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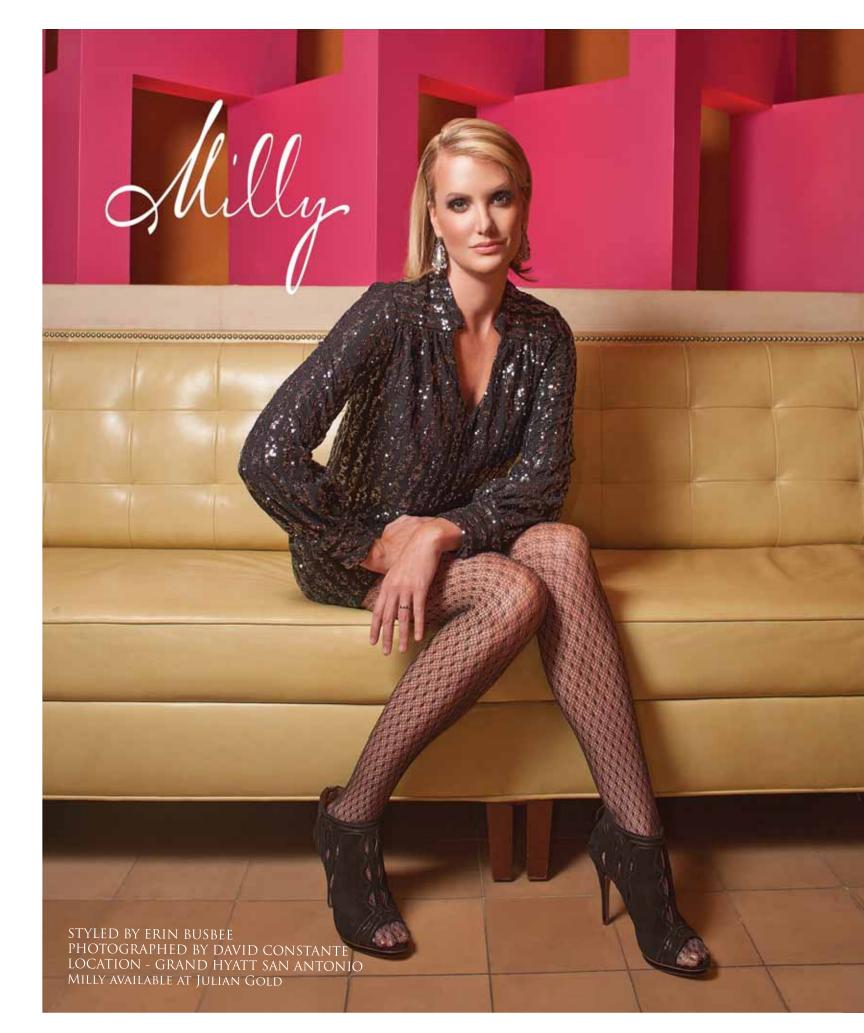
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FEATURES

58 PARIS, TEXAS

Harlingen native Becca Cason Thrash hosts the American Friends of The Louvre Gala in Paris with Texans, Royalty and Internationals in attendance By Lance Avery Morgan Photography by David Atlan

64

BODY & SOUL Fall Fashion is at its best this season with top designer must-haves

you can't live without. Photography by Mark Oberlin

72

A WORLD AWAY

Cabo San Lucas' luxe Capella Pedregal resort shines amid Mexico's pristine coastal views.

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography Courtesy of Capella Pedregal

78

TWO DREAMS

With inspiration of Old Spain, a San Antonio home meets authentic design chic. Written by Bonnie Casseb Photography by Paul Bardagjy and Jeff Truitt





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CONTENTS

- 8 LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER
- **10** LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
- 12 MASTHEAD
- **14** CONTRIBUTORS

16 ACCOMPLISH

Cover artist and fashion designing legend Bob Mackie on how his career has always been so illustrious.

25 AQUIRE

The season's sportiest watches for men that make time fly

18 READ

Coffee table books to enrich the mind... and your decor

20 HOST

Best kept secrets and a how-to guide for the Texas party host By Lara Shriftman Photos Courtesy Wire Image

26 CHRONICLE

An excerpt from The Society Diplomat about how today's high and mighty in society operates.

28 LEGACY

A look back at San Antonio and Austin's retail history when dressing up was a way of life every day





ENTRANCE The Best Parties

in San Antonio, Austin, and South Texas

31 San Antonio The Texas Biomed Foundation's Shanghai Nights gala

34 Austin The Texas Medal of Arts Awards

31 San Antonio Shanghai Nights Chinese Themed Fundraiser

37 San Antonio

16

The S.A. Opera welcomes Placido Domingo

40 Austin The Zachary Scott Theatre's Red Hot & Soul gala

43 South Texas

Laredo's George and Martha Washington celebration

46 San Antonio

The S.A. Botanical Gardens gala

49 Austin Texas Film Hall of Fame gala

52 ADORE

Romance do's and dont's – tips on how to keep love fresh By Julia McCurley

54 EVOLVE

Conquering your life's goals with self-help insight By Mary Schneider

56 SCENT

The sexist and most scintillating new women's fragrances for fall

ARRIVAL

84 San Antonio Arts San Antonio presents a classical evening with cellist Yo Yo Ma

87 Austin

28

Beyond The Lights gala hosted by the stars of NBC's Friday Night Lights

90 DIVERSIONS

A list of where to go, dine, museums, shows etc in the Austin, San Antonio and South Texas area

96 ARRANGE

A social calendar from the Austin & San Antonio Social Planner. By Kevin Smothers and Laura Villagran Johnson

49



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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

KELLER HENDERSON INTERIORS

KH

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elcome to the premiere issue of *The Society Diaries* where we will feature exciting editorial in our new magazine such as Culture, Travel, Design, Fashion, Charities, Entertaining, People, and so much more. *The Society Diaries* will present only the very best to our sophisticated readers.

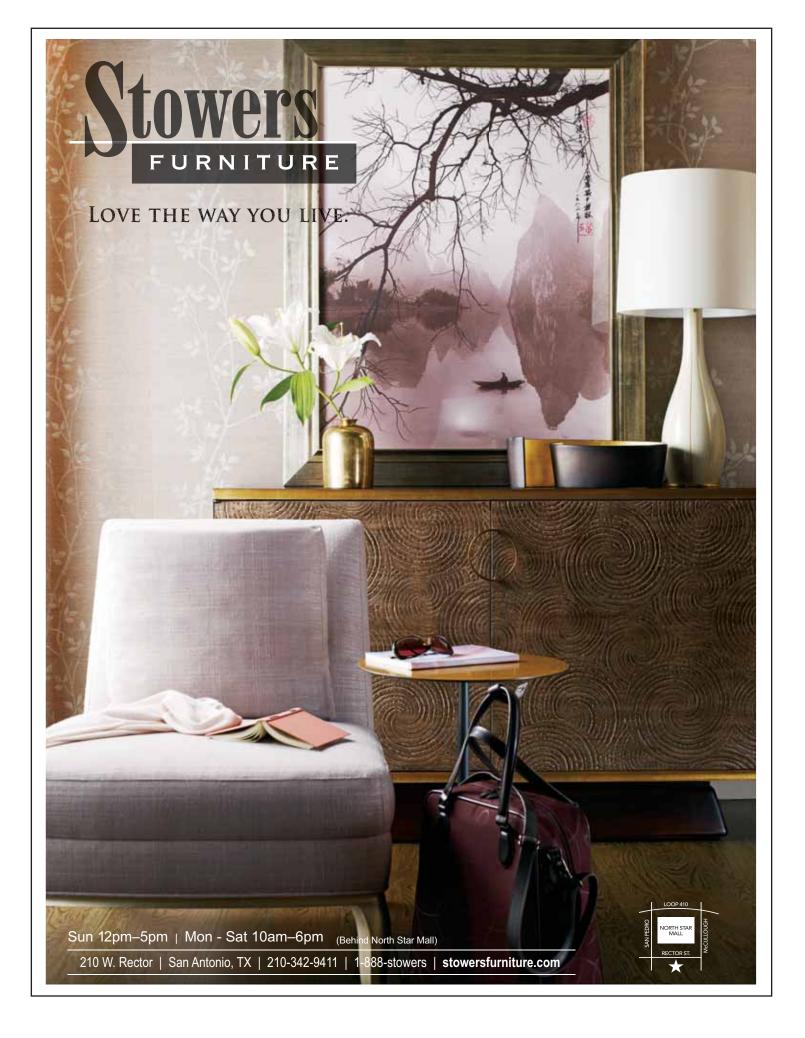
The Society Diaries is honored to highlight Austin, San Antonio and South Texas, a geographical area that is historic and vibrant, and an integral part of iconic Texas. We proudly trumpet this dynamic region for its significant contribution to the history of Texas. Furthermore, *The Society Diaries* believes in the values that define the Lone Star State.

As you know, Texas is the most dynamic and growing business environment in the country. Companies, with the jobs they provide, are welcomed and encouraged to locate and invest here and entrepreneurialism is welcome with open arms. Proven through the decades, when Texas companies succeed, then they "give-back" philanthropically; thus benefiting the greater good. As more companies discover and act upon the Texas-friendly business environment, the future of Texas remains bright.

The Society Diaries would not be possible if not for the time, talent and support of the many contributors. Thank you to our team of writers, photographers, designers and all others whose talent and creative effort and commitment have resulted in this publication. Special appreciation is extended to our advertising partners. We thank each of you for helping us share the continuing vision of *The Society Diaries* We encourage our readers to anticipate and enjoy future issues of *The Society Diaries* , and please know that your insight is welcome.

Eduardo Bravo

Look for us www.thesocietydiaries.com eduardo@thesocietydiaries.com



EDITOR'S LETTER



Portrait photography by Gregg Cestaro, Taken at the Blanton Museum of Art

any people, and rightly so, thought that glamour died an unceremonious death in 2008 with the collapse of the economy, saying that print magazines were dead, too. Fast forward to the end of 2011 where *The Society Diaries* has resurrected all things glorious, alluring and sensational in the Austin, San Antonio and South Texas region, one of the fastest growing areas in the country. As we see it, things are not only alive and kicking, but also operating in grand form.

So what will *The Society Diaries* be to you? Everything you want. We want it to be a guidebook of the people, parties, places and things you either know or want to know. We understand that inviting a new magazine into your home is as personal as inviting a new guest. So that's why we promise to reflect the pride of where you choose to live, and as a fifth-generation-we-gothere-before-the-Alamo-Texan, I can assure you this magazine will be a wonderful addition and inclusion to your life and style.

When it all comes down to it, *The Society Diaries* is really about people. People like you who know how to have a good time, give back to the world and also, people with whom you would want to sit down, have a cocktail and discuss anything from nuclear disarmament to favorite vacation spots. You're going to see a wide array of events, galas, balls and parties reflecting the best of our area here and count on us to provide insider details on them you may not have known.

