WIN A GOLDEN JUBILEE TRIP TO LONDON, ENGLAND!

50TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION
GALVESTON'S WORLD FAMOUS VICTORIAN HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

DEC. 1-3, 2023 - 50TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION
GALVESTON'S WORLD FAMOUS VICTORIAN HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

TICKETS AND MORE AT DICKENSONTHESTRAND.ORG

AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE GALVESTON COUNTY DAILY NEWS
A landmark event 50 years in the making returns to Galveston's historic downtown for the 50th anniversary of Galveston Historical Foundation's (GHF) Dickens on The Strand, presented by the British Consulate-General Houston.

The event, GHF's largest fundraiser, returns the first weekend in December for three days of the sights and sounds of Charles Dickens' work, surrounded by the island's unmatched Victorian-era architecture. This annual festival begins Friday, Dec. 1, with free admission to Fezziwig's Beer Hall from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and continues with ticketed entry on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, from noon to 6 p.m.

“This 50th anniversary of Dickens on The Strand is a milestone in many ways,” said GHF Executive Director Dwayne Jones. “It represents years of commitment to developing and maintaining a top-rated festival that brings thousands to our island during the holiday season.

“In the mid-1970s, GHF leaders and volunteers wondered if we could ever see the renaissance of the Strand Mechanic National Historic Landmark District. We questioned if tourists and locals would see the historic area as a place to walk, shop and dine.

“Without any doubt, the Dickens event and its impressive number of visitors have helped to build the credibility of The Strand and contributed to its revitalization. GHF began its work in the area long before others came on board. Our staff and board brought a vision that led the earliest development, and the Dickens event is a key part of our ongoing vision.”

Based on 19th-century Victorian London, the annual holiday street festival features parades, non-stop entertainment on multiple stages, strolling carolers, roving musicians, bagpipers, jugglers and other entertainers. Costumed vendors peddle their wares from street stalls and rolling carts laden with holiday food and drink, Victorian-inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, holiday decorations and gift items.

Tickets purchased at the gate are $25 for adults and $18 for youth. Discounted tickets for GHF members are available for $15 in advance or $20 at the gate. Attendees in Victorian costumes receive 50 percent off entry. Tickets are available online at www.dickensonthestrand.org.
Explore new events at Dickens on The Strand

The 50th anniversary events feature callbacks to past event programs and new offerings for 2023.

Dickens Royal Raffle –
Presented by Visit Britain

Three unforgettable British experiences are on hand for the lucky winners of this special 50th-anniversary raffle ticket.

• **Prize package 1 – London Getaway:** Enjoy a four-night stay in London, complete with airfare, Dickens-themed itinerary, meet-and-greets and more.

• **Prize Package 2 – McLaren Tour and Test Drive:** A private tour and test drive away the winner of this package at McLaren Automotive’s Dallas headquarters.

• **Prize Package 3 – High tea with Richard Hyde, British Consul General, at his Houston residence.**

Raffles are $20 per ticket and can be purchased at Ebeneezer’s Retail and all festival pubs during the weekend.

Visiting Dickens Descendants

Each year, Dickens on The Strand welcomes representatives from the Charles Dickens family. This year’s event features nine family members hosting special events, appearing at meet-and-greets, signings and appearances throughout the festival all weekend.

• Lucy Bacon – great-great-great-granddaughter (first appearance)

• Polly Olivia Boyd – great-great-great-granddaughter (returning guest)

• Mark Charles and Debbie Dickens – great-great-grandson and spouse (returning guests)

• Oliver “Ollie” Dickens – great-great-grandson (returning guest)

• Lucinda Dickens Hawksley – great-great-granddaughter (returning guest)

• Marion Dickens Lloyd – great-great-granddaughter (first appearance)

• Jane Dickens Monk – great-great-granddaughter (returning guest)

• Harry Whinney – great-great-grandson (first appearance)

Buckingham Palace VIP Area – Presented by the British Consulate-General Houston

VIP tickets include access to the Buckingham Palace VIP area, including balcony access overlooking The Strand. This space, located inside the festival grounds, has special programming, meet-and-greets, photo opportunities, drinks and more on both days. VIP ticket holders also will receive a limited-edition Dickens on The Strand medallion.

**Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, $100 per person.**

50th Anniversary Golden Ticket

Holders of this anniversary pass will receive a unique code that allows redemption of one ticket to every event held during the 50th anniversary of Dickens on The Strand. In addition, Golden Ticket passes will include a limited-edition Dickens 50 Challenge Coin as a token of thanks while being held in the company of Queen Victoria and her court.

**7 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, $200 per person.**

Golden Jubilee Feast – Hosted by Mark Charles and Debbie Dickens

This special 50th anniversary gathering welcomes nine descendants of Charles Dickens, each reading a portion of Dickens’ masterpiece “A Christmas Carol.” Guests will enjoy live music, a seated dinner, readings, guests of honor and more at this special gala in the 1880 Garten Verein. Reservation holders also will be gifted a limited-edition Dickens 50 Challenge Coin as a token of thanks while being held in the company of Queen Victoria and her court.

**7 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, $200 per person.**

Dickens Descendant Champagne Reception – Hosted by Marion Lloyd

Join in welcoming this year’s nine Dickens descendants to the 50th annual Dickens on The Strand. This special meet-and-greet will be held in the 1895 Moody Mansion and is your first opportunity to welcome visiting Dickens descendants, purchase their various books and have them signed. Complimentary champagne, wine, and hors d’oeuvres also will be available.

**5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, $40 per person.**

Canterbury Theatre of Variety

Holders of this limited ticket will gain access to a private location within the Dickens on The Strand grounds. Ticket holders will take in a specially created Victorian burlesque performance, drinks and revelry for this new addition to the 50th annual Victorian festival.

**7 p.m.-9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, $60 per person.**
Ebenezer’s retail at 23rd and The Strand is your festival stop for official Dickens on The Strand merchandise. From a variety of beloved holiday books to logoed products and more, you’re sure to find something for everyone on your list. Naughty or nice!

DON’T MISS THE MERCH SPECIAL EVENTS ALL WEEKEND LONG

There’s more to the 50th anniversary of Dickens on The Strand than just the festival. From sunset toasts board the 1877 Tall Ship ELISSA, Strand walking tours, after-event vaudeville performances, and even breakfast with the descendants themselves, this year’s festival offers numerous opportunities to enjoy. Visit dickensonthestrand.org for details and reservations, and make this year’s event a history-making one!

GENERAL FESTIVAL ADMISSION

Admission to festival grounds for stages, vendors, street performances, and more! Adults: $25 | Youth: $18 | Victorian Costumes 1/2 Off

FESTIVAL VIP ADMISSION

Festival admission with exclusive Strand balcony access, commemorative medallion, bar & more. Adults: $100 | Youth: $40

50TH ANNIVERSARY GOLDEN TICKET

Access to EVERY Dickens event plus VIP, commemorative challenge coin, parade carriage ride, raffle entry, and more. $1,500 (limited quantity)

SPECIAL EVENTS

LESS HUMBUG, MORE HUZZAH AT DICKENS ON THE STRAND!

Ready to show off your hard costuming work? Held on Saturday at 3:30 at the Westminster Abbey Stage, prizes will be awarded for Victorian Woman, Victorian Man, Victorian Family, Dickens Character and Steampunk. Enter via the Costume Contest Booth at the Westminster Abbey Stage!

COSTUME CONTEST

GOLDEN JUBILEE FEAST

This special anniversary dinner welcomes descendants of Charles Dickens, each reading a portion of Dickens’s masterpiece A Christmas Carol. Guests will enjoy a seated dinner, live music, commemorative coin, and more in the 1880 Garten Verein. Sat. Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. $200.

FRI, DEC. 1 - 5-9 pm | SAT, DEC. 2 - 10 am-9 pm | SUN, DEC. 3 - 12-6 pm | ADULTS: $20 adv. / $25 day of | YOUTH (7-12): $15 adv. / $18 day of | GHF MEMBERS: $15 adv. / $20 day of | CHILDREN & UNDER: FREE

COSTUMED ATTENDEES GET 1/2 OFF ADMISSION

Tickets are non-refundable. Festival is open rain or shine. GHF is not responsible for independent transactions between visitors and vendors.

