



PATRICK WEBB PHOTOS

Curator Chelsea Vaughn adds ornaments to the evergreen tree inside the Flavel House as Christmas nears.

# A flavorful Flavel Christmas

Plum pudding and tea imitate Victorian-era celebrations

By PATRICK WEBB  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Christmas comes in a very tasty manner at the Flavel House in Astoria. From Saturday, Dec. 16., through Saturday, Dec. 30, volunteers will serve guests plum pudding and tea.

The annual celebration replicates British customs that date back to the Victorian era, which was when Capt. George and Mary Flavel built the most impressive home in Astoria in the 1880s.

Curator Chelsea Vaughn has spent hours decorating the Flavel House Museum with evergreen trees dripping with twinkling ornaments to set the atmosphere for two Christmas projects, plum pudding teas and the visit of Santa (see related story).

Sam Rascoe is marketing director for the Clatsop County Historical Society,



Plum pudding at the Flavel House is served with lemon sauce, whipped cream and garnished with a cherry and a sprig of holly.

which operates the museum. When he came on board in 2002, he knew his duties would be varied.

Little did he know it would involve making multiple plum puddings from scratch.

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PATRICK WEBB PHOTO

Santa's smiling face appears on an ornate pillow in the Flavel House. He will show up in person 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18.

## You'd better be quick to see Old St. Nick

Christmas would be incomplete without that portly bearded gentleman wearing his red suit, bringing cheer to young and old.

Santa Claus will arrive at the Flavel House in Astoria on Monday, Dec. 18.

Between 6 and 8 p.m., the jolly fellow will listen to children's requests for presents (and check if they have been naughty or nice).

Parents are urged to bring their own cameras so they can capture the moment in front of the decorated fireplace in the library.

The event is free to Clatsop County Historical Society members; regular Flavel House admission prices apply to non-members.

Cookies and hot chocolate will be available, plus holiday music and games.

### IF YOU GO

#### OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Flavel House Museum, 441 Eighth St., Astoria

**Monday Dec. 18.:** 6 to 8 p.m.

Free to Clatsop County Historical Society members. General admission for non-members: \$6 adults; \$2 children age 6-17; under 6 free.

Picture opportunities with Santa, plus hot chocolate, cookies, music and crafts

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### IF YOU GO

#### HOLIDAY TEA AND PLUM PUDDING

**Where:** Flavel House Museum, 441 Eighth St., Astoria.

**When:** 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, to Saturday, Dec. 23, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, to Saturday, Dec. 30.

**Event fee:** \$8 for members of the Clatsop County Historical Society, \$12 for non-members; reservations recommended for groups of eight or more.

**Help:** More volunteers are needed year-round at the Flavel House.

**Questions?** For group reservations, or to inquire about volunteering, call 503 325-2203.

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