Plus, we will offer you things you won't find anywhere else and this debut issue sets that tone. We hop to Paris to the American Friends of the Louve gala hosted by Harlingen-born Becca Cason Thrash before we visit recent gala events where good times were had by all. We're going to show you inspiring fashion, take you on trips where you'll want to make a reservation before you're half way through reading it, and we'll show you homes that are as beautifully comfortable as anything found in a Malibu beach house or a Park Avenue showplace. We'll provide you advice on selfimprovement, romance, new products and accessories, and so many other things that matter to you.

Count on us as your go-to guide and of course, I want to hear from you on what you'd else like to see. You can reach me 24 hours a day by writing editor@ thesocietydiaries.com. Believe me, you're important to

Above photo from the film "The Reluctant Debutante"

us and we want to reflect how you live, so let's partner together to raise the bar in Texas starting now.

XO LAM Lance Avery Morgan, Editor-in-Chief

Look for us www.thesocietydiaries.com lance@thesocietydiplomat.com





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Associate Publisher's Letter



ast winter I was seated at a gala in South Texas, where I was approached by a guest who shared the need for a sophisticated publication that could connect businesses with their "refined customer." The result would be the collaboration of a team of talented professionals that would become *The Society Diaries*.

The timing was appropriate for us to secure this opportunity. I spent many an evening with marketing directors who embraced the concept with great enthusiasm. Their anticipation regarding the introduction of this new magazine creation provided sincere encouragement. Reflecting overwhelmingly positive acknowledgement – this magazine was born.

The next step was to gain interest and support from potential advertisers. We were energized and extremely pleased by the enthusiastic response from our advertising partners, confirming that there is no time like the present to move forward.

In the spirit of our design, where timeless elegance meets contemporary style, we decided to launch *The Society Diaries*. Our publication combines luxury and style, elevating our dynamic region to a new level. We are proud that *The Society Diaries* will present our slice of the Texas pie and we hope you will be too, for many years to come.

Rossana Leeper Associate Publisher

Look for us www.thesocietydiaries.com rossana@thesocietydiaries.com



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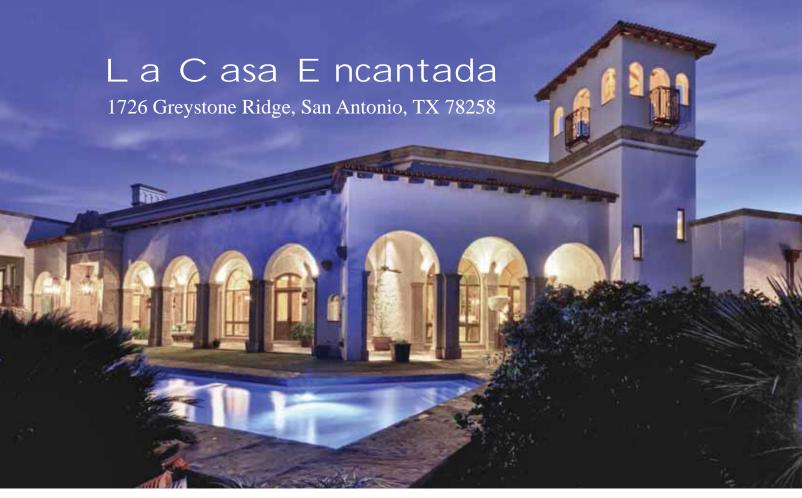
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SOCIETY DE Contributors

Danielle Kaplan



Danielle Kaplan discovered her love for fashion as a child, where she dressed herself, mix-and-matched clothes and took a stand against pants at the ripe young age of three. Kaplan studies public relations at the University of Texas where she spends her free time writing, catching up on fashion trends and exercising her creativity through social media. Kaplan's desire to stay in the know about luxury, entertainment and style has shaped this native San Antonian into a contributor to The Society Diaries as Associate Editor.

Julia McCurley

Relationship expert Julia McCurley is the founder of Something More (www.trysomethingmore.com), a professional matchmaking service. As a former executive recruiter and professional business development expert, she realized that her expertise in matching six-figure professionals with Fortune 500 companies utilized a similar skill set to that of a professional matchmaker. As a dating veteran herself, Julia understands firsthand how difficult it can be to balance one's career and personal life. The combination of these two factors motivated her to



establish a unique matchmaking service for singles that uses a best practices approach from the executive recruiting world and applies it to finding ideal partners in love. Julia has lived in Austin since 2003, is happily married and a mother of three children. Helping people find true love is her passion.

Lara Shriftman



Our West Coast Lifestyle Editor Lara Shriftman co-founded Harrison & Shriftman in 1995, an agency that specializes in public relations, marketing and events for high-profile luxury brands (www.hs-pr.com). The Los Angeles-based dynamo has authored four books on entertaining including Fete Accompli, Party Confidential, Party Confidential: New Etiquette for Fabulous Entertaining and developed a line of Party Confidential products that she launched on HSN in September, 2007. Lara has served as a contributor and editor to Tribune Media's Distinction magazine, The Miami Herald's Home & Design, Brilliant, Q. Departures, LA Confidential, Quest and

Hamptons, and has been a featured guest on The TODAY Show, E!, Extra, The Megan Mullally Show, and FOX's Friends and Family.

Mary Schneider

Mary Schneider has been studying alternative healthcare modalities for over 20 years and is certified in Holographic Repatterning and Touch for Health. She has studied homeopathy, the Chinese 5 Element Acupuncture System, The Work of Byron Katie and numerous other modalities. In July, she recently had the good fortune to celebrate the 10th anniversary of her practice, the Holographic (Resonance) Repatterning Institute (www. repatternit.com) and happily resides and practices in Austin, Texas.



Mark Oberlin



Our fashion photographer for this debut issue is Los Angelesbased Mark Oberlin. Mark captured the "right here, right now" point of view of Fall's fashion and has shot covers and editorial spreads of fashion, celebrities and recording artists for national and international magazines and we are thrilled to showcase his talents here. Mark has also shot the collections of many of the West Coast's top fashion designers. He is an acclaimed painter as well and has exhibited his paintings in Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco galleries. More of Mark's spectacular work can be found at his website at www.markoberlin.com.



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Austrious Talent

Cover artist Bob Mackie creates this new magazine's launch cover that symbolizes the timeless social scene

> By Lance Avery Morgan Illustrations By Bob Mackie

very design begins with a sketch and our cover artist this month is none other than fashion designer-to-the-stars Bob Mackie, whose creations came into the living rooms weekly with The Carol Burnet Show, The Sonny & Cher Show, Mitzi Gaynor's specials, among many others. He has sketched and created thousands of gowns, costumes and clothing for the biggest names in show business history in his five decadelong career as a fashion visionary and he's offering some of that glamour to his fans these days.

Instead of selling the vivacious sketches at auction, Mackie and his team are offering 46 of the designer's sketches online at his site, www.BobMackieStore.com. Astoundingly, Mackie has kept most of the sketches he has drawn over the past 50 years. "Id better save these," Mackie says. "Once in a while I gave them away but basically I have kept most of them." A few years ago in 2005 he let go of a limited number of sketches as part Christie's auction of Mackie's couture and costumes, which brought in almost half a million dollars. Now the designing dynamo has decided to go directly to his fans, the consumers. "It's what's going on these days," says Mackie. "I'm an old dinosaur, but even with my

a lot."

Mackie, without a doubt, is in control his brand. In addition to selecting the illustrations he his initially offering, Mackie also chose the perfect matte and frame match for each. All of the sketches are available in two sizes - 14 x 17 inches for \$69 or 21 x 25 inches for \$179. "It is a certain type of customer who relates to it in one way or another," he said. There are a variety of choices in categories such as Putting on the Ritz, The Roaring Twenties, Belle of the Ball, Drawing Room Comedy and more. We love them all and I recently caught up with Mackie in his studio in Los Angeles as he shared some highlights of his memorable

QVC business, about 25 percent of the business is online. That's

career in an exclusive to The Society Diaries.

"A woman who wears my clothes is not afraid to be noticed," says the Sultan of Sequins Bob Mackie. The prolific designer should know. He's won nine Emmy Awards (and has been nominated for 31) and has also been nominated for three Academy Awards. But it's not just the accolades to Mackie. It's about the creative process. Mackie remains a sought after designer for made to order for Saks Fifth Avenue in New York and helms successful products with his QVC network appearances. He's still very much in the costume design game since he was nominated not too long ago or another Emmy for Carol Burnett's costumes for her role in this past season's television special, Once Upon A Mattress. He still has that inimitable dynamic touch.

Cameron Silver, owner of the chic Los Angeles store, Decades, specializing in vintage couture, comments on Mackie's talents, "Just look at the last Dior Haute Couture show by Galliano and you see Mackie's influence. When Cher was overheard saying it was her favorite show and she would wear all the clothing, it's a great validation that costume and fashion have fused at the highest echelon of style."

Bob Mackie has been able to mix his profound talent as a costume designer with his couturier ability to create some of the most memorable

fashion images of the 20th century." Mackie wowed audiences every week on Burnett's show with an outrageous array of imaginative colors, luxury fabrics, beading, feathers, fur and just about any other sort of adornment that could create an instant impression. He created a body of instant impressions that's lasted to this day, decades later.

"I've been to Texas many times. I loved doing trunk shows at Neiman's when I had a clothing line there. Austin's great, too. It's very hip," says Mackie of his Lone Star State ties.

I ask him about his designing career these days differs from when he created clothing for just about every star including Cher (while simultaneously doing Burnett's show), Barbra Streisand, Lucille Ball, Elton John, Sharon Stone, and so many more. "It's all about shopping now," he says. "The way the designers – or personal stylists, really, bring in a rack so the star and director can choose what will be worn. It's just different.

I did Carol's show for 11 years and I never once had her wear a pair of jeans."

Since Burnett put him on the pop cultural map early on in his career, he told me that there were some challenging aspects of The Carol Burnett Show. "I did everyone's clothes, including the guest stars', which was like running a race each week," confides Mackie. "It was exciting to find out what the script would be like on a Friday for the next week's show. There never seemed to be enough time. I made it work. You could say it was an adrenalin rush."

When I tell him that Carol Burnett herself told me he designed almost 50 costumes a week for the show, I wondered if he had a large team to implement the costumes at the time. "Not really," he states. "I had male assistant who would help with the men's clothes. If there were uniforms, we would just rent those. I had a female assistant to help with the women's costumes. Although I designed so much, for some characters, like a housewife part, we'd just buy a dress.

His favorite costume for a Carol character? "Gosh, we did over 200 shows and the one that got the most attention was the Gone With The Wind outfit," says Mackie. It was recently on display at a television costume exhibit for at the FITM Design School. But mostly, it was just another week. another show." Mackie also designed for the classic film homage skits, too. "Those were







really fun,' he re-counts about designing for the take-offs of movies such as From Here to Eternity, The Postman Always Rings Twice, and Mildred Pierce, among many others vintage flicks. "Remember, that was back in the day before VHS and DVD rentals."

Mackie didn't have to depend on his memory, or airings of The Late, Late Show as a resource, though. "I have a collection of fashion books that I could reference, plus I'd seen all those old movies and loved them," Mackie recalls fondly. "Sometimes, though, it was tough. For instance, in the books, they might not have a photo of the bottom of the skirt...the hemline. So, I just made do. Looking back, and having access to those movies now, I was pretty close. I just had a

feeling of the film and its period."

