

# Village News

Views from the Heart of Historic Plano

November - December 2008

## Holiday Portraits



The holidays are more than a season of joy and cheer. It is a time to enjoy traditions and reconnect with family and friends. Here are snapshots of the traditions celebrated by a few of the folks in Historic Downtown Plano.

Shawn Stinchcomb and his wife, Monique, believe Christmas

lives all year in their hearts and the holidays should pose no pressure.

This generous Douglass community couple stays up until midnight on Christmas Eve to guard the gifts from their two daughters, then wakes the girls up to open them. Monique cooks for over a dozen family members and friends who visit during the day.



The children remember picking one of their father's socks on Christmas Eve and putting it on a specific chair so "Santa" would know where to put their presents.

Ketty Jasper, co-owner of Ambiance Décor, was born and raised in Greece where Christmas is a solemn religious holiday. An integral part of Grecian culture is Name Day, when saints after whom individuals are named are honored. On this day, guests arrive with gifts to celebrate the day. Saint Vassili's (Saint Nick) Day, which falls on New Year's Eve, is for everyone, and is celebrated by spending time with family and friends while exchanging gifts. Though she has been in this country for 40 years, she continues to return to her homeland for the holidays.



Gabe Whatley, co-owner of the Fillmore Pub, has much to celebrate during the holiday season. His wife, Michelle, opens her birthday gifts on Christmas Eve. On Christmas day the family returns home after church and daughter Emma waits for their guests to arrive to open her presents. Christmas dinner for about 20 people soon follows. Just a few days later, they celebrate Emma's birthday.



Yolanda Aparicio, whose parents own Aparicios's Restaurant, manages the restaurant with her husband, Ancil Flores. After the tamale orders are finished on Christmas Eve, they begin their family tradition by opening gifts at midnight. In the morning and throughout the day, Yolanda's mother, Martina, provides food at her home to about 60 family members, while everyone plays games and enjoys one another's company.

Kathleen and John Eaheart have lived on Municipal Avenue, formerly Residence Street, since 1957 and raised their four children there. John grew a beard in 1978 for the Pioneer Celebration and has kept it all these years, giving him the Santa look. He has been asked to play the role of St. Nick on occasion.



To Pamela Valentine of Eastside Story and husband Bill, the holiday season is for the family. The couple has three adult children, who are now married with children. All 10 of them spend the day together on Christmas and exchange homemade ornaments. Each year someone different wears the family Santa hat and is honored with the distribution of the gifts.



continued inside

# Happenings

November - December 2008

11/2	Battle of the Brides Eastside Story	972-424-7209
11/4-12/31	"Quilt Mania II: Blackland Prairie Quilts" ArtCentre of Plano	972-423-7809 www.quiltmania.org
10/30-11/22	"Veronica's Room" a chilling thriller by Ira Levin, Rover Dramawerks	972-849-0358 www.roverdramawerks.com
	Cox Building Playhouse	
10/31-11/9	"The Sound of Music" Plano Community Theater	972-422-2575 www.planochildrenstheatre.com
	Courtyard Theater	
11/14-16	"The Magical Land of Oz" family theatre event Morrow's Performing Arts	972-516-1653 dancedepotplano@aol.com
	Courtyard Theater	
11/15	"An American Rhapsody in Blue" Plano Symphony Orchestra	972-473-7262 www.planosymphony.org
	Eisemann Center	
11/28-11/30	"The Nutcracker" Presented by Chamberlain Ballet, Eisemann Center	972-985-1374
12/3	Holiday Concert Presented by Vines High School, Courtyard Theater	469-752-7801
12/5	Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano 901 East 15th Street	972-941-PARK www.planoparks.org
12/5 - 6	Holiday Concert Men of Note Chorus	888-288-3055 www.menofnote.org
	Courtyard Theater	
12/6	36th Annual Plano Children's Christmas Parade www.planotxchristmasparade.com	
	9 a.m. on Independence from Park to Spring Creek	
12/5-12/7,	"Jacob Marley: A Christmas Carol"	1-800-595-4TIX
12/11-12/14,	Frisco Community Theater	
12/18-12/21	Cox Building Playhouse	tickets@friscocommunitytheatre.com
12/13-14	"Holiday Collage" Presented by Toys for Tots, Courtyard Theater	(817) 514-6340
12/7	"Indian Festival" Indian Fine Arts Academy, Courtyard Theater	972-608-2930
12/19-21	"Holiday Show" Plano Children's Theater	972-422-2575 www.planochildrenstheatre.com
	Courtyard Theater	
12/21	"The Best of Home for the Holidays" Plano Symphony Orchestra	972-473-7262 www.planosymphony.org
	St. Andrew United Methodist Church	

