

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Fabulous Turnout at Mill Neck Manor's 1st Downton Abbey Tea!

A sold out crowd of delightful guests gathered recently at a Downton Abbey-inspired tea at Mill Neck Manor House. Guests, including many fans of the popular PBS series, gathered to enjoy a taste of the Edwardian lifestyle right here on Long Island. An English Tudor Revival, the Manor House recalls a stately English country home and provided the perfect backdrop for a formal afternoon tea.

Custom-blended teas, with evocative names like Manor Blend, Gold Coast and Gilded Gardens, from Northport's Clipper Ship Tea Co. were accompanied by a variety of petite sandwiches, scones and sweets created by Sweet Tomato in Oyster Bay. Tranquil melodies by harpist Brandee Younger drifted through the house as guests mingled. During dessert, friendly competition developed among the tables as everyone participated in a Downton Abbey trivia session.

Many who attended wore vintage hats and accessories. Other guests enjoyed posing in the assortment of period costume accessories on hand from Antique Costume & Prop Rental of Port Jefferson. Raffle prize winners were announced after an enlightening slide show "Downton Abbey and the Gold Coast," presented by author and preservationist Monica Randall, who also judged the "Prettiest Tea Cup" Contest. Throughout the afternoon, perfume designer Victoria Collette invited guests to sample three of her signature fragrances during individual "perfume experiences."

This wonderful event, benefitting the preservation efforts of Mill Neck Manor House, could not have happened without the efforts and support of many. Special thanks to Don Krug and Luci Murphy, two of our Manor House volunteer docents, for sponsoring the event's music and providing the beautiful spring bouquets, respectively. We'd like to acknowledge Diane Cusker, a teacher at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, who graciously donated a number of tea cups. Many thanks go out to all our volunteers, including the members of our Manor House Committee. Finally, the Mill Neck Family is very grateful to all who attended, including a number of Mill Neck staff. Given the amount of positive feedback heard throughout the afternoon, it seems likely this themed tea social may be the first of many!

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The Mill Neck Family of Organizations is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs, through excellence in individually-designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. In addition to Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded in 1947 by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, the Mill Neck Family of Organizations also includes the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center, Mill Neck Services, Mill Neck Audiology, Mill Neck Interpreter Service and Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry. For more information about our programs and services, please call 516-922-4100 or visit www.millneck.org.

Photo Captions:

1. Many guests arrived for Mill Neck's Downton Abbey tea dressed for the occasion. Others, like Peggy and Albert Hlibok tried on some period accessories.
2. These ladies enjoyed a tasteful afternoon at the stately Manor House.
3. Spring blooms and proper teaware transform the Manor's formal dining room.
4. Two volunteer members of the Mill Neck Manor House Committee, Don Krug and Sheila Bergman sport vintage looks.
5. Harpist Brandee Younger provided soothing harp melodies.
6. Perfume designer Victoria Collette invites Liz Colasante (seated, left) and Kathy Bruen to a "perfume experience."

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