \$5 per ticket. (A video tour of the mansion is available on request.)

Mansion Tours

Guided tours of the Vanderbilt Mansion – listed on the National Register of Historic Places – are available Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00.

Planetarium Admission

During the day, visitors to the Planetarium pay general museum admission (\$7 for adults, \$6 for students with IDs and seniors 62 and older, and \$3 for children 12 and under), plus \$5 each for a Planetarium show. Since the museum is closed in the evening, no general museum admission is

charged – visitors pay only for Planetarium show tickets: \$9 for adults, \$8 for students with IDs and seniors 62 and older, and \$7 for children 12 and under.

Vanderbilt Observatory

Night-sky viewing on Friday (weather permitting), 9:00-10:00 p.m. Observation is free to visitors with a planetarium show ticket, \$3.00 for those without a show ticket.

Location and Website

The Vanderbilt Museum is located at 180 Little Neck Road, Centerport, NY. Directions and updated details on programs and events are available at www.vanderbiltmuseum.org. For information, call 631-854-5579.

Images

Available upon request. Call Patrick Keeffe at 631-854-5562.

The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum

The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum — a unique combination of mansion, marine and natural history museum, planetarium and park — is dedicated to the education and enjoyment of the people of Long Island and beyond. This mission is achieved through the thoughtful preservation, interpretation and enhancement of the Eagle's Nest estate as an informal educational facility. Many exhibition and program themes focus upon Long Island's Gold Coast Era. Programs also concentrate on William K. Vanderbilt II's desire that his marine, natural history and ethnographic collections promote appreciation and understanding of the marvelous diversity of life, other cultures, and scientific knowledge. Planetarium programming, more specifically, focuses on scientific knowledge and seeks to capture Mr. Vanderbilt's sense of adventure and exploration through state-of-the-art entertainment.

###