He also designed Carol's opening segment where she would answer questions from the audience. The gowns were gorgeous, many with his signatures beads and sparkles. His inspiration for the costumes was practical, too. "With her opening gowns I wanted Carol to wake up the audience, and to have her not only look attractive, but also for her to look like their friend," states Mackie. "I knew that later she'd be in one crazy costume after another, so I wanted her to be seen as more real in the opening outfits. When I see a group of those show openers now, I think 'wow, she could wear those today."

When asked about his favorite aspect about working with Carol over the years, Mackie is succinct. "It was a gift because I loved the movie musicals growing up. It was the first weekly variety show with a lady star. Also, to do comedy, dance, singing and the musical numbers. It was all a dream for me."

We've chosen the most sensational new books for you to read and love



RITZ PARIS: Haute Cuisine

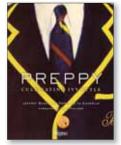
By Michel Roth and Jean-François Mesplède, \$60. October 2011. Rizzoli Books This celebration of the grand culinary tradition at the Ritz Paris features inspirational

stories of hotelier César Ritz, premier head chef Auguste Escoffier, and current chef Michel Roth.

INTIMATE CHANEL

By Isabelle Fiemeyer and Gabrielle Palasse-Labrunie \$60. September 2011. Rizzoli Books

Coco Chanel's life and work have been recounted often in print and film-everything except the details of her most private self.



Ivv Style By Jeffrey Banks and Doria de la Chapelle \$45. October 2011. Rizzoli Books

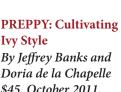
PREPPY is a comprehensive history of a very particular American fashion,

from its pragmatic origins and presence on elite Eastern campuses, to its profound international influence and metamorphosis on the runway.

NOSTALGIA IN VOGUE

By Eve MacSweeney \$55. October 2011. Rizzoli Books This elegant volume collects a selection of Vogue's famous "Nostalgia" columns and the stunning photographs that accompanied them.





exploring its evolution



WET MEN

Photography by François Rousseau, \$55. September 2011. Rizzoli Books WET MEN is a celebration of the beauty of the male form, as well as the fulfillment of

the fantasies surrounding the swimmers, lifeguards, athletes, and bathers around us.!"

CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN By Christian Louboutin, \$150. October 2011. Rizzoli Books

This stunning volume, with a fanciful and intricate popup, an elaborate foldout cover, and dramatic still-life

photography, evokes the artistry and theatricality of Christian Louboutin's coveted shoes.

CECIL BEATON:

The New York Years

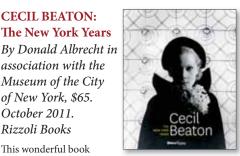
association with the

Museum of the City

of New York, \$65.

October 2011.

Rizzoli Books This wonderful book



features sketches, costumes, set designs, previously unpublished letters, and over 220 photographs and drawings, documenting Beaton's most influential relationships with prominent figures of the New York art scene of the 20th century.



MARTYN LAWRENCE-**BULLARD: Live**, Love, and Decorate By Martin Lawrence-Bullard \$50. October 2011. Rizzoli Books

For those who love boldness in design, Los Angelesbased interior designer

Martyn Lawrence-Bullard demonstrates his mastery of dramatic environments for a celebrity clientele.

OLIVER MESSEL: In the Theatre of Design

Edited by Thomas Messel, \$75. October 2011 Rizzoli Books Oliver Messel was one of England's foremost interior designers of the twentieth



century, whose work spanned the worlds of theater, film, interior design, and architecture.

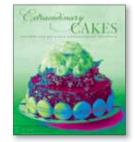


CLARENCE HOUSE: The Art of the Textile By Kazumi Yoshida, \$65. October 2011. Rizzoli Books

This provides an array of inspirational fabric applications and ingenious choices for upholstering

furniture, creating dynamic window treatments, and adding finishing touches such as tassels and other trims.

EXTRAORDINARY CAKES: Recipes for Bold and Sophisticated Desserts By Karen Krasne with Tina Wright



\$37.50. October 2011. Rizzoli Books

Karen Krasne, the "Queen of Cakes" according to Gourmet magazine, brings a fresh and contemporary sensibility to specialoccasion cakes.



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POWER MOVES: 10 Things Every Host Should Do

What makes a perfect host and what kind of music can create the right mood according to author and entertaining expert - and our L.A.-based lifestyle editor Lara Shriftman? Here she shares an excerpt from her book Party Confidential; New Etiquette for Fabulous Entertaining and we think these tips will make you the toast of the town when you host your next affair...

By Lara Shriftman Photos Courtesy of Wire Image





3 Be Ready at Least Forty-Five Minutes Before the Scheduled Start of the Party

This gives you time to relax and wind down before guests arrive. There's nothing worse than being the first person to arrive only to find the host in the bathroom applying makeup or running around the house fretting over unlit candles and chair arrangements.

4 Know Your Guests

The best way to be prepared is to know about those attending. The better you know your guests, the better you can anticipate what will make the night more enjoyable for them. Do they drink? Does everyone like each other? Will they want to bring a guest? For example, if you know that since the invites went out, Paris and Nicole are, once again, on the outs, then you'll be able to avoid conflict by rearranging the table seating to put as much distance between the two as possible. And, if you are having a dinner party, you should always be aware of any dietary restrictions guests may have, kosher, vegan, diabetic, and make those arrangements ahead of time.

5 Even Stevens

One of the most important parts of being a host is crafting the perfect guest list. The right mix of people is what makes a party great. There's nothing worse than being a single girl in a sea of couples., is there? Where's the fun and flirting in that? So keep it equal and balance the number of men and women, singles and couples, gay and straight. Play your invites right and you just might become known for making matches.

continued on pg. 22

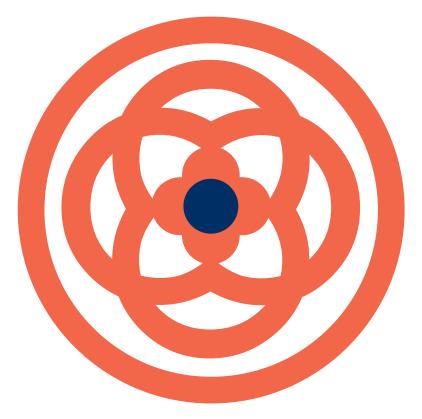
Relax and Enjoy If you don't have a good time at your own party no one will.



Don't Do It Alone

2 Enlist a co-host (or two, three, or as many as you need), be it your husband, boyfriend, best friend, co-worker, mother or anyone with whom you team up well. If your best bud, love her dearly, is flaky and disorganized, then don't ask her to be your co-host. If you ask her anyway, just be aware of her strengths and weaknesses and plan accordingly. Look for someone who can manage details and will happily step in during the messiest of moments.







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Think of the Little Things That Will Make Guests Feel Welcome and Comfortable

For example, if the weather turns chilly during your backyard barbecue, offer warm socks for those in sandals, a sweater or cover-up to someone with bare shoulders, or if you have heat lamps on hand, crank up the temperature.

Cocktails = Welcome

The minute guests arrive offer to get them a drink or better yet, have a tray of drinks at the door so they immediately feel like they are a part of the party. Then they won't have to dash to the bar straight away.

Make Introductions

8 Personally take guests by the hand and introduce them to as many people as you can. Getting guests to mingle is your responsibility as a host, especially at the outset. I always suggest giving "introduces" seeds of conversation before leaving them alone to fend for themselves. Find their common ground to get the conversation flowing. "Fred, this is Mindy, she's the head of HSN. You should tell her all about your new line!"

Mix 'N' Mingle 9

Don't spend your night in the kitchen or handing out instructions to the help. Tell your wait staff everything ahead of time, or better yet, write it all out and post it so they won't interrupt you with questions. Now you have time to circulate through the room, to talk to each and every guest, and make new introductions! The more you move from conversation to conversation, the more your guests will, too.

Break the Ice!

10 Find creative ways to get your guests to interact: have a bunch of Polaroid cameras on hand, make people move around for each course at a seated meal, at least before the arrival of dessert, or you can put questions on their place cards. Inducing repartee isn't as tricky as it sounds. Invest in cool conversation starters like Table Topics. These cards feature fun, topicinducing questions and they really work. They produce more interesting conversation than you'd dare try to create and creating a great event with superb conversation is always your goal.





Musicology 101: Etiquette

Music is an essential element for any event. After all, no one wants to show up to a party to find themselves in an awkwardly silent room. Your soundtrack should always compliment the theme of your party. Remember that music is not only a great way to get your party started but also a great way to end one. Turning the music off is a polite signal to your guests that the party is over. Here's what I suggest to get your guests on the dance floor.

Courtney Love's Party Playlist

Courtney Love is an American singer-songwriter, lyricist, rhythm guitarist and actress who just played in Moscow, Russia at the Afisha Picnic Festival in Kolomenskoye Park this summer.

- 1. Bitter Sweet Symphony by The Verve
- 2. Something in the Way by Nirvana
- 3. You Said Something by PJ Harvey
- 4. Love Will Tear Us Apart by Joy Division
- 5. Sympathy for the Devil by The Rolling Stones

Kelly Rowland's Party Playlist

Kelly Rowland is a singer, actress, dancer, song writer and model whose highly anticipated album, "Here I Am" debuted on July 26, 2011.

- 1. Man Down by Rihanna
- 2. Show Must Go On by Lupe Fiasco
- 3. Beautiful People by Chris Brown
- 4. I'm On One by DJ Khaled, Drake, Rick Ross and Lil Wayne
- 5. Party Rock Anthem by LMFAO

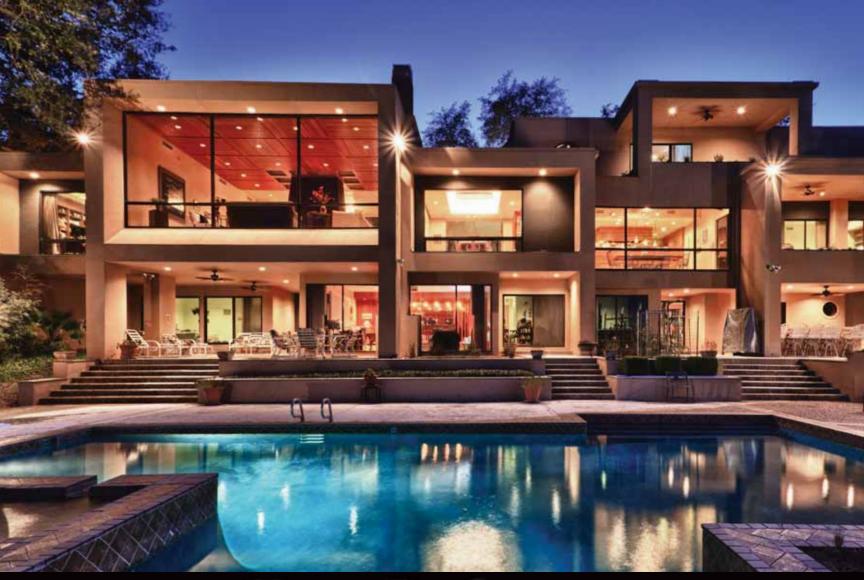
Paulina Rubio's Party Playlist

Paulina Rubio, currently working on a new album, is a Mexican singer and actress who has sold over 20 million albums internationally.

