



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photos available upon request

Media contacts:

Terry Lendecker | VP of Advertising & Promotions | 214.515.6523 | tlendecker@dallasarboretum.org

Krista Bruton | Communications Specialist | 214.515.6525 | kbruton@dallasarboretum.org

Juliette Coulter | The Coulter Group | 214.394.5532 | juliette@coultergroup.com

**The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden Presents
“The Artistry of the Nativity” at the DeGolyer House Featuring
Three Private Collections Displayed for the First Time**

DALLAS, Texas (Holiday 2018) – Three leading Dallas families have generously loaned their crèche collections to the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden to be displayed for the first time ever for “The Artistry of the Nativity,” in the historic DeGolyer House. Guests will see the private collections of Joyce and Larry Lacerte, Lydia and Dan Novakov and a life-size crèche from Mary and Mike Terry. These crèches will be displayed along with the Ray Harrington and the Joe Christian collections that the Arboretum owns. “The Artistry of the Nativity” runs from November 24 to December 31.

According to Mary Brinegar, Dallas Arboretum president, “This is a unique opportunity to see collections that represent how various cultures around the world have interpreted the nativity scene.”

Each of the 500 crèches are made out of unique materials including clay, Waterford crystal, horns, seeds, cornhusk, glass, adobe, paper-mache, driftwood, porcelain, silver, coconut shells and more. In addition to the crèches, every room in the DeGolyer House will feature other elaborate holiday décor.

Among the largest nativities this year is the Terry’s, and it is normally displayed on their rooftop. Made out of fiberglass, these five to seven foot tall colorful crèches make quite a statement and will be displayed in the outdoor courtyard visible from the library of the DeGolyer House.

Mary Terry said, "Our house is a big box with a metal roof anchored by four tall chimneys at the corners. We have a grass roof over our garage where we put the camels and magi, and we put the holy family and animals on an open balcony over our front door entryway. The most unique reaction we've received from the display was a man who stopped me and said that he loved that I wore my faith on my sleeve, and they love having it in the neighborhood. We have other neighbors who drive by just to see it. We hope that guests at the Arboretum will enjoy it as much as our neighbors and family have."

In the historic DeGolyer House, guests will also see the Lacerte and Novakov collections.

Lydia Novakov has been drawn to nativities since she was a child. "When growing up, my mother had an ANRI nativity set, and I loved that piece. When I married Dan, he started buying me one piece from the Boehm collection for each celebration, including my birthday in December. That first one is still my favorite."

She added, "People know that I collect nativities, so through the years, my friends and my children have given them to me, and those are among the most special ones to me."

Joyce Lacerte and Lydia Novakov became friends when Joyce moved to Dallas. Both attend the same church and are involved in volunteer activities. For decades, they have traveled together, and those travels have helped them build their collections.

Novakov said, "Joyce and I have collected crèches together on many trips. Everywhere we go, we're always searching for nativities." They have found crèches from the Germany Christmas Markets, Italy, Paris, Prague, Budapest, London, Lebanon, Jordan and throughout the United States.

Lacerte added, "Whenever we go to a new place, one of our goals is to find a crèche that represents that region." She spoke of a recent trip to Santa Fe where she purchased one made by Native Americans. When her children travel, they often bring home unique ones they've found for her. "I love them all, but the ones of greatest significance are those that come from family and friends."

Lacerte's favorite crèches include one from the island of Murano made of blown glass and another one from Belgium from the 1600s, which she bought in England.

In addition to the very first one her husband bought her, Novakov loves the ones from the Vatican, the driftwood ones from Santa Fe, the metal ones from Germany and the many from Russia made out of various materials. She also has fond memories of a Madame Alexander nativity scene because it reminds her of the dolls her mother and grandmother gave her when she was growing up. "I love that one, and now my granddaughters love to look at it, too."

Novakov said, "Nativities tell the story of our lives, starting with the one that Dan gave me, because they represent where we've been and the different times of our lives. I hope our children and grandchildren remember the meaning of Christmas as they look at them, too."

Lacerte concluded, "In seeing our collection, I would love people to appreciate the different cultures in the world and how they interpret the same story with different materials and artistry."

Guests will be entranced by the decorations as soon as they enter the DeGolyer House:
Front Entrance– Delightfully decorated with Christmas trees and garland with wings above the entrance door.

Foyer – Features gold urns with village scenes and a beautiful chandelier with stars raining down.

Dining Room – Large Christmas tree highlighted with Lacerte Collection and nativity scenes, accented with gold.

Breakfast Room – Features the Fontanini Collection with a 9-foot tree accented by various village pieces.

Sitting Room – Highlights the Novakov Collection displayed on the glass shelves, which reflect into the Christmas tree.

Library – 15-foot tree and the life-size nativity from the Terry Collection on display in the outdoor courtyard visible from the library.

The Artistry of the Nativity is open daily in the DeGolyer House from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, and is open on **Wednesday evenings 6 to 9 p.m. from November 24 to December 31**. Visit with Santa Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. in the Crape Myrtle Allee from November 14-December 19. In special celebration, Restaurant DeGolyer will be open for reservation-only dinners on **November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 20, 21, 27 & 28** 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 presented by Reliant. To purchase tickets or to make dinner reservations, call 214-515-6615 or visit www.dallasarboretum.org.

THE EXHIBIT

500+: Number of crèches on display from 5 collections: Joyce and Larry Lacerte, Dan and Lydia Novakov, Mary and Mike Terry, The Ray Harrington family and Joe Christian family.

21,000: Square feet of the DeGolyer House where The Artistry of the Nativity 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 crèches and decorating the DeGolyer House for the holidays

50: Number of countries the crèches on display represent

60: Number of hours it takes for 7+ volunteers to set up The Artistry of the Nativity Exhibit in DeGolyer

300: Yards of ribbon used for the lavish décor

150: Feet of garland strung throughout the house

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. It 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.

About Reliant

Reliant powers, protects and simplifies life by bringing electricity, security and related services to homes and businesses across Texas. Serving customers and the community is at the core of what we do, with Reliant being nationally recognized for outstanding customer service and experience. Reliant is part of NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), a Fortune 500 company that creates value through best-in-class operations and reliable and efficient electric generation. Backed by a diverse portfolio of power generating facilities, NRG's competitive residential electricity business, which includes Reliant, is the largest in the country and powers more than 3 million customers across the U.S. and Canada. For more information about Reliant, please visit reliant.com and connect with Reliant on Facebook at facebook.com/reliantenergy and Twitter or Instagram @reliantenergy. PUCT Certificate #10007.

#