Pets and ice chests are not allowed. Scooters, skateboards, rollerblades, skates, Segways and other recreational “wheels” are forbidden. Guests bringing in costume weapons and props must have them secured and will be asked to go through additional screening.

We are committed to making Dickens on The Strand special needs accessible. If we can assist with arrangements, contact us at 409.765.3401 in advance of your visit.

Visit page 7 for a listing of each area’s participating vendors as well as numbered Strand Mechanic Business Listing participants.

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Admission to London Wharf (Pier 22) and the 1877 ELISSA, the Official Tall Ship of Texas, are included with your festival admission. Please note, admission to the Ship To Shore attraction is not included in your festival ticket.
**WIN A TRIP TO LONDON, ENGLAND!**

**THE DICKENS ROYAL RAFFLE PRESENTED BY VISIT BRITAIN**

Three unforgettable British experiences are on hand for the lucky winners of this special 50th-anniversary raffle ticket!

Raffles are $20 per ticket and can be purchased at Ebenezer’s Retail and all festival pubs during the weekend beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 1 during Fezziwig’s Free Friday. The raffle will end at 4 p.m. CST on Sunday, December 3, and the winners will be announced at 4:30 p.m. CST at the beginning of the Victorian Bed Races. The winner does not have to be present to win and will be contacted after the event with prize details. Visit galvestonhistory.org/raffle for full terms and conditions.

**PRIZE PACKAGES**

- **London Getaway:** Enjoy a four-night stay in London, complete with airfare, Dickens-themed itinerary, meet and greets, and more!

- **McLaren Tour and Test Drive:** A private tour and test drive awaits the winner of this package at McLaren’s Dallas headquarters.

- **Houston High Tea:** An afternoon tea and visit with Richard Hyde, British Consul General, at his Houston residence.

With generous support by:

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**THE QUEEN’S PARADE**

**THE DICKENS DASH FOOT RACE VICTORIAN BED RACES**
Fan favorites

The festival hosts many spirited events, such as the crowd favorite Whimsical Whisker Revue—a facial hair contest for the bearded and the dandy—the Dickens Victorian Bed Races, Victorian Costume Contest, special kid's programming, daily parades through Galveston's Strand Mechanic National Historic Landmark Strand District and more. Participated in some of the 50th-anniversary highlights.

Fezziwig's Friday Night – Hosted by Charles Dickens

Mr. Fezziwig was everything Ebenezer wasn’t, and the festival pays tribute to his jovial personality at its Fezziwig’s Beer Hall. Enjoy specialty acts, drink some hearty brews and make new friends. Admission is free for this lively start to the weekend.

5 p.m.–9 p.m., Dec. 1

Saint Arnold's Strand Walking Tours – Hosted by Saint Arnold

Learn about the history of The Strand and enjoy some of Saint Arnold Brewing Company’s signature ales during this festival-favorite tour. Held daily during Dickens on The Strand, you’ll visit three festival pubs as you walk through the National Historic Landmark district with your guide, learning about The Strand’s stories, buildings and history.

5:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1; 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2; 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3; $40 per person.

The Dickens Dash & Victorian Bed Races – Hosted by Ollie Dickens

Speed is the name of the game for the big finish of the 50th annual Dickens on The Strand. The Dickens Dash, a costumed run, welcomes individual and team competitions, and the Victorian Bed Races features teams of five as contestants make for the best time across the finish line, cheered along by the adoring crowd.

4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3

Special events

Dickens on The Strand also highlights many historic sites and attractions that Galveston Historical Foundation owns and operates. These added experiences, hosted by a visiting descendant, occur around the festival and do not include festival admission.

Jubilation Ringers Handbell Concert – Hosted by Harry Whinney

The 1859 St. Joseph's Church, the first wooden-built church in Galveston and well known for its exceptional acoustics, hosts three holiday handbell concerts.

5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1; $25 per person. Reservations are required.

