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*Photos for publication available upon request*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **A Gilded Age Christmas at Whitehall: Flagler Museum's Traditional Holiday Programs, Tea Service Return this December**

*Flagler's Spirit Toy Drive to benefit local families with school-age children*

PALM BEACH, FL - As the final touches are being added to its splendid Gilded Age-inspired holiday decorations, the [Henry Morrison Flagler Museum](#) is resuming its long-standing holiday programs at Whitehall as well as its signature Tea Service offered in the breathtaking Flagler Kenan Pavilion. A toy drive is also planned, and the recently renovated Museum Store will be hosting its annual Member Appreciation Days sale. Christmas programming at Whitehall is sponsored in part by *Florida Weekly*.

*Note: The Museum will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day.*

### **Shop the Museum Store**

**Member Appreciation Days, November 26 - December 3**

Museum Members, who already receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store and free admission to the Museum year-round, will save an additional 10% during the Museum's annual "Member Appreciation Days." Starting on Black Friday, November 26th, Members are invited to join the "shop small" and "shop local" movements and enjoy a total discount of 20% in the Museum Store through Friday, December 3rd.

After operating in the Museum's West Room through most of 2020 and early 2021, the Museum Store recently reopened in its own dedicated space after undergoing a renovation. Shoppers seeking unique gifts or decor to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah will be delighted by the light and bright shopping experience now offered in the Store's freshly redesigned space.

From ornaments to hostess gifts, children's toys to special souvenirs, the Museum Store has something in stock for everyone. Fully decorated Christmas trees are available for purchase, as are beautiful menorahs and other Judaica products. Be sure to ask about Whitehall's exclusive product lines as well as the Store's new "Made in Florida" section. Shoppers may call (561) 655-2833 ext. 21 for more information.

### **Christmas Tree Lighting & Festivities**

**December 5 from 12 to 5 pm**

**Free with Museum admission**

Each year during the winter holiday season, Whitehall's first floor is transformed into a Christmas wonderland with historically accurate greenery, trimmings, and ribbons. The focal point is a 16-foot-tall Christmas Tree in the Grand Hall, adorned with colored electrical "fairy" lights and traditional Gilded Age-style ornaments. The home's exterior as well as the historic front gate are also decorated with festive wreaths, ribbons, and greenery.

Kick off the holiday season with friends and family at Whitehall as we gather on the first Sunday of December to light the Grand Hall Christmas Tree and welcome the Christmas season. The day will be filled with holiday cheer — festive music will be played on the Odell





organ and Steinway piano, special choir performances will pop up around the Museum, refreshments will be available and Santa Claus will make an appearance! This year the Grand Hall Christmas Tree will be lit early in the day to allow for photographs in front of the tree all afternoon. The Museum Store will be open during the event for holiday shopping.

### Flagler's Spirit Toy Drive

December 5 - 19 during regular Museum hours

Visitors are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys for school-age children and teenagers during the Flagler's Spirit Toy Drive starting Sunday, December 5th during the Christmas Tree Lighting festivities and running through Sunday, December 19th. All donations will be delivered by Children & Family Charity Inc., a non-profit community partner of the Palm Beach County School District, to local families in need in time for Christmas. Suggested donations include educational toys, sporting goods, games, books, and clothing, as well as gift cards to popular stores and restaurants. Visit the Museum Store's children section for an assortment of possible donations.

The Flagler's Spirit team is made up of Museum staff members who came together in 2016 to find ways to give back to the local community, inspired by Henry Flagler's many examples of generosity in the communities he developed in Florida. This year, the team has also partnered with Dress for Success Palm Beaches, the Gaskov Clergé Foundation and the Town of Palm Beach United Way.

### A Gilded Age-style Tea Service by the Café des Beaux-Arts

December 7, 2021 through April 15, 2022

Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

\$30 for Sustaining level Members and higher

\$30 for Whitehall Society Members

\$32 for Members

\$50 for Non-members

*Prix-fixe* menu, includes Museum admission and tax

\*Reservations required



The Café des Beaux-Arts' signature Gilded Age-style Tea Service features a *prix-fixe* menu of savory tea sandwiches, traditional scones and sweets complemented by the Museum's own organic Palm Beach Blend tea and pink lemonade. Each table is set for service on the Museum's exquisite Whitehall Collection™ china. The Café des Beaux-Arts hosts its tea services inside the Flagler Kenan Pavilion, a modern building adjacent to Whitehall which evokes the ambiance of a 19th century Beaux-Arts railway palace. The Pavilion's floor to ceiling glass windows offer tea service guests a spectacular view of Lake Worth and the City of West Palm Beach.

### Holiday Evening Tours

December 18-22, 2021

Tours are available at 6:45 pm, 7:00 pm, 7:15 pm, and 7:30 pm

\$25 for Adults, \$20 for Children ages 17 and under

Advance purchase required

Legacy Members and Whitehall Society Members may reserve 2 free tickets

Discover the wonder and magic of a Gilded Age Christmas while touring Whitehall at night! The property will be aglow for these holiday-themed, Docent-led group tours, lit by the original 1902 light fixtures inside Whitehall and sparkly fairy lights. Enjoy strolling carolers in the Cocoanut Grove, as well as a festive party favor. The Museum Store will be open each evening for last-minute shopping.



Visitors to Whitehall will continue to enjoy a safe touring experience this holiday season, as the Museum was recently reaccredited as a GBAC STAR™ Facility by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council®, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association. The accreditation is considered the gold standard for facilities who have proven the implementation of the most stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention in its facility. Hand-santizing stations are strategically placed through the Museum, and masks or face coverings are recommended while indoors, despite vaccination status.

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### **The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum**

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler’s Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the New York Herald as “more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world.” Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring changing exhibitions and special programs. The Museum is located at One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach, FL 33480. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, 12 to 5 pm. For more information, call (561) 655-2833 or visit [www.flaglermuseum.us](http://www.flaglermuseum.us).

*The Flagler Museum is funded in part by Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council, the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.*

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