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Tea & Talent: Sips for Adults, Workshops for Kids

Four Seasons Holiday Weekends offer adult teas with gingerbread fun for kids

HOUSTON... Let the pandemonium begin!

No sooner are the Thanksgiving dishes put away, the countdown to the Christmas holidays begins. And while it's a time more associated with chaos than relaxation, Four Seasons Hotel Houston is once again ready to be a port in the seasonal storm as it kicks off the annual Holiday Teas and Gingerbread Workshops – and does some charitable work as well.

Beginning Saturday, Nov. 24, the downtown hotel brings back the popular afternoon event where children 12 and under can participate in a hands-on workshop learning how to decorate their very own Gingerbread Houses. This year it has been relocated to a spacious, private room just next door to the first floor Lobby Lounge where afternoon tea is now served. As the icing flies under the supervision of hotel pastry chefs, adults can escape the mayhem there.

The hotel does have one strict rule, however. Parents are required to retrieve their children when it's over. Of course, they at least will go home relaxed while the kids go home with their works of gingerbread house art.

Also new this year is the Gingerbread Workshop Book Drive. All participants are urged to bring new or gently used children's books, which will be donated to Casa de Esperanza, a Houston-based organization which provides a safe place for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect or effects of disease. Each child bringing one or more books will receive \$2 off the cost of the workshop (only one \$2 discount per child).

Running from 2-4 p.m. every Saturday from Nov. 24 – Dec. 22, the Afternoon Tea and Gingerbread Workshop offer something for everyone. The cost is \$42 for both adults (afternoon tea) and children. Workshops are limited to 20 children per workshop so reservations are required. Call 713-276-4700.

Four Seasons Hotel Houston is located at 1300 Lamar at San Jacinto.