- 1. Give Me Everything (Tonight) by Pitbull/Ne-Yo
- 2. Take Over Control by Afrojack
- 3. Just Can't Get Enough by The Black Eyed Peas
- 4. Till the World Ends by Britney Spears
- 5. On the Floor by Jennifer Lopez/Pitbull



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Whether you are maneuvering the curves of a racetrack or the commute home, we recommend these watches. Make time with one of these sporty timepieces inspired by some classics you're sure to love and you'll never be late for that important date.

By Danielle Kaplan

When it comes to the King of Cool, it's tough to beat the style of tough guy McQueen, sporting the Tag Heuer Monaco watch created for the Le Mans film in 1971. Shown left this Tag keeps The Cool One's spirit alive and kicking.

Tag Heuer Monaco Calibre 12 Automatic Chronograph Retail \$5,600.00





Cartier Santos 100 with Black Leather Band Retail \$6,000

Break out your party clothes and celebrate this watch created for the 100th anniversary of Santos de Cartier. We can't decide if we like the timeless brand or having a reason to celebrate better.



Chopard ille Miglia Gran Tourismo Retail \$5,390.00

What's not to love about this watch that befits the most regal of sporty wrists? We love every sleek curve, too. Available at Neiman Marcus San Antonio.

20



The famous Tiffany & Co. Atlas design has never looked sportier. From dusk until dawn, this watch signifies athletic panache.

Panerai Luminor GMT Retail \$8,225 "Paneristis" rejoice, this modern and stylish watch is one of the latest and greatest to add to your collection. It may be a classic piece, but it's for the ultimate modern man.





Rolex Davtona Stainless Steel Watch Retail \$10,500

Get in the fast lane and ioin the ranks of the professionals with this updated look on an iconic piece. Sit back and buckle up for the best time-telling of your life.





Omega Seamaster: Planet Ocean Watch Steel on Steel Retail \$3,950

Take a page out of James Bond's wardrobe and stop fishing for the ultimate watch with this stainless steel and black timepiece. Out of all the watches in the sea, this is the perfect catch.





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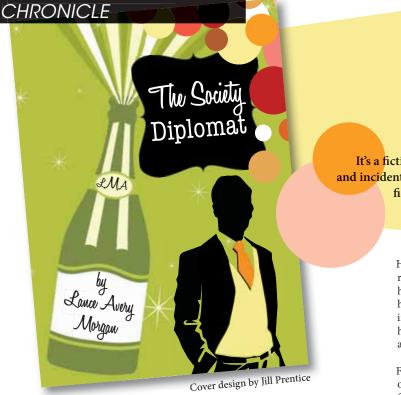






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eople whispered that Sabrina Miller Goodfriend was a bit too racy for her rather puritan upbringing. She once told me that she felt her life was typical and in another sense, she knew it was not. How could any upbringing be typical when your parents perished before you knew them? The rebellious streak she developed began at The Cassidy School, the city's tony private school in Piney Point Village until she was then shipped off to the Brillantmont finishing school in Lausanne, the heart of Switzerland. Her classmates were daughters of movie stars and international dignitaries that would make her, on her infrequent trips home, seem eons more refined than the local gals.

All this sophistication created an array of dizzying confrontations about her wildish behavior by the time she got to the University of Texas at Austin in 1989, on the heels of that decade's heady oil boom. She defied convention by choosing to join Big Six-ranked Kappa Alpha Theta sorority instead of the best Jewish one, Mu Sigma Mu, living at the exorbitantly priced Harding House dorm her freshman year, complete with maid service and butlers who were nearby fraternity house members often working their way through school. And, serve the girls is what the frat boys did. Friday was Mexican Food day at the Theta house and after lunch with no classes to attend, the servers and their girlfriends would creep up to the sleeping porch for some afternoon delight naughtiness. It was something everyone did, but no one ever discussed. Decorum was Job One.

Sabrina took to spending her nights sneaking out to drink at the local hot spots; Valentine's, or the Posse East by the Delt house, and to Abel's, where she was known to down top shelf Electric Lemonades before taking The Babies for a skinny dip. One night in particular, in April of her freshman year, she dove into the Sigma Chi pool with three of the house's pledges on break from building the annual New York, New York-themed party for the school's annual Round-Up weekend festivities. That swan dive would change the course of her life.

Those Betas loved to binge, bed and brag, which solidified Sabrina's reputation as a rich bad girl who wasn't hitting the books nearly as much as she was hitting the bars.

"You should enjoy being young, but you're not from just any family, little girl-and don't you dare forget it," barked Amon Miller. "You're about to make the most important debut this state has ever seen, and you're skatin' mighty close to ruining it with all this running around." She was the apple of his eye, but Gramps wasn't a chump who put up with tramps. At least, not willingly.

Sabrina knew who buttered her bread and it wasn't the last bad boy in her pool or bed. "Okay, I promise I'll behave, Grandpapa" she said, playing the old man who thought she hung the moon. I just need to be a little sneakier, Sabrina thought.

Baby, Take a Bow

Here is an excerpt of the new book, *The Society Diplomat*

by Lance Avery Morgan.

It's a fictional chronicle of high society. The names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely confidential.

> Her grandmother, Amada stewed in icy silence and palpable chagrin. An utter realist, she had no choice but to accept the nature of this wild child, who cut from her own family's cloth, but not without trying to make Sabrina pay the price of her disapproval. In the end, regal Amanda Miller decided that she had more important things to do than to listen to the foolish girl. She rose slowly, shaking her steel grey head, and left for her fittings at Tootsie's and her hairdressing appointment at the Mr. Robiere's salon in the Galleria.

> Fortunately for Sabrina, her alma mater and me, it only took one six story stateof-the-art Communications building donated by Old Man Miller to keep Sabrina from expulsion and disqualification as a Deb that year. If she had been kicked out of the university, I doubt we would have met during what was arguably the most glittering Deb season in Texas history.

> I was introduced to Sabrina by her Galveston-raised roommate, Libby Matthias, whom I dated briefly right before the girls were touted as Debs of the Year, representing two of a gaggle of girls debuting for the Houston Symphony League.

"No man is rich enough to buy back his past. "

Oscar Wilde

Being that level of Deb is almost a full time job so who knows how either of them earned a single credit that semester? There we so many to attend: Idlewild in Dallas, the Bachelor's Club in Austin, Fiesta in San Antonio, and of course, much later in the season on New Year's Eve, at the International Debutante Ball at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. The rich are not without their challenges, especially young females of a certain station. One can only take so much debuting, you know.

Late in the fall, after her umpteenth Triumphant Bow of the Season, the slightly cracked Libby was hit by an old familiar feeling in the ladies room of the Allegro Ball in her own hometown. Restlessness. Time to stir it up.

"Hey this is a total bore. Let's go to L.A.," said the mad Lib, her polka-dotted Lillie Rubin halter dress already sloshed by the 1962 vintage bubbly bottle she was carrying around by the neck, as ladylike as a boxer on a bender. "My exroommate is from Vegas and her dad owns The Bacchanalian. She can get us into all the best parties in Hollywood. This time tomorrow we could be doing powder poolside with guys like Rob Sisely,"

"Uh, rain check, sister," said Sabrina. "My folks would kill me and come on, it's not like they wouldn't notice, since we're the guests of honor," surprised to be the voice of reason and irritated that her kooky friend thought of something more outlandish than she. "No, we'd better stay. We will be doing lines in Dallas by noon tomorrow anyway."

Sabrina's debutante party was held on one continent pretending to be on another. Hosted at the Houston Country Club with the theme of A Night in Paris, it was glorious ground zero that night, and only an infamous destination later where she reprised her signature St. James ("Texas Dip") bow and rocketed to the top of the



headlines in the aftermath. But when Sabrina was a dewy deb, it was her time to shine on a perfectly mild moonlit night, when anyone who was anyone arrived for a society spectacle. Lears and Concordes transported movie stars, royalty and even heads of state. Some of the more radical flew on the state's own Muse Air, reading *Ultra* magazine between intense conversations about Lady Diana's upcoming visit to Texas, the myriad downtown real estate crisis, and naturally, how funny it would be if Sabrina Miller had the temerity to wear a snowy white dress.

All of this was, of course, good for the family business and even better for erasing any taint of the Millers' bourgeois past. All of us had shopped at the their uber bastion of luxury, and showcasing their precious and stunning crown jewel would secure the Miller family's place at the table denied by high society only a generation ago. Even the most stuck up oldsters who tried their best to keep the upstarts in their place would now have to pay homage to the offspring of Retail Royalty. It was about time and long overdue.

The Applegates were there, as were the DeYoungs, the Orbachs, and the usual round up of Mrs. Miller's coterie of decorators, hairdressers and walkers all appeared in full regay-lia of brightly colored cummerbunds and tie sets, as well as their own creative black tie pronouncements. In the anything-goes attitude of that late 1980's party, unfortunately there were no fashion police, just quirky rich people dressed in Adolpho, de la Renta, with scads of Fred Joallier



baubles adorning them. Funny, how when rich people do odd things or wear unbearable outfits, they are considered eccentric. When if a lesser moneyed person attempts it, they are considered odd ducks.

The décor, including an exact replica of Versailles' Galerie des Glaces, a Louvre pyramid built over the pool as a tent, and literally thousands of tulips flown in from the Netherlands, contained the Wow Factor from the first second we entered the endless ambassadorial receiving line where the Millers welcomed their friends, family, and more than a few strangers. The pink-gelled lighting cast a favorable glow on the most ordinary people, making them look stunning and mostly, the very loveliest shined like the deities they believed themselves to be.

"You look absolutely stunning tonight, Sabrina. Hell, I ought to have a statue of you erected on the Capitol grounds. I can do that, you know," winked Governor Hub Snyder, standing in front of me, who just happened to be in town that day giving a speech at the Petroleum Club and made it a political two-fer by including a drop-by at the Millers. He could always count on Houston democrats and their limousine liberal votes.

"Thank you, Governor. I'm so glad you and Mrs. Snyder could join us tonight. It means so much to my grandfather," Sabrina said breathlessly. Literally. She had

been sewn into her Scaasi party dress, and her lungs were squished by the built-in whalebone stays.

"You save me a dance young lady," the guv said insincerely, as his security guards hustled him towards the kitchen exit door, so he could sneak out to the Lone Star jet back to Austin. He liked them young, but a quickie would have to wait. As the Chairman of the Texas House Appropriations Committee, there was important man 'bidness to attend to back in Austin, like passing the state budget.

Governor Snyder was no fan of deb parties anyway. They were still cleaning up the one he and Mrs. Snyder hosted for Marissa Jacoby a few months back at the Governor's Mansion. The cleaning crew spent hours sweeping up broken glass and they were still finding shards of martini glasses in the potted palms. What's worse is that it might also cost him re-election. The

gala's Winter Wonderland theme was an extravagant boondoggle that got way out of control, with its Swiss chalet backdrop and fake snow so the ladies could wear furs in the springtime. Now the media calls him the golden goose of Texas for being so high flying. The political waters in Texas were changing and no one could imagine where the tides would soon take it, while the religious right was rearing its head again in record numbers, especially in the buckle of the Bible Belt called Dallas - a morally ambivalent city with more churches and strip joints per capita than anywhere in the world.

