



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Photos available upon request

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**The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden Presents
The Nutcracker Suite Exhibit With Two Private Nutcracker Collections
Displayed for the First Time**

DALLAS, Texas (Holiday 2017) – In the historic DeGolyer House, lavishly decorated for the holidays, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden debuts The Nutcracker Suite Exhibit, sponsored by Amegy Bank of Texas, from November 24 to January 7. The new exhibition is a collection of more than 800 nutcrackers on display in various rooms, which are decorated to resemble scenes from the ballet. The figurines come from two significant private collections: the Rosemary Thornton Brinegar Collection and the Himert Family Collection.

Mary Brinegar, Dallas Arboretum president and CEO and daughter of the late Rosemary Brinegar, said, “We feel this will be a wonderful holiday experience for family and friends to see this collection beautifully displayed in the DeGolyer House. It’s especially meaningful for our family this year because my mother loved Christmas so much and collected hundreds of nutcrackers and related items, and she received many as gifts from her family and friends. She enjoyed displaying her collection at her homes on Lakewood Boulevard and in her highrise and sharing it with many during the holidays. She would have been overjoyed that so many people will get to see both her collection and the Himert Family Collection together.”

The nutcrackers range in size from one and a half inches to six feet tall. The figurines are made from a variety of materials including wood, glass, clay, porcelain and flower pots, making the exhibit both stunning in color and texture. The collections also consist of simple and elaborate ones from Europe and the United States, including limited edition Steinbach nutcrackers from Germany, hand painted figurines, one-of-a-kind and mass-produced ones. Some notable ones include Shakespeare, Napoleon, Henry VIII of England and George

Washington. Other whimsical ones include popular story figurines, circus characters and animals.

Tom Himert, whose family loaned the Himert Family Collection, said, “When my daughter was six years old, we took her to The Nutcracker ballet, and she wanted us to buy her one, which we did. Like her, I became fascinated with nutcrackers and purchased all different kinds each holiday season. Thirty years later, we’ve collected more than 800, and we now give them to our grandchildren as gifts. Our family is excited to see the extensive collection at the DeGolyer House, and we hope that others will enjoy it, too.”

Guests will be entranced by the decorations as soon as they enter the DeGolyer House:

Front Entrance– Tall nutcrackers greet guests majestically at the door with a Nutcracker Suite sign and ballet slippers peeking through the wreaths.

Foyer – A decorated Nutcracker Christmas tree is the centerpiece of the entryway.

Dining Room – Dance of the Chinese Tea Party includes a Christmas tree that resembles a dragon.

Breakfast Room – The Spanish Dance is the inspiration for this Christmas tree filled with fans.

Sitting Room – The Waltz of the Flowers features floral nutcrackers.

Master Bedroom – An all white Christmas tree reminds guest of the Woodland Snowflake Dance from the ballet.

Library – The party scene includes a five-foot-tall nutcracker in the tree, along with other ones throughout the room with views of White Rock Lake.

The Nutcracker Suite Exhibit is open daily in the DeGolyer House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is open on Wednesday evenings 6 to 8 p.m. from November 29 to December 27. On Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., a live sugar plum fairy is available for photos beginning November 29 through December 27. In special celebration, Restaurant DeGolyer will be open for reservation-only dinners on **November 29, December 13, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 at 7 p.m.**

Seating is limited.

While visiting, guests are invited to stroll through the spectacular outdoor exhibit, The 12 Days of Christmas, featuring a dozen 25-foot-tall, Victorian style gazebos representing the beloved Christmas carol, displayed throughout the 66-acre garden. The 12 Days of Christmas at Night exhibit is open every weekend, enhanced with 500,000 holiday lights, illuminating the trees and intricate gazebos. Holiday at the Arboretum, along with The 12 Days of Christmas, is sponsored by Reliant. To purchase tickets or to make dinner reservations, call 214-515-6615 or visit www.dallasarboretum.org.

THE EXHIBIT

- 800+:** Number of nutcracker figures on display from two private collections: Rosemary Thornton Brinegar and the Himert Family Collection
- 35:** Number of years it took to collect the Rosemary Thornton Brinegar Collection
- 30:** Number of years it took to collect over 800 nutcrackers in the Himert Family Collection
- 21,000:** Square feet of the DeGolyer House where The Nutcracker Suite Exhibit is showcased
- 1940:** The year the DeGolyer House was built
- 1,500:** Ornaments placed on 9 lavishly decorated Christmas trees throughout the house
- 400:** Hours spent arranging the nutcrackers and decorating the DeGolyer House for the holidays
- 60:** Number of hours it takes for 7+ volunteers to set up the Nutcracker Suite Exhibit in DeGolyer
- 300:** Yards of ribbon used for the lavish décor
- 168:** Number of ballerina ornaments hanging in the decorated Christmas trees
- 150:** Feet of garland strung throughout the house
- 11:** Days it takes to set up The Nutcracker Suite Exhibit and decorate the DeGolyer House for the holidays
- 6:** Number of Nutcrackers that are 6 feet tall
- 7:** Lavishly decorated Christmas trees displayed in the DeGolyer House

About the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden:

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218. The Dallas Arboretum is also the home of the internationally acclaimed Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. The Arboretum is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *The Dallas Morning News* is the principal partner of the Dallas Arboretum. The Arboretum is supported, in part, by funds from the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. WFAA is an official media sponsor for the Dallas Arboretum. For more information, call 214.515.6500 or visit www.dallasarboretum.org.

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