

November

BY MARY LUNSFORD

HOME TOURS

The Historic Houston Heights Holiday Home Tour and Market presents: **Christmas Past and Present** Nov. 30-Dec. 2. The home tour showcases five stunning homes in the Heights: the Laudén Home, 1425 Harvard St., the Sackheim Home, 227 W. 18th St., the Broman Cottage, 712 W. 15th St., the Sulsar Home, 618 E. 8th St. and the Brenner-Dumas Home, 914 Nicholson St. Enjoy local art, crafts and holiday gifts at the Holiday Market at the Heights Fire Station, 107 W. 12th St. Tickets and information: www.houstonheights.org/holidayhometour.htm or 713.861.4002

The **Live Downtown Home Tour**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 3, gives you a peek into gorgeous lofts in seven buildings downtown. Day of tour tickets are \$25 at Commerce Towers, 914 Main. Information: downtownhouston.org or 713.658.8938



ABOVE: The Sulsar home is one of the decorated homes on the Houston Heights Holiday Home Tour.

EXHIBITS

The **20th annual Dia de Los Muertos Retablo** exhibition at Lawndale Art Center runs through Nov. 7. Artists from all over Texas were invited to create their own interpretation of the retablo, an oil painting done on tin, zinc, wood or copper originally used to honor the Catholic saints. The exhibition celebrates the rich religious, musical and artistic traditions of Mexico. More than 300 retablos will be on display. Information: 713.528.5858 or www.lawndaleartcenter.org

Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens celebrates **Yuletide at Bayou Bend, Holidays with Heroines** Nov. 17-Dec. 30 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston house museum, 1 Westcott St. Six heroines will be honored: Houston philanthropist Ima Hogg, author Harriet Beecher Stowe, poet and playwright Sarah Kemble Knight, poet Phyllis Wheatley, 18th-century shopkeeper Elizabeth Murray and First Lady Dolley Madison. The exhibit will feature historical vignettes from each of the women's lives, with period furniture, table settings, decorations and rarely viewed furnishings from the Bayou Bend Collection. Information: 713.639.7300 or www.mfah.org/bayoubend



CLASSES

Sign up for free autumn classes and events at **Arbor Gate**, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball: Nov. 2, 10 a.m., Attracting Bluebirds; Nov. 3, 10 a.m., Gardening and Grilling with Herbs; Nov. 8, 4-7 p.m., Deck the Halls, indoors and out; Nov. 13, 10 a.m., Making Decorative Gourd Bowls; Dec. 1, 4-7 p.m., 11th Annual Christmas Open House. Information: 281.351.8851

EVENTS

The **11th Annual Art on the Avenue** Nov. 8-10 at Winter Street Studios, 2101 Winter St., features a silent auction of the works of more than 100 local artists. Proceeds from the auction go toward Avenue CDC's affordable housing and community improvement programs as well as local artists. Tickets: 713.864.8099, ext. 229. Information: www.avenuecdc.org

At The Museum of Fine Arts/Brown Auditorium Theater on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m., **Stephen Fox**, historian of Houston architecture and author of *The Country Houses of John F. Staub*, will give a lecture on the late **John F. Staub**, the River Oaks architect. Information: 713.639.7360



ABOVE: Miss Ima Hogg, oil on canvas painting of Houston philanthropist and original owner of Bayou Bend, by Robert C. Joy, 1971, courtesy of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Mark your calendars for the 15th annual **Artcrawl Houston**, Saturday, Nov. 17. In the downtown warehouse district, more than 100 artists will open their studios to the public. This is the perfect opportunity to add striking Houston art to your collection. Participating studios include the founding studio, Mother Dog Studios, 712 Walnut, and DiverseWorks, 1117 E. Freeway. Metro buses will provide free transportation to and from major warehouses for this free event. Information: www.artcrawlhouston.com

Seaside Treasure Festival in Galveston on Nov. 17 at the Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 53rd and Avenue U, features more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, a silent auction and holiday entertainment. Information: 409.744.4526 or www.moody.org/stf

Mistletoe Madness and 1st Saturday in the Heights on Dec. 1 offers holiday fun including carolers, horse-drawn carriages and Victorian home tours. Information: www.heightsmistletoemadness.com or www.heightsfirstsaturday.com

Galveston's 34th Dickens on The Strand Victorian Holiday Festival Dec. 1-2 turns downtown Galveston into Victorian London with 3,000 volunteers, vendors, entertainers and characters dressed in costumes from the works of Charles Dickens. Visitors wearing Victorian England costumes receive half priced tickets. Information and tickets: 409.765.7834 or www.galvestonhistory.org

Take a stroll down 19th Street from 6-10 p.m. Dec. 7 during the **Holiday on 19th** event in the Heights. Shop for fabulous holiday gifts while listening to live music, sipping on fun drinks and munching on delectable food.

The Heritage Society presents **Sounds of the Past: Phonographs, Radios and Records** through Feb. 3, 2008. This new exhibit at The Heritage Society Museum, 1100 Bagby, displays the history of recorded sound and also features famous broadcasts such as "War of the Worlds." Free admission. Information: www.heritagesociety.org

ABOVE: Houston Talks, canvas painting by Chilean artist Humberto Salanova Colosia, one of the featured artists on the Artcrawl at Salanova Gallery. www.bsalanova.com



ABOVE: By local cook/restaurant owner Sylvia Casares Copeland, "Hot Tamales!"

WHAT'S NEW

Just in time for holiday gift-giving — not to mention making tamales — is a new DVD and cookbook from one of our favorite restaurateurs, **Sylvia Casares Copeland**, whose recipes we featured in our November '05 issue. Find *Hot Tamales! A Primer on the Ancient Art of Tamale Making* at Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen, 12637 Westheimer, or at Central Market or Brazos Books.

Blue Leaf, an eclectic lifestyle boutique, has doubled in size and moved to new quarters at 5504 Morningside Drive in Rice Village (713.520.9975). Among its many offerings, the spiffy new 9,000-square-foot store carries elegant furniture, whimsical accessories, custom florals, fine linens, exotic lighting, a great selection of children's toys and holiday gifts.