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## About Pleasant Home

Pleasant Home is a National Historic Landmark building designed in 1897 by noted Prairie School architect George W. Maher for investment banker and philanthropist John W. Farson.

Pleasant Home is one of the earliest and most distinguished examples of Prairie architecture in the country and has one of the best-preserved interiors of that design era. Visitors experience the extraordinary art glass, custom furniture, intricately carved woodwork, and unique design details in this historical and architectural treasure through guided tours. The Pleasant Home Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1990, is dedicated to restoring, preserving, and operating this 30-room architectural landmark as an historic house museum.

## Tours

Tours are offered year-round to individuals and groups. School groups are welcome. Our tour program is the perfect "hands-on" learning experience to complement a curriculum encompassing history, arts, or architecture. Pleasant Home can also provide breakfast, lunch, tea or dinner for group tours. The first floor is wheelchair accessible.

General tours: Th-Su: 12:30pm, 1:30pm, and 2:30pm (Dec 1-Feb 28: 12:30pm and 1:30pm only. Closed major holidays.)

PHF members: Free Individuals: \$5 Students: \$3  
For group tours and rate information, please call Georgia Braun at (708) 383-2654.

## Rental Opportunities

The many spacious rooms, layout, and expansive windows looking onto the four-acre park make Pleasant Home a truly wonderful setting for the most intimate meetings or festive affairs: corporate meetings, luncheons, private parties, wedding ceremonies, and receptions. John Farson, a civic leader in the Oak Park community, was the original owner of the home and frequently opened his residence and grounds for grand gatherings. We welcome your event to Pleasant Home. Call Georgia Braun at (708) 383-2654 for rental information.

# Thursday Afternoon Tour & Tea



Thursday Afternoon Tour & Tea at Pleasant Home is a great way to catch up with friends and tour Pleasant Home! Come for the 1:30pm tour and stay for tea and light sandwiches immediately following. Reservations required at least one day in advance.

Th, 1:30-3:30pm

\$20 includes tour



Photo Courtesy of Darris Lee Harris

## Pleasant Home Museum Gift Shop

We have books, jewelry, pottery, scarves, stationery, wrapping paper and lots more! You'll find a unique gift for everyone on your list. All proceeds go toward the restoration of Pleasant Home.

### GIFT SHOP HOLIDAY HOURS:

Su, Dec 7	1-4pm
M, Dec 8 - Sa, Dec 13	10am-7pm
Su, Dec 14	Noon-8pm
M, Dec 15 - W, Dec 24	during tour hours or by appointment



## Volunteers Needed at Pleasant Home

Pleasant Home has many ways to volunteer. We are looking for docents to lead our tours of the home. Training is completed according to your schedule. Once trained, docents generally lead tours a three-hour period once a month either on weekdays or weekends, whichever works best for you. Being a docent is a fun and rewarding experience; and it's perfect for stay-at-home moms and dads looking to do something in the community, but still be there for the school kids; and perfect for retired folks wanting to share their knowledge of history and be a part of the community.

We are also looking for a little assistance on a weekly basis with one hour organization projects such as scrap-booking, maintaining files, folding and hanging linens.

Volunteering at Pleasant Home is a great way to meet people of all ages and walks of life from all over the world. Call us at (708) 383-2654 or email at mahergw@sbcglobal.net to talk more about how you could be a part of historic Pleasant Home!

**Looking for Art Classes at Pleasant Home? You'll find them listed under "Special Interest" on page 54.**

## Special Events



### Holiday Open House at Pleasant Home

Sunday, December 7, 1-4pm

Join us for this very special tradition. The Pleasant Home Holiday Open House marks the opening of our Holiday Artisan's Sale and features live harp music by Lee Conti, hand painted porcelain ornaments by Illinois Prairie Painters, winter crafts and stories for children, delectable treats provided by our favorite caterers, and Todd & Holland Holiday Spice Tea! Admission is FREE!



### Annual Artisans Holiday Sale

December 7-15

Find unique gifts and treasures while supporting local artisans! This special event offers a chance to enjoy Pleasant Home decorated for the season, and browse through an eclectic collection of hand made items such as wood carvings, jewelry, paintings, ornaments, ceramics, vintage collectables, and many other one of a kind items created in or around Oak Park! Sale begins during our Holiday Open House and is open the entire week. Our museum store will also be open extended hours for holiday shopping, with gift certificates available. Hot tea and cookies in the kitchen and craft table for children of all ages.

Su, Dec 7 1-4pm  
M, Dec 8-15 10 am-8pm

### "A Christmas Carol"

Dr. Peter Baker's Classic Performance Returns!

Sunday, December 21 at 4pm

Oak Park's beloved Dr. Peter Baker comes back to Pleasant Home to give his extraordinary one-man performance of the Dickens' heart-warming classic "A Christmas Carol." Perfect for the entire family and set in the lovely interior of Pleasant Home. Tickets \$12 for adults; \$7 for children and seniors.

### Thomas Edison Comes to Pleasant Home

Tuesday, December 9

Doors open at 7:30pm, program begins at 8pm

The Greater Chicago Chapter of the Victorian Society in America and Pleasant Home Foundation are pleased to bring you a one of a kind special event featuring Thomas Edison and his greatest invention. When electricity was still very new to Oak Park, the architect and owner of Pleasant Home made an incredible show of faith in electricity by lining the exterior and interior of the great home with Edison's bulbs. It was an amazing spectacle in 1897. Now, Edison comes to Pleasant Home to talk about his great works in a most appropriate setting.

Light refreshments and short tours of the mansion included.

Tickets: \$22 for members of the Victorian Society in America or Pleasant Home Foundation; \$27 non-members.

Information/Reservations: (708) 383-2654



Photo Courtesy of Darris Lee Harris



Arts programming at Pleasant Home is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.