

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Welcome to *Home for the Holidays* at Deck the Hall**

*Animated Holiday Store Window of 1920s Akron is a Highlight*

October 9, 2015 – Akron, Ohio –Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens presents its annual celebration of the winter holidays, **DECK THE HALL**, from 5-8pm on November 27-29, December 3-6, Dec. 10-23, 26-30, and January 2, 2016. Stan Hywet is located at 714 North Portage Path, in Akron Ohio.

The newest feature of Deck the Hall is an animated window in the Courtyard outside Molly's Shop, depicting downtown Akron at dusk during the holidays, circa 1920. The Manor House is decorated to reflect the theme of *Home for the Holidays* and every evening of **DECK THE HALL** also includes a Christmas tree lighting in the Courtyard at 5:30pm with Santa. **DAZZLE**, a light show spectacular animated to music features three news songs and **Gingerbread Land**, the holiday transformation of Playgarden is back to delight all guests. A warming fire, freshly baked gingerbread cookies, savory snacks and holiday shopping at Molly's are also part of this wonderful Christmastime tradition.

"Our newest feature of Deck the Hall is an animated holiday window just outside Molly's. It's based on a vintage postcard of South Howard and Main Streets in Akron, depicting a department store near the old triangular flatiron building at dusk during Christmas in the 1920s," notes Linda Conrad, President & Executive Director. The window is animated with many moving parts, including a full moon, a blimp circling in the sky, twinkling lights, shoppers and moving street cars.

*Home for the Holidays* in the Manor House evokes the warmth of the Seiberlings' family Christmases in more than 20 rooms in the historic mansion. Antique and vintage toys circa 1900-1917, on loan from Susie's Museum of Childhood in Carrollton, Ohio, are on display in both Irene's and Virginia's Bedrooms as well as the Blue and Red Bedrooms. Guests will enjoy the arrangement of Stieff bears, a Humpty Dumpty Circus, a vintage Ferris wheel, metal toys and banks, wood and metal trains, doll houses, doll strollers and Raggedy Ann dolls. "These are toys that would very likely have been under the Seiberlings' tree at Christmas" notes Kim Sorboro, Collections Manager at Stan Hywet. An oversized handmade Raggedy Ann sits happily at the end of the North Hallway, commemorating this beloved doll's 100th birthday.

The Master Bedroom is being set up so that the effect for guests will be like looking through a giant snow globe —at a snow globe collection. Cardboard glittered "putz" houses or miniature nativity villages fill the Library. The table in the kitchen displays a feast of a sumptuous holiday repast.

In the Music Room, choirs and musicians from throughout Northeast Ohio provide a musical backdrop as guests tour the historic Manor House. *See list of participants, following news release.*

**DAZZLE**, the outdoor light show spectacular animated to music, has been updated with three popular Christmas songs: *Home for the Holidays*, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* and *Deck the Halls*. The centerpiece of Dazzle is a 25-foot Christmas tree, lit with a full spectrum of color, a layer of lighted ornaments, and an overlay of sparkle lights. Surrounding the tree are dozens of flowers, butterflies, bees and globes also shimmering with lights. Apple trees in the garden, wrapped in lights, add more sparkle to the display.

The large oaks from the Carriage House to the Manor House will be filled with oversized stars and snowflakes. Guests will walk down the Birch Tree Allée through hoops wrapped in colorful lights. The Grape Arbor will be lit with clusters of "grape lights," and the popular miniature village is on display in the Lagoon area, viewable from the Tea Houses. In the Corbin Conservatory, the tropical *Garden Under Glass*, will have subtle up-lighting with LED "candles" in the flower beds. Nearby, a tall poinsettia "tree" provides a perfect backdrop for family photos.

The Gingerbread Bakeshop in the Courtyard sells Stan Hywet's famous hot gingerbread cookies, as well as cocoa and cider; and the Salty Reindeer is selling savory snacks, including freshly baked Bavarian pretzels, popcorn, beer, wine and soft drinks. Molly's Shop is fully stocked for holiday shopping and the café is a welcome respite as well as place to enjoy more substantial fare and holiday treats.

#### **TICKETS**

Tickets to **DECK THE HALL** may be purchased in advance at [www.stanhywet.org](http://www.stanhywet.org) or 330-315-3287, or upon arrival. Tickets include a self-guided tour of the Manor House and grounds, including DAZZLE and Gingerbread Land. Ticket prices are \$18, adults; \$7, youth (ages 6-17) and college students with ID. Children 5 and under are free.

*Deck the Hall is presented with support from Consolidated Solutions. Vintage toys are on loan from Susie's Museum of Childhood in Bluebird Farm Park, part of the Carroll County Park District in Carrollton, Ohio. The life size horse replica is on loan from the Western Reserve Historical Society.*

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Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, the nation's 6th largest historic home open to the public, is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction that is held by only 776 of the estimated 17,500 museums in the United States. This national recognition affirms our continuing "commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement...exceeding the highest standards for U.S. museums."

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is also Summit County's oldest National Historic Landmark and a National Trust for Historic Preservation Partner Place.

**2015 Deck the Hall**  
**Music in the Music Room**

November 27	Jane Delcamp , Pianist/Flautist
November 28	Women Sing (choir)
November 29	Suite Elegance Entertainment
December 3	Firestone High School Madrigal Singers
December 4	Carole Saire, Pianist
December 5	Paula Wray, Harpist
December 6	Robin Bennett, Vocalist
December 10	Kent State University Men's Chorale
December 11	Kent State University Men's Quartet
December 12	722 Singers
December 13	Joyful Bronze Handbell Choir
December 15	Shani Diggs, Pianist
December 16	TBA
December 17	Western Reserve Academy String Ensemble
December 18	dismantle.Repair
December 19	dismantle.Repair
December 20	Bryon Black & Friends
December 22	Graham Hicks, Pianist
December 23	Akron Bassoon Ensemble
December 26	Songs and Stories with Carla Davis and Friends
December 27	Caitlin Phillips, Pianist & Cello
December 28	Emily Kuehn, Pianist
December 29	Sperry Creek (Dulcimer, fiddle, guitar, flute)
December 30	Linda Florjancic, Viola & Piano
January 2, 2016	Stan Hywet Aeolian Organ

