

Historic Odessa Foundation, Inc.  
Present the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Family Trees: A Celebration of Reading

Background

A love of books and reading is a lifelong treasure and adventure, young children who are read to by family and others become lifelong readers. Older children who read for pleasure develop inquiring minds that benefit them throughout their lives. Adults who have the habit of reading look back at the books they read as children with joy and pleasure. A love of books passed from generation to generation creates strong family bonds and memories that are priceless.

The Historic Odessa Foundation, through its historic houses of Odessa, proposes to celebrate children's literature and a love of reading by showcasing up to 40 decorated trees in the exhibit rooms of the c. 1822 Brick Hotel. By exhibiting the trees in these beautiful period rooms we also intend to expose a larger audience to the preserved beauty of Odessa, its architecture, historic importance and natural charm. The exhibit will run from Thanksgiving through New Years Day and will be open as part of *Christmas in Odessa*.

Program Description

Family Trees will:

- Present up to 40 holiday trees with decorations based on children's literature.
- Families, school classes, community groups and other local organizations will be invited to decorate the trees.
- Trees can be any shape or size, whimsical or descriptive and based on storybooks, contemporary favorites and treasured classics.
- The Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library will partner with the Historic Odessa Foundation by helping groups to choose books, registering the participants (to prevent duplication) and present tie-in activities during the exhibit.
- Each tree will have a copy of the book upon which the decoration is based. Families and guests will be encouraged to stop and read at various points in the exhibition.
- Additional activities will include: a Christmas café, arts and crafts workshops, dollhouses from the Historic Odessa Foundation collection, scavenger hunt based on books, readings, and opening receptions.
- Admission to the Historic Odessa Foundation: Adults \$10; Groups, Seniors, Students \$8; \$3 for children 5 – 11, children under 5 are free. Family Trees exhibit is an added value to the regular guided tour.