## Dickens in Downtown Plano

Friday, December 5 • 6-10 p.m. • Tree Lighting at 7 p.m.

Enjoy the festivities of the season with carolers, music on several stages and a visit with **Santa!** Delight in great shopping, food, hand bell choirs and a variety of other entertainment with performances by a multitude of area choirs, dance groups, carolers and more! Ride DART and receive a coupon when exiting the train, redeemable for discounts at food vendors and the children's amusement area. DART Rail is available from the Bush Turnpike and Parker Road stations to Downtown Plano.



# Holiday Portraits



Jo Howser owns The Children's Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> Street and lives in a historically designated home on 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Her holiday tradition is celebrated during the Historic Downtown Plano Dickens celebration. Friends come to her home for soup and salad, then the group heads over to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. After the tree lighting, they enjoy the festivities then head back to her home for dessert. Her interpretation of Christmas is a verse from Sophia Lyon Fahs, which ends with "Each night a child is born is a holy night, A time for singing, A time for wondering, A time for worshipping."

Peter Harrington, a partner in Waybright & Harrington on 15th Place, describes the holiday season as a time to relax and enjoy family and friends. It's also a time for him to reflect and be truly grateful for his many blessings. Peter and his wife Kris are from Minnesota and head back there with their two sons to enjoy a snowy holiday with their families.

From local to international, traditions are handed down from one generation to the next, enriching the lives of all involved. May the traditions of your holiday season be full of joy and cheer.



## Holiday Shopping

A tradition we all celebrate during the holidays is searching for the perfect gift. Historic Downtown Plano is just the place to buy a unique gift, avoiding the traffic of large shopping centers.

At **Nanny Granny's Antiques**, you will find perfume bottles of all sorts, both old and new, including genuine antiques from the 1920s. Shown here is just a sampling of the large selection available.



**Cobwebs Antiques and Consignments** has a myriad of silver items, including beautiful antique dresser jars with silver lids, beautiful creamers with silver overlay, silver charm bracelets, pins and a wide selection of necklaces.



**Ambiance Décor** has a lovely selection of music boxes and holiday décor. This resin Holy Family stands 27 inches tall and 21 inches wide, including the black base. The detailed angel with the violin is part of a collection of four.

**Queens of Hearts Magic and Costume Shop** has something up its sleeve – professional magicians for hire for your holiday event. The shop has costumes for Santa and his elves, as well as reindeer, snowmen and the Grinch. Be sure to browse the magic sets and stocking stuffers.

# Holiday Shopping

**Nature's Finest Art** now sells gemstone globes in a variety of colors and sizes. The shop also carries "One Mine Wonders" gemstone jewelry, aroma cones, purses, vases, candles, and sea life sculpture in both glass and brass.



At **Accoutré**, these silver-plated compacts, pill boxes and card cases have comical sayings and come in beautiful packages. Other humorous items, as well as creative clothing, jewelry and home décor can be found at this popular shopping spot.



**Eastside Gallery** is having an art sale. All limited editions are 50 percent off. This piece, by Russian oil painter Vadik Suljakov, is called "Passage Remeé-Ponty." An original piece of art is a gift that is cherished forever.



**A Toast to Texas Int'l Wine Shoppe** has hand painted Christmas goblets and adorable hand-painted "Lolita" brand wine glass ornaments, 4 inches tall and packaged in a

beautiful gift box. Stop by for one of these unique gifts or a bottle from their selection of over 80 different wines.

This gorgeous necklace is available at **Renaissance and Custom Jewelry**. Handmade by master jeweler Victor Pollan, this 14K gold necklace is 18 inches and features rhodotite garnet and diamonds.



