

JOLLY GOOD!

We've rounded up a few foolproof ways to MAKE YOUR SEASON BRIGHTER.

by EMILY HOLT & EMILY WARD

Holiday at the Arboretum

Holiday at the Arboretum makes its return with its 12 Days of Christmas display, featuring a dozen 25-foot-tall Victorian gazebos that took 28,328 rhinestones, 29,137 pounds of glass, and 20,000 hours to create. Stop by after dark during special evening showings to enjoy holiday treats, live music, and half-a-million twinkling lights. **8525 Garland Rd. Nov. 8-Jan. 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; special weekend nights, 6-9 p.m. dallasarboretum.org**

Chi Omega Christmas Market

Let the ladies of Chi Omega help you finish your shopping early with their 37th-annual market. More than 175 vendors will be on hand at Centennial Hall in Fair Park with gifts to suit every someone on your list. Proceeds benefit local charities. **3929 Grand Ave. Nov. 19, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Nov. 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. chiomegamas.org**

A Christmas Carol The Dallas Theater Center's rendition of Charles Dickens' classic, taking place at the Wyly Theatre, features ghosts, falling snow, and of course, Tiny Tim. Performances have sold out two years running, so get your tickets early. **2400 Flora St. Nov. 25-Dec. 26, showtimes vary. dallastheatercenter.org**

A Christmas Conversation: Entertaining at the White House Visit the George W. Bush Presidential Center to hear

former staffers share behind-the-scenes stories about preparing the White House for the holiday season. Entry gets you access to *A Season of Stories: Christmas at the White House 2003*, an exhibit featuring holiday displays from George W. Bush's third year in office. **2943 SMU Blvd. Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. bushcenter.org**

First Thursday Late Night: Festive Partake in a scientific study of the season at this adults-and-teens event at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. You'll learn to create snow, build an electrical circuit card, and make tinsel float. Free with general admission. **2201 N. Field St. Dec. 3, 7-9 p.m. perotmuseum.org**

Christmas Wine Trains Riding the rails is infinitely more entertaining whenever there's wine involved. Sip a selection of locally produced varietals and enjoy a selection of tasty hors d'oeuvres on this adults-only train excursion. **Dec. 3, departs at 7 p.m. from the Fort Worth Stockyards; Dec. 10 & 17, departs at 7 p.m. from the Grapevine Vintage Railroad (705 S. Main St., Grapevine). grapevinetexasusa.com**

Dallas Symphony Christmas Pops Gather at the Meyerson to hear the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, led by soprano Ava Pines, as they bring cherished holiday tunes to life. **2301 Flora St. Dec. 4 & 5, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 6, 2:30 p.m. mydso.com**

LIGHT SHOW JAY STRONGWATER, a name synonymous with interior décor dazzle, celebrates the 20th anniversary of his collection with a one-of-a-kind Christmas tree he designed specially for Neiman Marcus Downtown. The New York designer will be on hand for a Nov. 19 public unveiling of the 15-foot tree, dubbed "Papillon." It will feature 84 hand-painted glass ornaments—adorned with more than 32,000 Swarovski crystals—and wear a 22-inch topper. To celebrate the special occasion, Strongwater has also designed a limited-edition ornament embellished with faux pearls and jeweled butterflies exclusive to Neiman Marcus Downtown. Only 40 of the commemorative ornaments will be made available, each one signed and numbered.



MARVEL AT THE DALLAS ARBORETUM'S 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

Adults Gingerbread-House Decorating You'll feel like a kid again at this adults-only confectionary extravaganza at the Rosewood Crescent Hotel. Grab a date, an hors d'oeuvre, and a pre-assembled gingerbread house, then deck it out with a selection of sweets and sugary embellishments. **400 Crescent Ct. Dec. 10 & 17, 6-8 p.m. rosewoodcrescent.com**

The Nutcracker The Texas Ballet Theater's take on the Tchaikovsky classic, being performed at the Bass Performance Hall, will immerse you in Clara's magical dream world, replete with sparkling snow, a magical flying carpet, and, of course, breathtaking ballet. **525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 11-27, showtimes vary. texasballettheater.org**

Candlelight: Picture Perfect! For the 44th year in a row, the Dallas Heritage Village's annual Candlelight celebration will bring bygone holiday traditions into the modern age. It's Christmas carolers and kettle corn meets local musicians and food trucks. **1515 S. Harwood St. Dec. 12 & 13, 3-9 p.m. dallasheritagevillage.org**

Preservation Hall Jazz Band If you want to skip the synth-and-light shows of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Mannheim Steamroller (playing Dec. 20 at the AAC and Verizon Theatre, respectively), inject some Crescent City into your holiday with back-to-back performances by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band at the Meyerson. **2301 Flora St. Dec. 22 & 23, 7:30 p.m. mydso.com**