Media Advisory

Contacts
Mandy Katz, Press
mkatz@tudorplace.org | 202.486.7645
Grant Quertermous, Curator
gquertermous@tudorplace.org | 202-580-7322

November 16, 2016

Home for the Holidays: Christmas, 1945
A Family’s Real-Life World War II Homecoming Recalled
In Holiday Tours and Events

> PRESS PREVIEW DECEMBER 6, 4:30 PM <

GEORGETOWN, WASHINGTON, DC – The first peacetime Christmas in five long years, Christmas 1945 was, in President’s Truman’s words, “the Christmas that a war-weary world has prayed for.” The National Christmas Tree was lit again and rationing lifted on everything but sugar, but most important, families reunited in homes across the country, including Tudor Place. The museum’s 2016 holiday installation, on view from Dec. 1-31, recalls this intimate event and its historic context with a wealth of wartime artifacts, documents and stories. During evening events, the historic garden will glow with lavish seasonal lights just added this year.

On View December 1 to 31 on All Tours + at These Holiday Events:

Note: Additional programs, including gingerbread workshops and teas, are sold out but open for media coverage.

- **press preview, Dec. 6, 4:30-5:30 pm** – Refreshments, tour and Q&A with the curator. R.S.V.P. to Mandy Katz, press@tudorplace.org, 202.486.7645.

- **family open house, Deck the Halls: A Family at Christmas, Dec. 3, 1-4 pm** – Families with children of all ages explore the decorated mansion and learn about historic holiday traditions, with performing carolers, festive crafts + more.

- **candlelight tours, Dec. 6, 8, 20 and 21, 6:30-7:30 pm** – Guided tour of the historic house and access to the gaily lit grounds by evening for adults and older teens. Warm cider and “home front” refreshments and a vintage-fashion photo booth recall the special peacetime Christmas of 1945. (Ages 16+)

- **cocktails and artifacts, Tudor Nights: Home for the Holidays, 1945, Dec. 7, 6:30-8:30 pm** – Adults roam the historic house reception rooms and gaily lit grounds by evening, enjoy festive fare in the Dower House, and chat with the curator about a display of 1945 uniforms, letters, and artifacts from World War II and the home front. Festive cocktails, wine, beer, and appetizers served. (Ages 21+)

- **wreath-making workshops, Dec. 10, 16 and 17, 10 am + 1:30 pm** – Make your own holiday décor using mixed greenery, boxwood, pine cones, and/or fragrant herbs and citrus. All materials and instruction provided. (Dec. 16 off-site workshops hosted in partnership with Georgetown Presbyterian Church.) See [workshop calendar](#).

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Artifacts that Tell a Story
Throughout the historic house, vignettes evoke Navy life in the Pacific, as experienced by Lt. Commander Armistead Peter 3rd, and on the D.C. home front, where his wife served as a nurse’s aide and their daughter was a Pentagon secretary. Curator Grant Quertermous has combed their daily correspondence to tell their story in full color, and outfitted the 1816 historic house to reflect the tastes and customs of the day, from table linens and crystal to Christmas ornaments and radio tunes.

In addition to wartime acquisitions, the installation showcases inherited objects dating as far back as the early 19th century. It examines the role of servants in enabling the family’s celebrations, from the dining room table set for an elegant homecoming dinner to the kitchen bustling with preparation. And with service uniforms, medals, jewelry, and a trunk of “exotic” and beautiful Asian objects, it evokes the freshness of the war just ended.

IN THE HISTORIC HOUSE:
The house is seen by guided tour. Installations add rarely seen artifacts and vignettes to the furnishings and art permanently on display, with their descriptions and significance incorporated into the tour. Displays for Christmas 2016, a “Peacetime 1945 Christmas,” will include:

- Indoor and outdoor lit trees, kissing balls, holiday ornaments of various eras from the mid-19th century, and greenery, ribbons, lights, and décor recalling the trends of 1945
- U.S. Navy and American Red Cross uniforms and uniform components worn by family members in World War II
- 1945 Naval officer’s travel trunk
- Asian artifacts collected by Armistead Peter 3rd in the 1940s, including Japanese Naval officer’s sword, kimono and bento box
- Ring given by Armistead Peter to his wife made of jade stone from China acquired during his deployment
- Red Cross Service Ribbon for WWII home front service

IN THE 5½-ACRE GARDEN:
In addition to festive garlands and greenery, in 2016, the garden is adorned with new and enhanced holiday lighting, on view after dusk during any evening event.

Images and More Information
Contact Communications Director Mandy Katz to attend the Dec. 6 Press Preview, arrange other coverage, or obtain high-resolution images relating to the installation. For historic or artifact-related questions, contact Mandy Katz or Curator Grant Quertermous. (Contact info at top.)

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ABOUT TUDOR PLACE: America’s story lives here! Closing out its 2016 Bicentennial, Tudor Place is one of the nation’s finest and best preserved neoclassical estates, built by Martha Washington’s granddaughter and lived in by six generations of her family. Through landscape, architecture, and collections, it tells the story of a family and their young nation, showcasing American design, labor, politics, and technology from the agricultural to the digital age. The Thornton-designed historic house features furnishings, art, and domestic artifacts collected and used by a family and their enslaved workers and servants over 200 years. In the 5½-acre garden, dotted among varied garden “rooms” and landscape features, visitors will find a 1919 Pierce-Arrow motorcar and the District’s oldest exhibited smoke house. House tours are offered hourly, Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, visit www.tudorplace.org