None of that mattered to Sabrina's family, who spared no expense to put on the society show of shows. Rap superstar LL Doggie B and his band were flown in from L.A. to perform for some of the richest folks in Texas, singing Gonna Swipe Your Sex while every Theta, Phi Delt, Chi Omega and Pi Phi member did their honky moves until four o'clock in the morning. Sabrina took the theme seriously and darted my former roommate, Zeke Medford - whose parents' summer home in Bermuda was the destination to which Sabrina's parents never arrived.

Twenty minutes later they were back riding down the elevator with revved engines while she applied fresh lipstick. Zeke buckled and chuckled all the way down, anticipating the classic midnight repast of Frito Pie and champagne in the ballroom. Yep, just the right sustenance before the flight in the morning, which would carry them to brunch at the Las Colinas Polo Club grounds, followed by the Prince concert at Reunion Arena, where the black- in-purple hit maker would perform in the building that changed the

Dallas skyline forever, with its lit Mister Microphone globe, immortalized forever on the T.V. show Dallas. The show in continuous syndication rerun was rumored to be based on the Millers' messing with their clients' oil field investments. You wanna know who shot J.R.? That's easy. My guess is Amon Miller, or his grandson, a.k.a. Sabrina's brother, Joshua Miller.

Recreating the City of Light was a black hole in the dynasty's budget department. Back then the party cost two hundred and fifty thousand, which in today's dollars is a cool mil. But that was when Sabrina felt like a million bucks, too, and it was vastly ironic - and, I suppose, more than a little sad - that decades later Sabrina wanted to host a society extravaganza at an actual French temple of excess to reclaim that feeling of bulletproof beauty.

By then, I was her closest confidante and biggest supporter, and the keeper of her greatest secret. $\hfill \ensuremath{\boxtimes}$

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By Kallie Mitchener, Danielle Kaplan and Lance Avery Morgan

When vintage was new, it was an era of unprecedented glamour in Austin and San Antonio. Retail provided big city sophistication for San Antonio and Austin from the 1930's to the 1960's in a legendary way. Here's a look back at the way grand fashion style used to be.



magine a world where everyone, at all times, wanted to be as beautifully dressed as possible. It wasn't that long ago when hats, scarves, gloves, coats and cloaks were just some of the accessories that were de rigueur during the time between 1935 and 1965, which represented the hallmark era of a fashionable Texas, and in particular San Antonio and Austin.

During this time the retail world existed in the downtown and nearby areas of these cities where one would go to shop, work, dine, and be entertained. Walking down the streets in the downtown of these cities, it was apparent then that the residents took pride in their appearance and dressed to impress. In fact, being fashionable was a requirement and created the strict style standard that rarely rebelled. Fashion thrived and the community was consumed and appreciated the retail-wonderland of its independently-owned stores and boutiques. It was high-end or the highway.

The shopping mecca of San Antonio was rooted into the downtown area of Commerce and Houston streets. Signature family-owned department stores ruled the retail world, which allowed these the stores, and the families who owned them, to have a prominent place within the city. In order to fuel their fashion needs, residents would take buses, shuttles, or streetcars, if they didn't have their own transportation, from neighborhoods into the shopping hub. Based on the weather of the season, many well-dressed women wore many hats, large and small, complimenting the outfits to add more than a spark of originality. Gloves were a daily necessity whether for shopping, tea or business. This was called "finishing" an outfit, along wearing the right matching bags, shoes and jewelry.

A few of the exceptional retailers in the downtown and surrounding areas of San Antonio area were Frost Bros., The Vogue Shop, Joske's and Julian Gold. Joske's, a long time city favorite that also opened stores in Austin in the 1970, for instance, by 1953 had a flagship store had been expanded several times. The 551,000 square foot, five-level store was the largest department store west of the Mississippi until its closure in 1987. The slogan for the chain was "the biggest store in the biggest state." Like many large department stores, they offered everything from clothing to sporting goods, furniture and everything in between. And, air conditioning, a modern feature that would never be taken for granted in the warm Central Texas summers.

"Coming from Seguin with our mother to spend the day shopping downtown San Antonio was an adventure in the big city lights," recalls San Antonio resident Peter Selig. "We shopped for school clothes or special occasion clothing at Joske's, where we might have lunch at the store's mural-walled Camellia Room. On other occasions we tagged along to Frost Bros. for our mother's frequent shopping trips." He goes on to recount, "Frost had the style that was as close to her native New York City homeland as she could get in

Julian Gold mc.

Price's Dress Shop, Austin 1950

Joan Eddy's in 1953

South Texas. Our reward for being patient would also be a fried shrimp lunch at the always-humming Manhattan restaurant nearby on Houston Street."

The Frost Bros. department store, which originated in downtown San Antonio before its growth to Austin and other markets, was known for carrying high-fashion pieces and employing personal shoppers when the first shop opened in 1917, thriving until mid-1989. In fact, today it could be compared to Henri Bendel's on Fifth Avenue in New York. In its heyday, the urbane customer could shop in such departments at Frost called the Blouse Bar, Predictions Shop, Young Miss Frost Shop, Millinery, La Boutique, Collector's Corner, Rendez-Vous Dresses, Couturier Collections, Collector's Corner, and the Maison Antoine Beauty Salon on the fourth floor. The store was ranked with Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue, even having their own in-house Gucci boutique at one point and many still recall the gravish lavender dress boxes with a long-stemmed flower across the store's italicized logo.

Another San Antonio based luxury shop, Julian Gold, was established in 1945 on Broadway in the city's tony Alamo Heights neighborhood, and remains committed to delivering Texas women an array of designer clothing and shoes. "Originally we sold only suits, dresses and coats," says Robert Gurwitz, the company's current leader. " We didn't carry sportswear until the early 1960's and before that Julian Gold mainly sold pants and blouse lines and dresses. Sportswear and separates really came in Vogue Shop, Austin 1950's the 60's." The founding principles for the shop were "service, fashion, and more service," and the stores continue to thrive in four locations across Texas in Austin, Midland and Corpus Christi.

Austin, a hipster mecca now, renowned for its live music scene and music festivals, has always been primarily known as the capitol of state government and The University of Texas, as well as a city with a small town feeling. It has always been known to have a keen fashion sense, too. Starting in the late 20th-century when the technology boom arose, the city's elite rediscovered downtown. Yet, 50-plus years ago downtown Austin was the epicenter of the city; it was around which everything else revolved.

The undisputed leader of retail then was Scarbrough's department store located at Sixth and Congress, across from Woolworth's. It offered big city style for the local marketplace and since it was built in the Art Deco period, always retained that era's glam factor. Another one of the city's original retail stores was Yaring's department store, located on Congress Avenue. In the 1960's it embraced the youthquake movement, like so many other stores did, by installing pink shag carpeting and

creating pop art displays.

Price's Dress Shop, Austin 1953

Other stores also had Austin retail by the reins. "We had the French Bootery, Marie Antoinette, Goodfriend's, and Scarbrough's were the primary downtown stores," recounts longtime resident and philanthropist Jo Ann Christian. "The French Bootery had wonderful shoes and Scarbrough's had excellent selections in women's wear and a good hat department."

Other prominent stores in the era included T.H. Williams dress shop, Price's dress shop, Chenard's dress shop, which later became Snyder-Chenards, when it merged with Synder's dress shop. It is interesting to note that most of the best women's stores in the 1960's through the 1980's had "Teen Boards" that utilized local, pretty teenage girls to draw in the younger crowd, as well as providing the members some modeling opportunities in the store.

The retail stores devoted to men helped Austin and San Antonio residents look like matinee idols. In San Antonio, Frank Bros. and Wolff & Marx's men's departments ruled the roost, along with the Lads 'N Dads departments at the finer department stores. In Austin, stores like Merritt, Schaeffer, and Brown, National Shirt Shop and Slax Menswear provided up-to-the-minute looks, as did Morton's Boy's and Men's Shop. Reynolds Penland Menswear was the penultimate for men who wanted to look their spiffiest. "Back then men knew that their clothing introduced them before they opened their mouths. Retail was a bit more of an art than a service. Salespeople were professionals and not clerks," recalls Mike Reynolds, scion of the store. "I was a young kid working downtown at the 8th & Congress location straightening ties, and you 'just knew' that Congress Avenue was the power center of Austin. Every single man was suited, young and



old. Most wore a hat and some

wore boutonnieres. The seasons changed back then and the hats went from felt to straw and the suits from dark to khaki in the hottest part of the year." He goes on to share, "Every banker, lawyer and politician vied to make the published list of Reynolds Penland's 'Austin's Best Dressed' list. Men like Dorsey Hardeman, Ambassador Edward Clark and Jerry Bell all were stylish guys. Frank Denius ordered nothing but custom suits from the high fashion houses of Louis Roth in Hollywood. The venture capital guys were the last breed to show up





Joskes and The Vogue Shop, San Antonio

and they liked their own style as well. Men such as Jeff Garvey and Frank Krasovic began their now famous love for clothes back in the 80's."

In the 1950's the creation of the large shopping mall came about, complementing the strip malls, where some retail also found a home. Moving into the 1960's, much of the retail and fashion focus



shifted into the suburban areas to satiate the needs and tastes of the rapidly growing Baby Boomer population. Open-air shopping centers and large malls were developed to exemplify a convenient nature, compared to the fast paced, busy downtown

shopping. As San Antonio grew and still continues to grow, shopping still remains a robust activity. Some of San Antonio's best shopping today is found at The Shops at La Cantera featuring the legendary Neiman Marcus, Northstar Mall featuring Saks Fifth Avenue, and the Rivercenter Mall that also has stores which are popular across the country, too.

Throughout the 60's the procession of shopping malls and urban developments continued in the Austin area, too. The outdoor mall. Hancock Center, came in 1963 with 34 new stores including a modern Sear's and the state's first Dillard's. That was

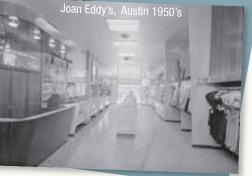


followed by the opening of Highland Mall in 1970, with Foley's, Joske's, Scarbrough's, and other reputable stores. With the spread of retail to the suburbs, Austin still has great shopping across the city. In addition to The Domain, By George, Estilo and the other Second Street boutiques, Barton Creek Mall,

and South Congress shops, there are also many privately owned boutiques peppered throughout the city. In 2005, the Downtown Austin Retail Market Strategy was prompted, which urged for the revitalization of the downtown in the area of Congress Avenue and 6th street. An effort to bring more retail shopping into the commercial space is what the strategy is focused on with

hopes of re-igniting downtown's retail glory days. Regardless of where shopping is done now, the retailers have their hard-working, clothes-loving forefathers to thank for paving the road for where retail is today in the region.

Photos courtesy of Ellison Photo Company, the Portal to Texas History Collection, the collection of Neal Douglass, and various private collections.



