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<http://www.mahaiwe.org/press.html>

**The Mahaiwe, in Partnership with The Mount, Presents
“Downton Abbey and Gilded Age Holiday Entertaining”
by Food Historian Francine Segan
and a Screening of “Somewhere in Time”**

Great Barrington, Mass.— Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, in partnership with The Mount, will present a lecture by food historian Francine Segan titled “Downton Abbey and Gilded Age Holiday Entertaining” on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00pm, followed by a 4:00pm screening of “Somewhere in Time.” Please note that this is a schedule change for Segan’s previously announced lecture on Saturday, December 14 at 6:30pm.

“Downton Abbey and Gilded Age Holiday Entertaining” will be an amusing lecture about the fascinating time period when high society was at its peak. It was a time of calling cards, horse drawn coaches, high tea, cotillions, lawn parties, formal dinners — a time when even picnics were served on fine china.

Attendees will discover the elaborate etiquette, enchanting entertainments and dishes Mrs. Patmore would have been proud to send to the table. Vivid descriptions of Lord Grantham-esque dinner parties, cotillions, and elegant picnics will transport audience members back in time, while they learn all the popular toasts of the era and when it's proper to remove one's gloves or tip one's hat. The event includes a trivia contest on the uses for now-obsolete objects that Mr. Carson would be shocked to find one couldn't use properly.

“Somewhere in Time” (1980, PG) is an unabashedly romantic film starring Christopher

Reeve and Jane Seymour. A playwright is obsessed with a picture of an actress from 1912 and he wills himself back in time to find the woman, and the two begin a Gilded Age love affair. But what does living in the past mean for their future?

Segan is the author of *The Philosopher's Kitchen*, *Shakespeare's Table*, and *Movie Menus*. Her most recent books are *The Opera Lover's Cookbook* and *Dolci: Italy's Sweets*. She regularly appears on radio and television, including CBS, Discovery and History channels, and the Food Network. She writes a monthly feature for the Tribune Media Syndicates, which has included interviews of such noted chefs as Jacques Pepin, Lidia Bastianich, and Mario Batali. Her lively and informative lectures range in topic from Dining Customs of Ancient Greece to How to Taste Chocolate. She addresses audiences across the country at venues such as The Smithsonian Museum, Virginia Fine Arts Museum, New York Times Travel Show, 92nd Street Y, Museum of Natural History, Princeton Club, New York Chocolate Show, and Newport Historical Association. She lives in New York City and the Berkshires.

Tickets are \$10 for the talk and movie; \$7 for just the movie and free to Mahaiwe and Mount members. This event is sponsored by Salisbury Bank and Trust Company and Guido's Fresh Marketplace. The Mahaiwe is located at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Box office hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 6:00pm and three hours before show times. For tickets and information, see www.mahaiwe.org or call 413.528.0100.

About the Mahaiwe

Located in downtown Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center is the year-round presenter of world-class music, dance, theater, classic films, "Live in HD" broadcasts, and arts education programs for the southern Berkshires and neighboring regions. The intimate jewel box of a theater opened in 1905 and has been in continuous operation for over 100 years. In 2005, the theater experienced a renaissance as a beautifully restored 681-seat venue to offer a broad range of cultural and community

events. Today's "Mahaiwe Mix" of diverse, high quality programming strives to provide meaningful, memorable entertainment for all ages and interests.

About The Mount

The Mount, a National Historic Landmark, is a cultural center that celebrates the intellectual, artistic, and humanitarian legacy of Edith Wharton. The estate, designed and built by Wharton in 1902, embodies the principles outlined in her influential book, *The Decoration of Houses* (1897). In addition to the mansion, the property includes three acres of formal gardens, including a French flower garden and an Italian white garden. Extensive woodscapes surround the formal gardens. Each year, the The Mount welcomes over 35,000 visitors. Daily tours of the property are offered May-October with special events throughout the year. Annual summer programming includes Wharton on Wednesdays, Music After Hours, and the popular Monday Lecture Series. Exhibitions explore themes from Wharton's life and work. For more information, please visit EdithWharton.org or call 413.551.5100.

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