

**Editor: Henny van Dijk**

**[www.uthro.org](http://www.uthro.org)**

**December, 2024**

## UTHRO's December Event...

## It's the Season, Let's Enjoy It...



On Thursday December 12th UTHRO will visit the Botanic Gardens for their Annual Light Festival sponsored by Reliant. The Gardens are located at One Botanic Lane off 610 and I-45. Of course we travel by bus, which will leave OCB at 4 PM. Prior to visiting the Gardens we will have dinner at Tequila 45 on Mosley Rd. Dinner will be on your own dime.



The show is entitled "Radiant Nature", the winter festival features over "50 large-scaled Chinese lantern installations come to life, including a majestic 200-foot-long dragon and a soaring 12-foot-tall peacock!

**Ticket price is \$23.00 pp**

Join us in celebrating the beauty of nature and the richness of Asian cultures." Furthermore the holiday light experience will feature a life-sized Chinese palace, illuminated interactive swings, seesaws, floral tunnels, as well as an immersive, walk-in kaleidoscope.

We will return back to OCB by 9:30 PM.

**RSVP by December 5 to  
Janice Thomas  
832-515-0280 [flyte99@yahoo.com](mailto:flyte99@yahoo.com)**

*But don't forget to send in your \$23 pp to Margaret Zambrano, Treasurer by Dec.5 via Zelle at [zambrano1123@gmail.com](mailto:zambrano1123@gmail.com)*

or check made out to UTHRO and mailed to her at 20903 Imperial Ridge Lane, Spring, Texas 77379.

*While looking for content to share with you all I chanced upon a blog by Kim Watt and though she writes great short stories they are all way too long for my newsletter; however the intro to her short Christmas story felt so familiar to me that I decided to share it with you in case you too feel this way about the "festive season"*  
*Henny*

Lovely people, if you've read my posts you'll know I'm not big on adding to the chaos that surrounds the festive season. I think it's stressful enough for all of us without me chucking some blogs into the mix about how to maximize your festive fabulousness. I mean, you're fabulous already. Just stick some tinsel on your head and call it done. Also, while I'm not the grinch, I'm not *huge* on Christmas. It tends to feel a little frantic to me, and the stress that comes from the pressure to make it perfect – as if anything ever can be – just seems too much. Who cares if the wrapping paper doesn't match your color scheme, or if you've even got a color scheme? Is anyone even looking at the intricate table settings by the time they're three egg-nogs and twelve sausage rolls in? Don't lumps in the mashed potato just add interesting texture, and aren't the burnt bits on the cauliflower cheese bringing a nice smokey flavor to things? I say let's embrace imperfection in our festivities as well as in ourselves. Because anything else just seems like really hard work, and haven't we had enough of that this year already? Make this festive season *yours*. Cook (or order in) the food *you* want to be eating. Dress up if you want, or wear your PJs all day if you don't. Watch movies that take your fancy, not the ones We Must Watch Because Holidays. Forgo a tree and get a cactus instead.

Unless, of course, if you're that person who's had their tree up since Halloween and has been playing Christmas songs since August. In which case, it's your season! Have fun! But wherever you are on the festive scale, it's going to be another strange holiday season, lovely people. Let's just enjoy it. And with that out of the way, I shall continue my own erratic tradition of offering non-useful yet distracting posts, such as short stories about dissatisfied elves. Happy holidays and all that

*Kim Watt, [www.kmwatt.com](http://www.kmwatt.com)*



*Holiday Cactus by Henny van Dijk*

## The Annual Meeting, Holiday Luncheon 2024 in pictures...



For those of you who missed this delightful Annual event Margaret Zambrano not only shot the pictures but also gave me the names of those who attended and I would challenge you to find those you knew and worked with over the years and maybe next year you would like to see them in person and reconnect. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE**

Marilyn and Robin Wells, Cathy Findley, Betty Streckfuss, Michael Musters, Jennifer Clark, Claire Brunson, Barbara Kelly, Minerva Montano, Tomas Cantu, Peggy O'Neill, Charlotte Childress, Frankie Rogers and her son Reggie, Michael Musters, Lettye Dismukes, Vida Pollard, Pat and Carolyn Grealy, Glenn Schreyer, Michael Badzioch, Margaret & Oscar Zambrano, Yoka and Henny van Dijk, Gill Rittman, Isabel Alvarado, Kathy Bradley, Janice Thomas, Donna Clanton, Raudel Villaneda, Mary Frances Fabrizio, Flo von Roeder, Daun Gray, and Pamela Butler.



WISHING YOU AND YOURS  
A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME  
AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND  
PROSPEROUS 2025



### UTHRO OFFICERS 2024

**President** Barbara Kelly  
**Vice-Pres** Cathy Findley  
**Secretary** Daun Gray  
**Treasurer** Margaret Zambrano  
**Newsletter Editor** Henny van Dijk  
**Web Administrators** Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu). This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efen Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.