



Annual Magic at The Mill For Immediate Release

- CONTACT:** The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, 503-585-7012, www.magicatthemill.org and www.willametteheritage.org
- WHAT:** **Annual Magic at the Mill**
- WHEN:** December 19 through December 23 2011, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- WHERE:** 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR 97301
- COST:** Members FREE. \$5.00 Age 13 thru Adults; \$3.00 for youth 4-12; ages 3 and under FREE. All proceeds support The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill's education and preservation programs.

The Willamette Heritage Center is proud to present our very special Annual *Magic at the Mill*! This year, our new website www.magicatthemill.org features entertainers, an on-site map of the Mill grounds with events and activities locations, up-to-the-minute schedules, and offers the opportunity to purchase tickets online.

And this year, Rasta Santa will be back! He will be on site each evening to visit with all boys and girls in his brightly lit Santa's workshop, decorated by Danner & Soli.

Pioneer toys from holidays past and Santa's miniature train will be on display, roaring around the train tracks! And this year the reindeer are very hungry, and particularly looking forward to the reindeer food that children can make.

This year, children's activities include writing letters to troops of the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, Fox Battery. This Marine battalion will currently be "deployed," but not in harm's way (non-combat deployment). These men and women are on an "MAEU" - Marine Expeditionary Unit. They will be on a Navy ship with the Sailors and on their way to Okinawa Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. What could be more heartwarming than letting those that serve our country know that we are thinking of them and appreciating them this holiday season!

Brightly-lit animated ducks and a goose will be frolicking, fish will be swimming, and sheep will be jumping in sequence over the Mill Race!

This year's all-star musical line-up includes our favorite holiday entertainers and NEW performers: fiddlers, singers, choirs, bands and choruses.

Living history actors will portray real characters, tell their stories and make them NEW again. See blacksmith demonstrations and step back into yesteryear with FREE tours of our historic houses.

You can enjoy a hot drink and a delicious snack or dinner from the holiday menu at the Mission Mill Café, which will be open before, during and after *Magic at the Mill*.

This year's event is generously sponsored by PGE, Pioneer Trust Bank, Salem Electric, Rotary Club of Salem, Grand Hotel and Danner & Soli.

To volunteer at Magic, please visit http://www.magicatthemill.org/Magic_volunteer_form_2012.pdf

The Willamette Heritage Center *at The Mill*, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.willametteheritage.org>.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

-----Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###