Ollie Nichols, Carolyn Montgomery, 400 & Rod Morgan

Congress Avenue, Austin 1952

ENTRANCE





Gala-goers Enthralled by Chinese-Inspired Fundraiser

Karen Lee Zachry and Suzanne Dabbous



was a grand night to be in San Antonio recently. The Texas Biomed Forum (formerly the Southwest Foundation Forum) held their sold-out annual gala at the chic Argyle Club and it will be remembered for many years to come.

The event's red-hot Shanghai Affair was the theme that dazzled partygoers from their moment of arrival, thanks to Trinity Flowers' Danny Cueller. Guests were surrounded by massive red lanterns, vases, Fu dogs, Asianinfused cuisine and, even traditional Chinese lion dancers. In fact, many guests dressed in festive Chinese-inspired attire to further the mood of the evening.

During the cocktail hour guests sipped on gingered champagne cocktails while entertained by dancing lions and martial arts displays by the San Antonio Lion Dance Association.

At dinner, the guests were treated to a fabulous meal prepared by the Argyle which included an Asian salmon with hoison duck breast for the first course, a hondashi-dusted petite filet mignon paired with sesame crusted ahi tuna on a bed of bokchoy, and for dessert, a Mandarin oriental soufflé. After dinner, Shangai After Dark (the after party) kicked off and people danced the night away to the music of Delta House in a sultry setting reminiscent of a night club in Shanghai in the 1930's. Chocolate-dipped fortune cookies and other fun favors were passed, too.

It wasn't all fun and games though, since the goal of raising \$200,000 was rapidly met to create seed money for the scientists at Texas Biomedical Research Institute (formerly Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research). As we all know, the good folks at the Texas Biomed Forum supports Texas Biomed through community relations, volunteer services and fundraising. Good work, gala goers and to all the talented staff who created the event so flawlessly.

SD







Rewarding One's Own

The Texas Medal of Arts Gala

t's so special that it only happens every two years. That's right... the 2011 Texas Medal of Arts Awards which supports the Texas Cultural Trust. The gala recognized the finest Texastied talent in film, television, literature, journalism, multi-media, corporate, patron, music, theater and visual arts categories. We've attended every one since it started in the early 2000's and it's quite the soiree that keeps growing. The Gala Dinner and Starlight after party was held at The Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin, Texas.

The event was chaired by Alice Carrington Foultz and Adair Margo, bringing their own star power to the event.

The Texas Medal of Arts Awards was a full evening of events, kicking off with the dinner where guests will sit alongside Texas arts, business, legislative, and entertainment notables. The dinner was then



Scott Pelley





Andrea Keene, Sondra Lomax, Sarah & Ernest Butler



followed by the Awards Show emceed by 60 Minutes' Scott Pelley to spotlight Texas' best talents the state has to offer.

The honorable evening, inspired by the National Medal of Arts, has been bestowed upon 59 Texas leaders and luminaries in the arts and entertainment industry for creative excellence and exemplary talents since its inception in 2001. This year medals were presented by Governor Rick Perry and the Awards show that included live performances ranging from high art to high octane before the night came to a memorable end with the Starlight After Party that featured live music by Dale Watson & His Lone Stars and Will Taylor & Strings Attached performing House of Wills: Songs of Willie Nelson in the Style of Bob Wills.

The 2011 Texas Medal of Arts Awards honorees were: Lifetime Achievement - Barbara Smith Conrad: Mezzo-soprano and civil rights icon whose voice has filled renowned opera houses throughout the world (Pittsburgh, TX); Film-Actress - Marcia Gay Harden: Oscar ®-winning actress with roles in such films as Pollock, Millers Crossing, The First Wives Club, and Mona Lisa Smile (UT Austin Graduate, Austin, TX); Film-Actor - Bill Paxton: Four-time Golden Globe® nominee and star of Tombstone, True Lies, Apollo 13, Twister, Titanic, and hit HBO series Big Love (Ft. Worth, TX); Music - ZZ Top: Legendary band that has sold over 50 million albums worldwide with eight Top 40 hits (Houston, TX); Literary – Robert M. Edsel: Author and founder/president of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art which received the 2007 National Humanities Medal (Dallas, TX); Art Education - Thomas Staley: Educator, author, and Director of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin





Dan Branch, Joci Straus & Anita Perry



Robert Edsel & Barbara Smith Conrad



(Austin, TX); Visual Arts - James Drake: An internationally acclaimed artist honored with inclusion in the Venice Biennale and the Whitney Biennial and whose work in the permanent collections of over 30 museums around the world (Lubbock, TX); Theatre - Alley Theatre: Internationally recognized company and recipient of the Tony Award (Houston, TX); Corporate – H-E-B: Grocer with 329 stores and 76,000 employees in 155 communities throughout Texas and Mexico; boasting a long history of supporting the arts throughout the state (Kerrville, TX).

or Journalism it was Bob Schieffer: CBS News Anchor of the Weekend Edition and broadcasting hall of famer (Ft. Worth, TX); Multi-Media - Ray Benson: Nine-time GrammyTM-winning front man of the Western swing band Asleep at the Wheel and co-writer of the play A Ride With Bob based on the life and music of Bob Wills (Austin, TX); Individual Patrons - Ernest and Sarah Butler: Major donors to Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Long Center, Ballet Austin, University of Texas School of Music, and the Austin Lyric Opera (Austin, TX); Previous honorees include Willie Nelson, Tommy Lee Jones, Laura W. Bush, Van Cliburn, Robert Rodriguez, Walter Cronkite, Nancy B. Hamon, Sandra Cisneros, Robert Raushcenberg, Clint Black, Nasher Foundation, Lyle Lovett, Austin City Limits, Neiman Marcus and Exxon Mobil. It was a night we will long remember and we can't wait for the next one in 2013. \square

Chuck & Dusty Hill Gilligan, Billy Gibbons & Guest

Bob Schieffer

Maestro, Maestro!

Placido Domingo Triumphantly Returns to San Antonio

Superstar Tenor Wows City



lacido Domingo returned to Texas for the first time since 2007 with his concert *Con amor a San Antonio*. Sponsored by the San Antonio Opera, this year's concert was even more exciting than the last. Mark Richter, founder and artistic director of the San Antonio Opera was thrilled to have Placido return. "A event like this these days is very rare," says Richter. "We join the ranks of the greatest cities around the world who have housed Placido Domingo."

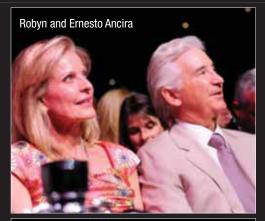
PLACIDO DOMÍNGO



Domingo serenaded his audience in what appeared to be an effortless fashion, with arias from both his Spanish and Mexican repertoires that were performed with Soprano Ana Maria Martinez, Classical Spanish Dancer Nuria Pomares, and Conductor Eugene Kohn. With pieces such as "Si, vendetta!" from Verdi's Rigoletto and "O, Souverain" from Massenet's Le Cid, Placido Domingo and Ana Maria Martinez captivated spectators with each note. Nuria Pomares displayed excellent flamenco technique,

·2011

owning the stage with her presence—her twists, her turns, and her accurate footwork captured the audience's favor during the transitional numbers between the maestro's musical sets. "Bravo! Encore! Mas!" were the cheers as Domingo again surpassed high expectations. The audience leaped to their feet to give the Maestro a dozen standing ovations before he sang a vigorous encore that resonated personally with patrons—puro mariachi music. Clever Domingo entered the stage dressed in full vibrant mariachi costume, followed by an orchestra of several enthusiastic matching mariachis. The songs were lively, exciting and extremely familiar, with Texan and Mexican favorites such as "La Negra" and "Granada." Echoes of the cheering were heard from of the AT&T Center and after the encore performance, business sponsors of the concert were transported downtown by the San Antonio Opera to a post performance supper honoring Domingo at the downtown Grand Hyatt. *By Ellie Leeper*

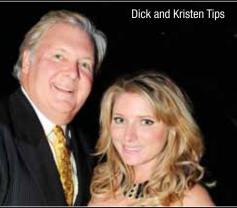
















BY: Lance Avery Morgan PHOTOGRAPHY BY: Tony Speilberg and Chase Martin

f you didn't attend Zachary Scott Theater's 2011 gala, Red, Hot & Soul: You Can't Stop the Beat!", then Baby Love, you missed out on a swingin' affair. The Hilton Austin was transformed ala' Mad Men and Hairspray, circa 1962, with the era's attire worn in full force by the guests. The theater's creative team of people, never missing a beat, literally... even sent out a resource and style guide to help Kennedy-era newbies scout their attire.

This attention to details with the Hairspray music as the theme of the evening, Go-Go girls and boys danced from cages in bright pink and printed garb, as well as performing when live auction items were won in the audience later in the evening. When the live auctions were bought, the audience went wild as the dancers and singers popped champagne and cavorted among the winning recipient's table. Yes, groove-tastic entertainment was featured, including an exclusive sneak peek at ZACHs latest musical d'force, Hairspray. What's not to love about the city's most fun and show-bizy shebang? The zealous crowd of almost a thousand danced – and Twisted - the night away with the Atlantics featuring ZACH's own Courtney Sanchez and Roderick Sanford.

The evening's event chairs Mary Herr Tally and Maria Groten and honorary chairs James Armstrong and Larry Connelly worked tirelessly to make the party hum to poppin' beat. Jeff and Deanna Serra also pledged a gift of half a million dollars toward the completion goals of the upcoming Bobbi and Mort Topfer theater on the ZACH grounds.

And, just when we didn't think last year's event couldn't be topped, this one was a spectacular example of how The Little Regional Theater That Could raises the bar to create funds for the new Bobbi and Mort Toper theatre that will be completed in mid-2012. We raise our martini glass again to ZACH's leaders Dave Steakley and Elisbeth Challener, their team and board for creating a vision for the entire city to enjoy.



What a Ball

The Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant

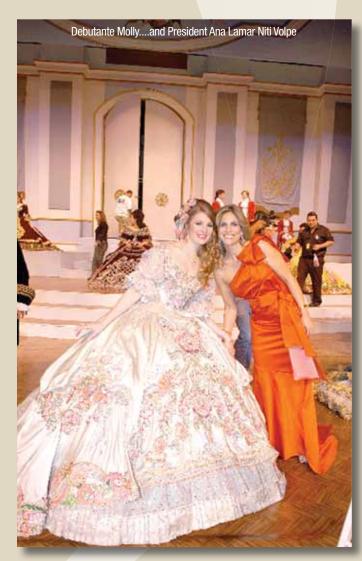
South Texas Debs Make Grand Entrance

By Lance Avery Morgan Photos courtesy of Rodolfo Guzman

f you think high society may be dead, or at least waning, it really isn't at all. Recently in the border town of Laredo big things were happening to show that debutantes are just as lovely as ever. It turns out that The Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant & Ball, formed in 1939, continues to thrive and grow more popular every year.

The Society hosts the Colonial Ball, which of course, is an annual debutante gala for young women making their debut into society. The Colonial Ball, held in the city's Civic Center, is part of a citywide festival of Washington's Birthday Celebration, which takes place each year near the first US president's special holiday. The Society of Martha Washington helps Laredo present an image of "racial and national harmony" by working in conjunction with the Princess Pocahontas Council and the Abrazo Children, and has attendees who are notables from all over Texas.