**Tuscan Lights** offers an array of carved candle holders. They look like large luminaries and are made from honeycomb calcite, mined in Utah and crafted in Texas. The



box is adorned with amethyst. The larger piece can be frozen and used to keep your wine chilled. These beautiful garnet and gold fashion ornaments, containers and goblets are available at **Baxter's Boutique**. In addition to festive holiday décor, the shop carries jewelry and home/garden decorative items.



**Georgia's Farmers Market** features the finest produce around, along with gourmet jams, jellies, teas and coffee beans for holiday entertaining and gift baskets. Unique items include fresh nacho chips and tortillas, honey and fresh mozzarella cheeses – all locally made.



**Two Brothers Cigars** offers everything to please the smoker on your list. This Diamond Crown humidor by Reed and Barton is available in several sizes and includes a humidifier and hygrometer. Other gift items include cutters, unique ashtrays and

lighters, along with over 100 brands of cigars. Cigar gift packs which include a great selection of cigars are available for those unfamiliar with the smoker's tastes.

**Candy Bouquet and Gifts'** new Burton and Burton collection of figurines features a caroling family decked out in Victorian attire. The tallest figure stands 28 inches, and the smallest is 16 inches. The shop also carries a great variety of gifts, stocking stuffers and, of course, candy bouquets.



For holiday bling, stop by **Jewels & Jeans**. With a great selection of embellished shirts and hats, this shop has gifts for your trendy teen, including tops, bottoms, bags and accessories.

For holiday portraits, visit **Urban Kids Photography** or **Studio 201 Photography**, both on

15<sup>th</sup> Street. Reservations for an original portrait painted by **Legacy Portrait Painters** can be made by calling 214-403-9171.

Looking to pamper someone on your list? Visit **Spa Habitat** for a gift card, where all products and services, including massages, facials and body treatments are organic.



**Nooks n' Krannies** has a wonderful selection of dolls and accessories for the little girl on your list. Madame Alexander's Fancy Nancy line has become their biggest seller and includes dolls, books, games and many accessories. While you're there, peruse the Vera

Bradley handbags, the Brio train sets and the Lee Middleton nursery.

**Wooden Spoon** has ornaments, candles and candle holders, new for this year's shoppers. This embroidered table runner and matching card holder are made in Sweden.



Tony Holman of **Holman Pottery** has just finished his latest addition to the Santa Collection, a 2008 limited edition Celtic Santa. This 18<sup>th</sup> Street studio/gallery has a great variety of merchandise, including the famous Melting Snowman.



**Lilly's Gift and Garden Market** is selling live trees and wreaths, along with poinsettias and holiday potpourri.

"Dallas" star Larry Hagman purchased this Europa electric bicycle, made by Ultra Motors, at **Custom Scooters**. This is just one from among their huge selection of scooters.



## Holiday Wishes

Does your family's holiday tradition include helping those who are less fortunate? Listed here are the needs of the local non-profit organizations.

CITY House's four locations have ongoing needs, such as laundry detergent, paper towels, paper napkins, large trash bags, toilet paper, individually wrapped snack products (chips, nuts, granola bars), bottled water and individually-sized juices. Additional current needs include two copier/fax/scanner all-in-one machines. A great holiday gift to this organization would be a gift card for food or activities, or general gift cards for Target or Wal-Mart. CITY House's new location for infants to 9 year olds, called My Friend's House and currently under construction, is registered at Target and Wal-Mart. You may make donations through the gift registries either online or at retail locations. Just enter "Friends" or "CITY" as the first name and "House" as the last name. You may also deliver your donation to the main office at 1947 Avenue K, Bldg. A, Suite 400. Their phone number is 972-424-4626.

The Plano Police Association sponsors the Christmas Cops campaign, collecting toys, food and funds for needy families identified by officers and service organizations. This program provides gifts and meals to families during the holiday season. The week before Thanksgiving, boxes will be set up in Kelly's Eastside, aai Trophies, the Harrington Library, and all the Plano Police and Fire stations. Drop your unwrapped gift in one of the boxes before December 13. There is a particular need for items for ages 12 to 15. Suggested donations for this age group include watches, cosmetics, blow dryers, curling irons and books.

