

PB • SOCIETY PALM BEACH
Special Marketing Section

Thursday, November 26, 2015
Sun Sentinel

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Holiday spirit

Ann Norton Sculpture Garden transforms into a winter wonderland

See more than 30 professionally decorated trees that will transform the 17 acres of Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens into a winter wonderland.

The gardens' ninth annual "Festival of Trees" runs Dec. 4 to 16. Each tree will be uniquely decorated by interior designers, artists and floral designers to reflect this year's theme, The Joy of Holiday Traditions: Celebrating Family Heritage.

"This event has come to symbolize the start of the holiday season for our community," said Karen Steele, interim executive director for Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. "Whether you attend the 'Gala Evening,' 'Children's Gala' or come during the community days, we know that the 'Festival of Trees' will awaken the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and feel of the season."

Kicking off the festival, the "Gala Evening in the Gardens" is set for Dec. 4. Guests are invited to stroll the gardens while enjoying cocktails and holiday fare from the area's finest restaurants. The "Children's Gala," taking place Dec. 13, is a night of mini-merriment with music and special performances including Florida Dance Conservatory. Child-friendly refreshments and tasty treats will be on hand for all.

The community days will take place Dec. 5 to 12 and Dec. 14 to 16. Visitors will enjoy the magic of the trees each evening while exploring the tropical winter wonderland. Food from Emko restaurant will be available for purchase, and an array of entertainment will surround the decorated trees.

The popular "Holiday House" will be open from Nov. 28 through Dec. 20. The Ann Norton home will be filled with unique finds and treasures for sale, including Valerie Louthan cashmere sweaters, life-like stuffed animals from Hansa Creation Inc., India Hicks accessories, antiques, decorative items and more.

This year's "Festival of Trees" co-chairs are Sarah Benitz and Regan Rupp. Design chair is Jennifer Garrigues, and the "Holiday House" chair is David Miller.

The following designers will be trimming the trees for this year's event. Kimberly Armstrong, Helene Austin, Sarah Benitz, Rodger G. Chew, Kevin Clark, Margaret Costello, Mona DeSayve, Jenny Garrigues, Patty Gerardi-Hughes, Maisie Grace, Jennifer Guffey, James Holley, Joseph Publiones Interiors, Kathleen Kastenholz, Rhonda Klein, Isoide Koester, Elizabeth Matthews, Stephen Mooney Interiors, McCann Design Group, NXG Studio, Orange Blossoms Florals, Hermando Pizarro, Maggie Poetz, Allan Reyes, Angela Reynolds, Regan Rupp, Katherine Shenaman, Julie Silk-Beaumont, Melody Smith, Catherine Stewart and Veronica Volani-Inza.

Sponsors include BX Specialty Christmas Trees; Benitz Building; Boynton Botanicals; Café Saporì; Christina's Catering; Cultural Council of Palm Beach County; CBIZ Insurance Services of South Florida; Duffy's Sports Grill; Elite Stor; Emko Palm Beach; E.R. Bradley's Saloon; J.McLaughlin; Johnson's Custom Cakes & More; Krystal Zaskey Photography; Mariner III; Nievera Williams Design; Orange Blossoms Florals & Event Styling; Palm Beach Grill; R&R Orchids; Serenity Garden Tea House; Table 26; The Gardens Conservancy; The Gentlemen of the Garden; Vineyard Vault; and Whole Foods Market West Palm Beach.

The Dec. 4 gala is \$175 for members and \$250 others. The "Children's Gala" is \$40 per person, for both adults and children. Community days are \$15 for members and seniors, \$20 for nonmember adults and \$7 for children.

For more information, email festivaloftrees@ansg.org, call 561-832-5328 or visit www.ansg.org.



Juliette Louis, left, and Angela Reynolds



James Holley and Maggie Poetz



Melissa Guerra, left, Melody Smith and Natalie Karjalainen

PHOTOS BY BRANDON HARRINGTON