Besides being philanthropic, the society chooses two prominent members of Laredo society to don costumes to portray President George and Martha Dandridge



Washington. The debutantes and their escorts who are presented either have family in the Society or are invited guests. It's interesting to note that membership into the Society is exclusive, yet there are no racial or ethnic discriminations and Laredo's elite consists of bi-cultural residents.

What is it like from the audience's point of view, you may ask? The participants portray contemporaries based on the story line, which changes every year to honor the President and his First Lady. What a spectacle it is since each deb wears an elaborate handmade colonialera dress that is the outer shell over a corset, bloomers, and layers of petticoats.

Linda Leyendecker Gutierrez is the official dressmaker for the pageant. She says that yards of fabric are used to make these elaborate costumes... silks, satins and velvets from all over the world. The intricately designed gowns are adorned with beads, lace and ribbon to create the perfect dress, weighing up to 80 pounds. All of the pomp and circumstance is worth it for the debutantes, families and their once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Pagent Participants on stage with Niti, President of the Martha Washington Society







Steve LaManta (wearing his letter jacket presented to him by his wife after he enthusiastically presented 5 beautiful daughters over the years) Linda Leyendecker-Gutierrez, Niti Volpe and Molly LaManta











San Antonio's Splendor in the Garden

Gala amongst flowers, pink and purple captures crowd's imagination



here was magic in the garden this year when San Antonio's Botanical Garden Society hosted their most successful "Splendor in the Garden" event yet. Benefitting family program initiatives at the San Antonio

Botanical Garden, 440 guests attended the gala this year amongst the garden's beautiful landscape that was transformed into a serenely illuminated backdrop for the gala.

The event was successfully chaired by Luke and Estee Kellogg and Jeff and Anne Rochelle and the large garden's glass houses shone hues of fuchsia and deep purple, bringing the 38-acre garden to life. Unexpected rain showers the morning of the event provided for a comfortably cool spring evening.

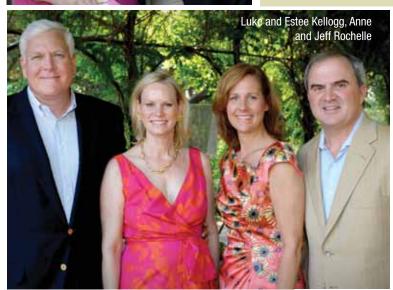




Guests enjoyed savory cocktails and casually socialized beside the fountain, and dined at tables on the luscious lawn connecting the Halsell Conservatory and the Kumamoto En Garden. Afterwards, guests danced the night away to the sounds of Beverly Houston and Breezin'.

Bob Brackman, executive director of the San Antonio Botanical Garden was thrilled by the success of the gala. "This important fundraiser helps us achieve our dreams for the Garden," stated Bob Brackman. The gala also provides opportunity for the Garden to grow its circle of friends while The San Antonio Botanical Garden Society is aspiring to make the garden into one of the finest regional gardens in the nation. Thinking green takes on a whole new meaning here. *Ellie Leeper* S

Anne Rochelle and Estee Kellogg - gala co-chairs







Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards creates star-struck event to raise funds for filmmaking grants

he Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards is one of the best nights in Texas, hands down. Especially from our table's vantage point, thanks to Robert and Kate Hersch of Mastodon Ventures and Carla and Jack McDonald. The event always gathers the film and creative community of Texas, mixes in Hollywood and New York, making it a great evening of fun. Recently, all these swells gathered for it at the Austin Film Studios while movie stars mixed

with tycoons and socialites, and the Four Seasons Hotel kept everyone fueled and happy with its catering expertise.

Honorees this year included Rip Torn and Renée Zellweger and the event was deftly cochaired by society powerhouses Suzanne Deal Booth and Virginia Lebermann. Academy Award winning actress Sissy Spacek presented via video presentation to her cousin Rip Torn. The Star of Texas Award was awarded to NBC's Friday Night Lights and accepted by Connie Britton and Kyle Chandler with Brad Leland, Jesse Plemons and Dana Wheeler-Nicholson. Emcee Wyatt Cenac kept the crowd laughing in between the

exas







moving speeches while the hijinks of visiting dignitaries included Thomas Haden Church, Catherine Hardwicke, Richard Linklater, Luke Wilson, Joey Lauren Adams, CSI star Gary Dourdan and Ted Nugent.

After a seated dinner and the Awards show, this year's after party included eye candy by wig stylist Coco Coquette and the Texas Rollergirls, the music stylings of el john Selector of Thievery Corporation, DJ Chicken George and Grammy Award winner Adrian Quesada of Grupo Fantasma.

Since 2001, the Awards have raised \$2.5 million to support the programs and services of AFS, including the Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund, which has given over \$1 million in grants to emerging Texas filmmakers and the AFS Film Club, which provides free filmmaking workshops in 8 underserved Austin schools. The 2011 TFHOF Awards will be remembered as one of the best years ever and we are already looking forward to next years. *By Jake Gaines*

SD



Robert and Kate Hersch



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How To Date Your Mate By Juli

By Julia McCurley



Create some zest in your love life starting here and now. Here's how...

irst comes love, then comes marriage, then comes a baby in a baby carriage. Then what?

Credit scores, mortgages, grocery shopping, laundry, household chores, past due bills are just some of the list of responsibilities that go along with being a CFO (Chief Family Officer). It can seem endless. Those dating scenarios of romantic candlelit dinners, unexpected bouquets of roses, surprise visits at the office seem like a distant memory of the past. However, letting the drudgery of day to day life put out the flame in your relationship is sure fire way to feel like roommates instead of soul mates.

So what is a hopeful romantic to do about the realities of co-habitation and marriage? First of all, I recommend: don't give up hope. It is never too late to reignite the sparks. Think about it as planning a vacation. Small steps. First, you have to buy the plane tickets, proceed to make the hotel reservations and schedule it around the inconveniences of every day life. It is the same with dating your mate. You are in charge of making it happen.

As a professional matchmaker and relationship coach, here are my top 10 tips to keep your relationship as fiery as the 4th of July:

Put your mate on your daily To-Do list. Every day is an opportunity to do something nice for the most important person in your life. For example, when a song comes on the radio that reminds you of them, that is the perfect time to call and tell them you love them. Or, a quick text saying you hope their big, upcoming meeting goes well.

2 Keep - or start - leaving romantic notes for each other. The way my husband and I do this is with our "bathroom" book. It is a small notebook that goes back and forth between our vanities. There is no set time on when we write each other a note, so it keeps the element of surprise going. Usually the notes entail things like "I had a great weekend with you, thanks for making it so special" or "I really appreciate the way you take care of our family, it makes me feel very loved". Sometimes, we make it a little racy but always using code words of course. Speaking of code words, that is another

way to build closeness in your relationship. When we want some sexy, private time we simply tell our children that we are going to take a nap and lock the door.

3 Get a lock on your bedroom door. This has been a lifesaver for couples so many times. There is no need to give your children a premature lesson in human sexuality. And, for that matter a relative, pool boy, or whomever else may stop by unannounced. Couples need uninterrupted time, even if it is only to talk for a while without having to listen to the latest episode of Sponge Bob while you try to connect.

4 As obvious as this sounds, implement a weekly date night. It can be any night of the week and however it best fits lifestyle. I prefer Saturday nights because there is no pressure to get home early to get up early for work the next day. Schedule a standing time with the babysitter if need be.

5 Take turns planning your date night. Often my husband and I don't share the details of the date night until that day, or even until we reach our destination. The date nights do not need to be expensive. It could be a picnic in the park with a bottle of wine, going bowling, taking a long walk, and you could even have a date in your home by sending the kids to a sleepover, and watching a romantic movie followed by a bubble bath. Light the candles, put on some romantic music, and you are ready to date your mate.

6 Be helpful. Do a chore around the house that your mate typically does. For example, if you are in charge of the laundry, the other person could do a surprise wash and dry for you. If your mate normally does the dishes, perhaps you clean up after dinner. I will admit that a man who leaves a clean kitchen really turns me on. Same with a clean garage (yes I have a garage obsession, but being married to a packrat can bring out the organizer in me). Taking a little bit off your loved one's daily duties does more than say "I love you". It shows it.

7 Be unpredictable. Send a Fed Ex with a love note or a racy photo to your beloved's hotel room on their business trip. You can also send a package of their favorite candy to their office or a bouquet of flowers just to say you love them (flowers still work, gentlemen). Make their favorite meal, and change up the date night often to keep the surprise dynamic alive.

B Be thoughtful. Remember, it's not always all about you. This includes physical appearance. My husband likes my hair long and I prefer he is clean-shaven, even though his alter ego is Grizzly Adams. Dress the way they suggest, or the way you know they like when you want to. That doesn't mean you have to walk around in a thong and heels or dress like a Chippendale's dancer. Yet by taking the time to do extra grooming, spraying on their favorite scent, or dressing up for your mate, you are sending a message that they are important to you and that you are listening to them.

9 Be flexible. The reality of the grown-up world we live in is that unexpected things are going to happen. A sick kid, a cancelled babysitter, or intruding work demands can all combine to wreck our best laid plans at romance. That doesn't have to mean your evening has to end badly. Pop in a DVD and snuggle on the couch while the kids laugh at the antics of Tommy Boy, while you hold your spouse's hand and appreciate all of the things you have in your relationship.

10 Last but not least, be in tune with your mate's physical and emotional needs. What each of you needs from the other may change depending on life's circumstances, so open and honest communication is very important to keeping romance front and center.

For more information on relationships from Julia McCurley, visit www.somethingmore.com



GREG HARRISON [0]

In any event...

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Creating Connection



The value of connecting for true happiness

By Mary Schneider

veryone wants connection. That is because connection leads to intimacy and if you think of the word itself, the sound mirrors its meaning: Into-me-see. However, most of us are clueless about how to actually manifest true intimacy. Intimacy is not sex. We can have sex without intimacy and intimacy without sex. And, what is most desirable in romantic relationship is when we have both, preferably at the same time.

There are so many helpful books and seminars suggesting all kinds of different methods of obtaining intimacy in a romantic relationship. And, there is one practice when given time and patience that is sure to take a couple directly down the path to intimacy. That practice is expressing your feelings and stating your needs.

Chloe Wordsworth, the woman who developed Holographic Repatterning, a special energetic healing process, says, "The foundation of coherent relationship is expressing your feelings and stating your needs." Exactly what does this mean? Many people think that this sounds too simple and I can guarantee you that it is not. I have had clients come in to my office who could do one or the other and rarely both. I have also had many clients who couldn't do either one. As is the case with many important teachings in life, it sounds easy and yet in essence it is extremely profound. Expressing your feelings and stating your needs definitely falls into this category.

