

For immediate release

May 2, 2008

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CHRISTMAS AT THE JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB HOTEL

Jekyll Island, GA---Outlined in thousands of white lights against the winter sky, the Jekyll Island Club Hotel is a picture of Victorian Christmas hospitality throughout December. Eyes alight with anticipation, children and adults arrive at this National Historic Landmark hotel with great expectations, and for good reason.

For some of the same reasons in 1886, J. P. Morgan, William Rockefeller, Joseph Pulitzer and friends found Jekyll Island to be a most attractive wintertime retreat... for its great natural beauty and its hospitable climate. They chose to locate their hunting retreat here, and in less than two years, erected the charming American Queen Anne style Club House that guests enjoy today.

Beautiful year round, the restored club is especially inviting when it's festooned with Christmas finery. From early December, garlands of evergreens with hand-tied red velvet bows bedeck the veranda railings that surround the Jekyll Island Club Hotel. Wreaths on all the double wooden doors invite children of every age inside to see the festively decorated live Christmas trees. The air is filled with the scent of baking bread, spice cookies, and chocolate confections.

The month of December is alive with celebration on Jekyll Island. "Doc" and "Dixie," favorite Belgian draft horses, have tinkling bells added to their livery so that those waiting for a carriage ride can be ready. The Garden Club brings in great armfuls of cedar, magnolia and pine boughs from the forest to brighten the doors of the "cottages" in the historic village that surrounds the Hotel. When the preparations are complete, the festivities begin with the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival in the Historic District near the hotel. Games and hot cocoa, entertainment, hayrides and other family festivities precede Santa's appearance and the lighting of the tree.

'The Gift of the Magi' and Other Yuletide Tales sets the tone for Christmas at the

Club. Professor Dennis Elkins of Savannah College of Art and Design presents a one man dramatization of O'Henry's beloved story and several others December 4th at 7:30 p.m. He invites us to savor the stories with him afterwards at the dessert reception which follows.

Families make gingerbread houses and Christmas memories together at a Saturday morning workshop called "Gingerville." All the ingredients and materials necessary to make a delectable house decoration are at hand as the Pastry Chef gives instructions. From 10:00 a.m. to noon December 6th, everyone enjoys the "construction business" and delicious goodies from the Pastry Chef's pantry. Each gingerbread house goes home with its construction crew.

What would the season be without sharing a cup of tea with good friends? December 1st, 9th and 10th a special Holiday High Tea is served in the Grand Dining Room of the Hotel. A cheery fire on the hearth and holly boughs on the mantels greet guests coming in from the cold. The pastry chefs' creative six-course menu features delicious scones served warm with double cream and preserves or chutney, a savory or soup, tea sandwiches and petite pastries. An instrumentalist plays festive holiday music for the 4:00 p.m. affair.

A Dickens Feast December 13th is a musical dinner theatre presentation based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in the Grand Dining Room of the Hotel. The Atlanta-based acting company, under the leadership of Scott Fugate, is a merry band of five costumed players who believe in engaging the audience in the performance. "It's the best of times," as Dickens would say. And, it's a gourmet meal Dickens himself would applaud! Come early at 7:00 p.m. for a toast to Christmas Present in the Boar's Head Lobby.

Here Comes Santa Claus to the Jekyll Island Club Hotel! He takes his place in his favorite big chair at Crane Cottage from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. December 14th. As children sit on Santa's lap and relate their wishes, a photographer captures the moment. The Courtyard at Crane restaurant serves the regular lunch menu at this time.

With the Call o' the Pipes at Dusk, we welcome winter on the Riverfront Lawn December 19th through December 24th. The Bagpiper, stalwart Tim Akins, will pipe and parade

by the Crane Cottage and Riverfront Veranda before raising the salute down by the river's edge at dusk, about 4:30 p.m.

What's Playing? *White Christmas*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *A Christmas Story* are some of the headliners playing in the hotel's "living room movie theatre" this season. See either evening or matinee shows December 20th through 27th (7:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. except December 25th) with the family. Count on plenty of popcorn and comfy seating.

A Medieval Christmas Concert by the outstanding ensemble known as "Goliard" is one of the highlights of the season. The haunting beauty of their ancient music, the masterful performance on instruments replicating those of the period, and the richness of their graceful costumes distinguish this group from all others. The concert December 21st at 7:30 p.m. is performed in Faith Chapel just north of the Hotel.

Here We Go a-Caroling December 23rd at 4:00 p.m. Don your mufflers and neck scarves and meet us with enthusiastic voices on the Riverfront Veranda, for caroling at the Club, Sans Souci, Crane and Cherokee Cottages. Afterwards, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and Christmas cookies "on the house."

Christmas Day Feasting---a memorable experience in the Grand Dining Room, the Hall of Mirrors, and the Courtyard at Crane---features many traditional favorites: succulent hams and roasts, fresh seafood from local waters, delicious vegetables fit for King Cole, and desserts to tempt the most determined. Chocolate macadamia nut torte, cranberry Christmas pudding, and key lime pie are some of the culinary delights of the day from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Menus are available upon request.

The Hotel offers a Christmas Package available November 27 through December 28th that includes traditional king or double-double accommodations, a stocking stuffed with goodies, a special Jekyll Island Club commemorative Christmas ornament, and full breakfast in the Grand Dining Room. Taxes and resort fee are extra. The package is offered at \$159.00 for two people, \$139.00 single, per night. To make on-line reservations: reservations@jekyllclub.com

Reservations are required for all events. For information or reservations contact the Jekyll Island Club Hotel at 371 Riverview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA, 31527, or call 912-635-2600 or 800-535-9547. Visit our web site at www.jekyllclub.com.

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