God's Food Pantry will need frozen turkeys; as well as 300 toys; to help the families they assist during the holidays. Donations can be delivered to 3420 E. 14th Street, Suite 101. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Saturday. Arrange for delivery during non-business hours by calling 972-633-9777. This organization is also looking for a sponsor for two storage pods for time slots around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please call for details.

### *Not cooking this Thanksgiving?*

The restaurants below will be open Thanksgiving for your dining pleasure!

Dickey's Barbecue Pit	972-423-2400
The Fillmore Pub	972-423-2400
Gregory's Restaurant	972-578-4734
Kelly's Eastside (dinner only)	972-424-9200

### VILLAGE NEWS

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## Street Talk

CITY House would like to thank **Shawn Stinchcomb**, who donated a vacuum cleaner to CITY House during the interview for the cover story of this newsletter. The holiday season truly lives year-round in the heart of this family.

**ArtCentre of Plano** will participate in Quilt Mania II, a collaborative exhibition of a wide variety of quilts, including 18 cultural venues. The exhibit at the ArtCentre, entitled "Blackland Prairie Quilts," will run from November 7 to December 31, and will be a stop on the Quilt Crawl scheduled for Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit quiltmania.org.

The space at 1011 E. 15th Street has been leased to Vickery Park Plano, a restaurant/bar. The opening date is expected to be December 1. They will have a full menu and will be serving brunch on the weekends.

**Waybright & Harrington** on 15th Place has joined the array of fine shops in the area. Joshua Waybright is an expert luthier and has worked on instruments for violinists, violists and cellists throughout the world. Formerly employed by J & A Beare, one of the world's most respected violin dealers, Joshua has ventured out on his own and partnered with Peter Harrington who handles sales and marketing for the company. Stop by to see the unique selection of violins, violas and cellos from around the world. Instruments are available in all sizes and range in age from 18<sup>th</sup> century to modern. Waybright & Harrington also offers complete shop services from basic bow repairs to full restoration of the finest instruments and bows.

Please make reservations early for your holiday party at the **ArtCentre of Plano**. Space is filling quickly.

The deadline for tamale orders at **Aparicio's Restaurant** is December 15 for online orders and December 20 for pickup orders. Available hot, cold or frozen, they are offered in 10 varieties and have become a tradition in many homes, both locally and around the country.

**Eastside Story** will host a Battle of the Brides event on November 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.. Engaged couples attending the event will participate in a variety of contests and receive 40 to 50 percent off merchandise

for that day only. The grand prize is a free full wedding package!

The deadline for ordering Christmas hams from the **Wooden Spoon** is November 30. The Stella Olson Cooky Party will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 6. Bring a tray of treats to share.

**Douglass Community Center** will sponsor the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. The Community Christmas Dinner is Thursday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. The center is also sponsoring a math tutoring program on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Gwen Workman at the **Wooden Spoon** is now a published author! Her new children's book, "*Magnus the Troll*," was published last February. Because the story line is universal, crossing all ethnic borders, she and illustrator Robert Arista were chosen by a local literacy program to read the story, in both English and Spanish, at the Dallas Zoo on November 9.

**Studio 201 Photography** has leased space upstairs in the ArtCentre of Plano. Photographers Isabelle Shaver and Romina Bacci are available for all types of photography for all ages, for display in your home or on your greeting cards.

**Into My Garden Tea Room** will host a Family Holiday Tea Party on December 13, with seating times on the hour beginning at 10 a.m. This annual holiday tea party will be filled with delicious savories and pastries! Adults and children of all ages will delight in the beautiful holiday themed tea party with tea sandwiches, cranberry scones with Devonshire cream, pumpkin spice tea bread and more.

Month-long specials in November at **NeeNee's Tea Room** include roast turkey and cranberry sandwiches, and holiday appropriate desserts. The tea room will also hold a Jingle Bell Tea on December 13 at 3 p.m.

**CITY House** will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Frisco Convention Center. For more information contact Kathy Blank at 972-424-4626. Sponsorships are available.

**Kelly's Eastside** will be celebrating its six year anniversary on November 20. Watch for details of the festivities!

*The City of Plano provides the Village News to members of our community to keep citizens informed about the activities in the heart of Historic Downtown Plano.*