The Smoking Bishop’s Soiree – Hosted by Ollie Dickens

Named for the iconic drink featured in "A Christmas Carol" and featuring specialty acts, award-winning performers and a carefully curated food and drink menu, this kickoff to the annual festival is not to be missed. Held at the breathtaking 1892 Bishop’s Palace, attendees will enjoy live music, food, wine, an exceptional aerial acrobatics performance and appearances by special guests.

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 1; $100 per person. Reservations are required.

Captain Cuttle’s Seaport Salute – Hosted by Lucinda Dickens Hawksley

Toast the end of the day and the beginning of the evening onboard the Official Tall Ship of Texas. The 1877 Tall Ship ELLISSA welcomes you aboard for heavy appetizers, a specialty cocktail, cannon fire and special guests leading to Saturday night’s Pickwick’s Lanternlight Parade.

4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2; $95 per person. Reservations are required.

Mrs. Tickit’s English Breakfast – Hosted by Jane Dickens Monk and Lucy Bacon

Start your Dickens day with a one-of-a-kind experience in one of Galveston’s most beloved historic homes, the 1859 Ashton Villa. Take in an English breakfast with special guests, surprise performances and more in a gorgeous holiday setting inside the house.

8:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2; 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 3; $100 per person. Reservations are required.

Elevences on the Pier – Hosted by Polly Olivia Boyd

Join guests at the 1877 Tall Ship ELLISSA for tea and cookies with a touch of history. Enjoy a relaxing morning on the harbor alongside the Official Tall Ship of Texas. Listen to live music and receive a welcome by Dickens descendant Polly Olivia Boyd. She will be on hand, helping set the tone for your day at Dickens on The Strand.

11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 3; $60 per person. Reservations are required.
Stop by vendor stalls for shopping, good eats and lively libations

STRAND MECHANIC BUSINESS LISTINGS
1. Hearsay on The Strand – 2410 Strand
2. Brews Brothers – 2404 Strand
3. Sound Bar – 2411 Mechanic
4. Stuttgarden Tavern – 111 23rd Street
5. Thai Garden – 216 23rd Street
6. Galveston Psychic - 2221 Strand, 106
7. Frankie’s Liquor Store – 2218 Strand
8. The Jewel Garden – 2216 Strand
9. Surf Styles – 2119 Strand
10. Heaven & Earth – 210 21st Street, 4
11. The Local Stone – 210 21st Street
12. Old Oleander – 2016 Strand

COVENT MKT. (FOOD & DRINK)
- J3 Cajun Kitchen
- Mamas Corny Cob
- Tia Amelias
- Thirsty Bee Meadery
- Tres Flores Funnel Cakes
- Gomez Catering
- Chets Grill
- Old Tyme Concessions

SMITHFIELD MKT. (FOOD & DRINK)
- Sweet T’s Rollin Cafe
- Pecos Pete
- El Barrilito
- Scandinavian Immigrants Glogg
- Sky Kings Falconry (Wildlife Revealed)
- Heritage Meatpies
- #GalvestonHistory Chestnuts
- African American Heritage Committee
- Galveston Seaport
- Hipklips by Turnerville
- Amber & Christmas Ornamants
- Paper Pie
- His World Maps
- Catalano Creations/Madison Avery Designs
- Mark’s Woodshop
- Dickens Ornaments and Décor
- Rugged History Beard Co
- Daily News
- The Bosswrench
- Red Beard Treasures
- Phat Dragon, Days of Youre LLC
- Memory Lane Glassworks
- Blue Face Monkey
- Scrooge and Cratchit
- The Lord’s Fine Works
- Inca Wasi Arts and Crafts
- Cat and Quill Crafts
- Buddy Bonz
- Strongman Kraftworkz
- Memory Lane Glassworks
- VISION Galveston
- House McGrath Hot Toddlies
- Visker & Scrivener Quills, Books & Oddities
- Nan Wright Water Color
- Galvest Psych
- Alison Julien Collection
- SitZerChick Designs
- Clean & Tie-dy
- The Legendary Candle Company
- The FlorVino Winery

