

Star-Telegram

Eyes on Arlington: Get ready for Junior League of Arlington's Holiday Magic Gift Market

10/28/2014 12:00 AM | Updated: 10/27/2014 12:45 PM

With Christmas only two months away, are you ready to start your shopping? The Junior League of Arlington is all set to make it easy for you at its annual Holiday Magic Gift Market running Nov. 7-9 at the Arlington Convention Center.

The festive affair will offer an exclusive first look at holiday merchandise in a gift market featuring a slew of nifty vendors. And it's guilt-free spending since it all benefits community projects that focus on families, especially women and children.

Co-chairs **Lindsey Hurst** and **Tamika Tutt** and a dedicated steering committee will transform the expo hall into a holiday wonderland where you can find pretty much anything. Vendors selling clothing, jewelry, art, children's clothes and toys, gourmet food and many other unique gift categories will be awaiting the thousands who visit the market each year.

The market is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 8 and from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 9. General admission is \$8; senior adults and kids aged 6-12 are admitted for \$5, and kids under 5 are free. On Nov. 9, buy one admission and get one free.

Before the Holiday Magic Gift Market opens to the public, a wonderful Brunch and Ladies Fashion Show is set for Nov. 7. What could be better than opening the day with two hours of private shopping from 9 to 11 a.m.? Just when you've shopped till you drop, rejuvenate during a scrumptious brunch followed by a style show.

A brand-new format for the fashion show will make its debut this year. According to a promotional release from Junior League, "Our all-new Fashion Show features a New York-style runway in the market. You'll see fashions from some of the Gift Market's new merchants and selections from Dillard's – Emceed this year by Mrs. Texas America 2014, Whitney Beseda."

Who will be Mr. Holiday Magic 2014? After a three-week competition between the guys serving as celebrity waiters at the brunch and those volunteering to be fashion models, the man who raises the most money for JLA will be named the winner in a spotlight moment after the style show.

The tickets remaining for this event are \$50 and include the buffet brunch, bottomless champagne poinsettias, third-row seating and beyond, and a gift bag.

Round up a group and come back that evening to sip and shop while noshing on some light bites at the Jingle Bells, Cocktails and Ugly Sweater Happy Hour from 6 to 9 p.m. Multiply the fun by digging out your ugliest holiday sweater to wear to the event.

Tickets are \$35 and include extended shopping hours along with two drink vouchers and tasty hors d'oeuvres. Happy hour fun will ramp up with candid shots at the VW Bus photo booth, plus live entertainment from the Jimmy Jones Band and DJ Ant. Guests will take home a special gift as the party ends.

On the morning of Nov. 8, bring the kids out to meet the big man himself at Breakfast With Santa. Tickets are \$25 and include a pancake breakfast, a photo with Santa and a special gift to take home.

Kids under 3 are admitted free. A fun scavenger hunt in the gift market will enable the youngsters to get a taste of giving to others because items from the hunt will benefit needy children served by the Arlington Police Department.

Purchase tickets and learn event details at www.jlarlington.org (<http://www.jlarlington.org/>) or call the league office at 817-277-9481 (tel:817-277-9481).

A Taste of Asia is Nov. 7

Head out to Kennedale for a delicious lunch Nov. 7 and be a part of the fourth annual Taste of Asia benefiting United Way of Tarrant County hosted by Tarrant County Commissioner **Andy Nguyen**.

“Commissioner Nguyen will be grilling some Kickin’ Korean barbecue beef ribs and barbecue pork to be served with rice, salad, egg rolls and dessert,” said spokeswoman **Mary Gilman**.

Besides the tasty grilled entrees, luncheon guests can participate in a raffle to help raise money for the United Way. If your raffle ticket is drawn, you might win tickets to Six Flags Holiday in the Park, a Keurig 2.0 coffee maker, a karaoke machine, a \$50 gift card to Outback Steakhouse or other great gifts. Raffle tickets are \$2, or three for \$5.

According to Gilman, “Last year, Tarrant County raised approximately \$91,000 for United Way. Our goal this year is to raise over \$100,000 and win our friendly fundraising competition with Mayor Betsy Price and the city of Fort Worth.”

The fundraising will be extended during the Taste of Asia Restaurant Week hosted by Nguyen. Through Friday, several Asian restaurants throughout the county have agreed to donate 10 to 20 percent of their proceeds to United Way. Contact Gilman for a complete list of locations and dates.

Tickets for the 11:30 a.m. Taste of Asia luncheon are \$8. The venue is the Precinct 2 Southeast Maintenance Facility Center, 1203 E. Kennedale Parkway. Purchase tickets by contacting Gilman at 817-548-3900 (tel:817-548-3900) or email her at mtgilman@tarrantcounty.com (mailto:mtgilman@tarrantcounty.com).

Looking for Korean War veterans for Nov. 11 ceremony

Anyone who has friends or family members who are veterans of the Korean War is invited to be a part of the Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11 at Veterans Park in Arlington where a special ceremony will honor the veterans’ service. Organizers of the event are urging veterans or their family to contact **Jim Runzheimer** at 817-795-2020 (tel:817-795-2020) or runz-law@att.net (mailto:runz-law@att.net) to make arrangements to be part of the ceremony.

People from across North Texas and the city will attend the seventh annual Veterans Day Ceremony in the park, 3600 W. Arkansas Lane, featuring retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. **James Williams** as the keynote speaker.

Making certain the occasion is again successful is a dedicated event committee including **VivAnn Blair, Tom Bui, Judge Brent Carr, Hung Dang, Clete McAlister, Susie McAlister, James Quick, Al Ross, Jim Runzheimer** and **Paul Swartz**.

Each veteran will be introduced and presented a commemorative medallion by Williams. A special keepsake from the day will be the printed program where each veteran's service and achievements will be summarized.

The ceremony is sponsored by the Arlington Veterans Park Foundation, Arlington Historical Society and Arlington Rotary Clubs. Other sponsors are Honor Flight DFW, Veterans Coalition of Tarrant County and Heroes of South Vietnam Memorial Foundation.

Lots of patriotic music to be provided by Carr and the Cowtown Music Club along with a performance of the national anthem by **Michael Rose**. The Heroes of South Vietnam Foundation will present the Republic of Vietnam National Anthem.

A complimentary luncheon for all attendees at the park pavilion will follow the ceremony, and reservations will be appreciated to enable adequate preparation. Call 817-795-2020 (tel:817-795-2020) to indicate lunch plans.