BOURROUGH MKT. (FOOD & DRINK)
- Linda Chang Concession
- Anakins Tamales
- Ye Old Corndog
- Santa Lucia
- L&V Catering
- Tres Flores Funnel Cakes
- NFA Grill
- Bourbon Street Tacos
- Concessions World Grill
- Helgas Strudel
- Old Tyme Concessions
- Pecos Pete

SMITHFIELD MKT. (FOOD & DRINK)
- J3 Cajun Kitchen
- Mamas Corny Cob
- Tia Amelias
- Thirsty Bee Meadery
- Tres Flores Funnel Cakes
- Gomez Catering
- Chets Grill
- Old Tyme Concessions

SOHO MKT. (VENDOR MARKET)
- Timeless Finds Jewelscapes
- Oakhaven Handmade
- Ye Olde Soap Box
- North Star Artisans
- Dickens Bells
- Round Table Gourmet
- Outdoor Republic
- Pecans By Karen
- Gloria Desyns
- House of Casteel
- Elks Lodge

PETTICOAT LN. (VENDOR MARKET)
- Y’s Tackle and Metal Art
- Suffrogate on Strand
- A Holistic Solution
- HABA - Blacksmith
- Galvestons Own Farmers Market

TINY TIM’S PLAYLAND
- Carmen’s Corn & Creations
- Geomilas
- The Jugglers Nest

EBENEZER’S RETAIL
- Dickens on The Strand Official Merchandise
- Two Tarts Toppers
- Caveat Emptor Historical Millinery
- Little Cherry Toys
- Amber & Christmas Ornamants
- Autism Research Texas
- K9 Café and Boutique
- Galveston Homeschool Performing Arts Co-op
- Gigis Altered Objects
- O’Connell College Preparatory School
- League Kempner House
- Mask Parade
- Galveston Art League
- George Washington Chapter, NSDAR
GHF would like to thank all those who have donated time, services, and monetary support to the 50th Annual Dickens on The Strand!

TAG US ONLINE AND SHARE YOUR DICKENS MOMENTS WITH OUR OFFICIAL HASHTAGS: #GALVESTONHISTORY #LOVEGALVESTON #DICKENSONTHESTRAND

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Barry Conner
Bathing Beauties &
Megan Carpenter
Beverly Davis
Carol Jenkins
Dave Jacoby
Don Wilkerson
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With Appreciation To
Mr. Charles Dickens,
in memoriam
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Captain Cuttle’s Seaport Salute: Frost Bank
Saint Arnold’s Strand Walking Tours: Saint Arnold
Brewing Company & Del Papa Distributing
Mrs. Tickit’s English Breakfast: Moody Bank
Dickens Costume Contest: HomeTown Bank
The Smoking Bishop’s Soiree: UTHouston School of Public Health’s PEOPLE Centered Lab
Canterbury Theatre of Variety: Pecos Pete’s
Albert’s Whisker Revue: Rugged History Beard Company
Elevenes on the Pier: Joe Tramonte Realty, Inc.
Jubilation Ringer’s Handbell Concerts: Visit Galveston
Galveston Historical Foundation Member’s Club:
Centerpoint Energy
Dicken’s Champagne Reception: Trube Foundation
The Dickens Dash and Victorian Bed Races: Trube Foundation
Dickens Chalk Art Contest: Alice Taylor Gray Foundation

Save the Date! Join Galveston Historical Foundation December 7-9, 2024 For the 51st Dickens on The Strand!

Galveston Historical Foundation was formed as the Galveston Historical Society in 1871 and merged with a new organization formed in 1954 as a non-profit entity devoted to historic preservation and history in Galveston County. Over the last sixty years, GHF has expanded its mission to encompass community redevelopment, historic preservation advocacy, maritime preservation, coastal resiliency and stewardship of historic properties. GHF embraces a broader vision of history and architecture that encompasses advancements in environmental and natural sciences and their intersection with historic buildings and coastal life, and conceives of history as an engaging story of individual lives and experiences on Galveston Island from the 19th century to the present day. Learn more at galvestonhistory.org.