Many people have been discouraged from expressing their feelings since early childhood. The message was always that there really wasn't anything to cry about, to buck up and get over it – fast. In this hectic, over-stimulated, amped-up culture we are living in, taking time to actually deal with one's feelings is pretty far down on the priority totem pole. We also have a lot of "remedies" available to take care of our feelings so that we don't have to deal with them. Although I think that modern medicine contributes to miraculous healings

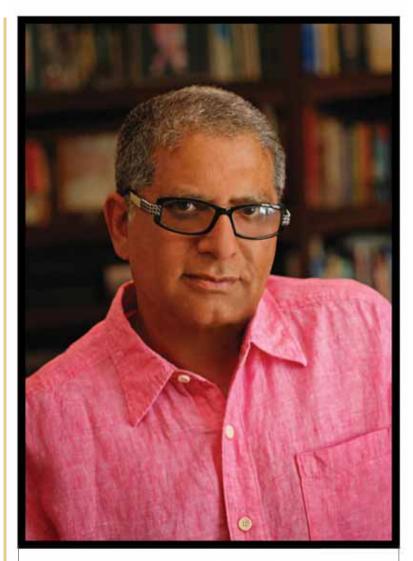
every day, there seems to be a generalized attitude that we need "handle" or "manage" our feelings – as if they were a problem. There is a pill available to deal with our feelings because to have them can be problematic. We might have to slow down. We might have to take our eyes off of the goals we have set our sights upon, and perhaps redefine what we mean by success. This takes time and many of us are unwilling or unable to devote our time to this kind of pursuit.

Why should we when we can take a pill or have a drink or engage in a myriad of different activities that can distract us from ever having to deal with an actual feeling? So, as a result many of us are completely unaware of what we are feeling at any given moment in time due to these "numbing" solutions. Expressing a feeling becomes difficult. If we do not know what it is we are feeling we're never going to be able to communicate it.

Stating needs is a similar issue. Again, many of us were discouraged from saying what we needed from a very early age. Even more disturbing is that many people may never have had a need met as children. So when this is the case, these same individuals as adults are not even thinking about the fact that they have needs, let alone communicating them. I have had clients who spend their whole lives meeting the needs of everyone around them thinking that that was their primary need – to take care of everybody else. It never occurs to them that they also have needs that have to be met in order to live a full life. As a result, true intimacy eludes them throughout their lives. Because they never stop taking care of others, it never comes up. This is a recipe for resentment.

So, back to expressing feelings and stating needs... maybe you're deciding that this might be something interesting to engage in – that it might be worth a try. It can be difficult in the midst of an argument with a spouse or partner to actually define what it is that you are feeling. This means that you would have to stop and think and you can look kind of silly sitting there saying nothing while contemplating exactly what it is that you might be feeling in that moment. If this is something that you don't normally do it may take a few minutes to figure out what is that you are really feeling; "Hmmm – am I'm feeling abandoned? Yes, this is abandonment." Now you have to figure out what it is that you ask yourself? I need you to stop whatever it is that you're doing and spend some time with me, you might answer. You've done it. Then you need to communicate this. The hope is that very rarely will someone look at you after this type of communication and say to you, "No, you don't! You don't feel that - or need that!" If they do, that's a whole other situation...

Suddenly, something really wonderful begins to happen. There is some kind of alchemy that occurs when two people engage in this type of productive communication. A space opens up. Expansion occurs and in that space there is room for the other person to express what they are feeling and what it is that they need. Then, you and your partner start becoming more authentic with one another which leads to more expression of feelings and more needs being communicated. You start to become more aware of all of your feelings and begin to define feelings you've never defined before. You begin to define needs that you've had for a lifetime that you felt you could never ask for – and you are now asking for them. Most importantly, you are having them met and therefore, the most important by-product of this whole process is experienced. Intimacy. Into-me-see.



An Evening with Deepak Chopra

Monday, September 26, 2011 7:30 pm Laurie Auditorium Trinity University San Antonio, Texas

Deepak Chopra, a prolific author and a New York Times best seller, continues to be a major draw for people all over the world. Deepak Chopra is a global force in the field of human empowerment. His books and tapes have been published in more than eighty languages. Do not miss...

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<u>settettettettet</u> efektettettete<u>r</u> Chloé Signature Solid Perfume Necklace This delicately engraved locket is a luxurious case holding the Chloé signature solid perfume. Featuring the original, distinctive notes of rose, the necklace presents a new way to wear perfume as a smart and timeless gesture. Available at a selection of authorized Chloé retailers for **\$60.00**.

Forbidden euphoria

The younger interpretation of the iconic euphoria fragrance, Forbidden euphoria evokes a modern, fresh sexiness with a mysterious twist. This fruity, floral scent's bottle has been exposed to reveal its outer layers and seductive curves. Available at specialty stores nationwide in100 ml bottles priced at **\$78.00.**

Scents & Scents-ability

Updating your signature scent with fall's hottest new perfumes has never been so glamorous...

BY: Danielle Kaplan

Vera Wang Lovestruck

Inspired by a modern day twist on Romeo & Juliet, Vera Wang Lovestruck is a sparkling addictive floral you are sure to fall in love with. Composed of citrus fruits and light flowers, this scent is sure to leave you love struck. Available exclusively at specialty stores in 100 ml bottles priced a **\$78.**

OH, LOLA!

Marc Jacobs Oh, Lola!

Oh, Lola, the re-energized twist on the iconic fragrance personifies Lola's flirtatious free spirit with its sparkling and fruity scent that is both refreshing and light. The bottle is girly and vibrant pink with the new campaign featuring Dakota Fanning. Available exclusively at Bloomingdales and at specialty retailers nationwide in 75 ml bottles priced at **\$70.00.**



J Lo Love & Light

priced at \$58.00.

Love & Light is a sparkling floral woody fragrance that reflects the softer, more sensual side of Jennifer Lopez. The bottle is a sculptural beauty,

inspired by the curves of a radiant

woman that showcases the scent's luminosity. Available in fine department stores in 75ml size bottles



Gwen Stefani Super G

Introducing Super G, the crime fighting Harajuku girl bringing you Kawaii (Happiness) at all times. Channel your inner super hero with Super G with this fruity and sweet scent. Available at Sephora stores nationwide in 30 ml bottles priced at **\$45.00**.





ck one shock

ck one shock invokes the desire to leave a personal mark of self-expression.Her scent is a sensual floral with a kick of amber and patchouli, his scent is a bold oriental with fruity undertones. Available at specialty stores nationwide in 100 ml bottles priced at **\$50**.

BY: Lance Avery Morgan PHOTOGRAPHY BY: David Atlan

Parus,

South Texas Native Wows International Society With Second Louvre Gala

Becca Cason Thrash

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It's good to be Becca Cason Thrash these days, especially with the Harlingen native's latest society and philanthropic triumph, the Liaisons au Louvre II gala in Paris held at, yes, the Louvre museum. Recently awarded the recipient of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, the Houston resident is hands down one of France's "It" girls these days. Why? First, as a friend of hers, among other things I can attest she is a fearless fundraiser and tireless hostess. When others think enough has been raised, Thrash asks; "why not more?" Secondly, she is pals with almost everyone who is interesting these days in international pop culture.

"My first Louvre gala was so successful the first time around, the museum asked me to produce it again. Also, the guests wanted a second experience in Paris and the truth is "I'm just a girl who can't say no," Becca Cason Thrash

Some of the best memories many Sociables in this state share are those of the myriad "Thrash Bashes" held over the years in the Thrash's luxe Houston home. John is everyone's best friend and Becca is also welcoming, gregarious, beautiful and yes, is a consummate hostess that has gained legendary status; all traits honed as a native Texan.

We all know elaborate productions don't just appear magically. Far from it, in fact. Especially in the case with the Louvre, the event was created on another continent and in another language. Almost two years in the making, Thrash's Louvre extravaganza was the crown jewel of three days of festivities for the out-of-town attendees of Texans, global philanthropists, renowned art collectors, sprinkled with European aristocracy.

The over-the-top glam weekend included a seated dinner at the American ambassador's residence, as well as a candlelit supper at a historic chateau outside Paris. The invitations arrived in February for the summertime event. Thrash is emphatic about her devotion to the museum (she serves on its international board) by telling me, "While the museum sits on French soil, more Americans visit the Louvre than any other museum outside of the U.S., save the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. I fondly remember the days when we had positive Franco-American relations which flourished during the Clinton years and I wanted to help rebuild that which we had lost."

Karen and Steve Tyrell

Gala Venue at the Louvre

Bruno Frisoni, Delfina Delettrez Fendi. Derek Blasberg, Bianca Brandolini

> Richard Flowers, Mike and Susan Plank, Shelby Hodge





Très Magnifique

Thrash realized it might be difficult to top her 2008 Louvre gala that raised a staggering \$2.7 million for the museum. Originally this year's event was scheduled for last November and due to the terror alerts Thrash had two very hectic days to reschedule it all for this June, which meant she had to personally notify all the notable guests living in farflung locales like Brazil, Shanghai and even, Botswana. She also had to re-do the auction catalog, create new guest packages, and essentially, replan the event. "It was a difficult decision to postpone, as the majority of guests are flying in from all over the world to attend. With ticket prices at \$10,000, flights, hotels, wardrobe, etc, the trip can cost in excess of a \$50,000. However, guests seemed delightfully pleased with the change of date; it all worked out so beautifully."

Yet, even in a recovering economy, this year's total raise was a whopping \$3.6 million for the Musee du Louvre. Proceeds will help restore the Louvre's 18th-century decorative arts galleries, which are set to reopen in 2013.

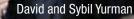
Thrash welcomed guests, wearing one of the last twelve creations designed by Alexander McQueen, prior to his untimely death. The pale gray "Winged Victory" gown was accessorized with emeralds and diamonds from here to next Thursday. Guests also rubbed royal elbows with the Thrash's aristocratic pal, Prince Albert of Monaco (without his then-fiancée), who heartily enjoyed champagne and mingled about, as did actress Diane Kruger and her boyfriend, actor Joshua Jackson. Bubbly poured from the plethora of magnum bottles and set the stage for the dinner to begin. Ambassador Charles Rivkin and Susan Tolson



The dinner was, as the French say, a pièce de résistance. The sumptuously dressed guests in "high black tie" which meant long gowns for women and no creative licenses for the men's tuxedos. Many of the voluminous gowns were purchased in anticipation of the event's one-time wearing and none of the elegant guests disappointed in their elaborate ensembles of feathers, beads and miles of chiffon and satin.

Bon Jour, Belle Époque

Seated at dinner in the Louvre's multi-level Cour Marly Sculpture Gallery, the 300 guests dined on culinary delicacies for which the French are so renowned; the first course of foie gras was followed by the sole entrée. With the help of Los Angeles-based event producer Ben Bourgeois, Thrash's vision of "pink on pink" came to life. The hot pink silk table clothes inlaid with black velvet swirls were accented with black crystal candelabras, capacious pink peonies and orchids, which graced the opulent tables. When asked about her inspiration, she muses, "The first Louvre gala was in another part of the museum. Guests were seated at two massive mirrored tables, replete with yellow orchids. This time I wanted a completely different look. I was inspired by a hot pink chair I was shown in Paris. We had more chairs made for our dinner and played off on the hot pink hue set in an expansive white marble venue... the space, replete in fuchsia, created the "wow" factor for guests."





Prince Albert of Monaco and Becca Cason Thrash

Nick Florescu and Dominique Sachse and Gary and Elizabeth Petersen

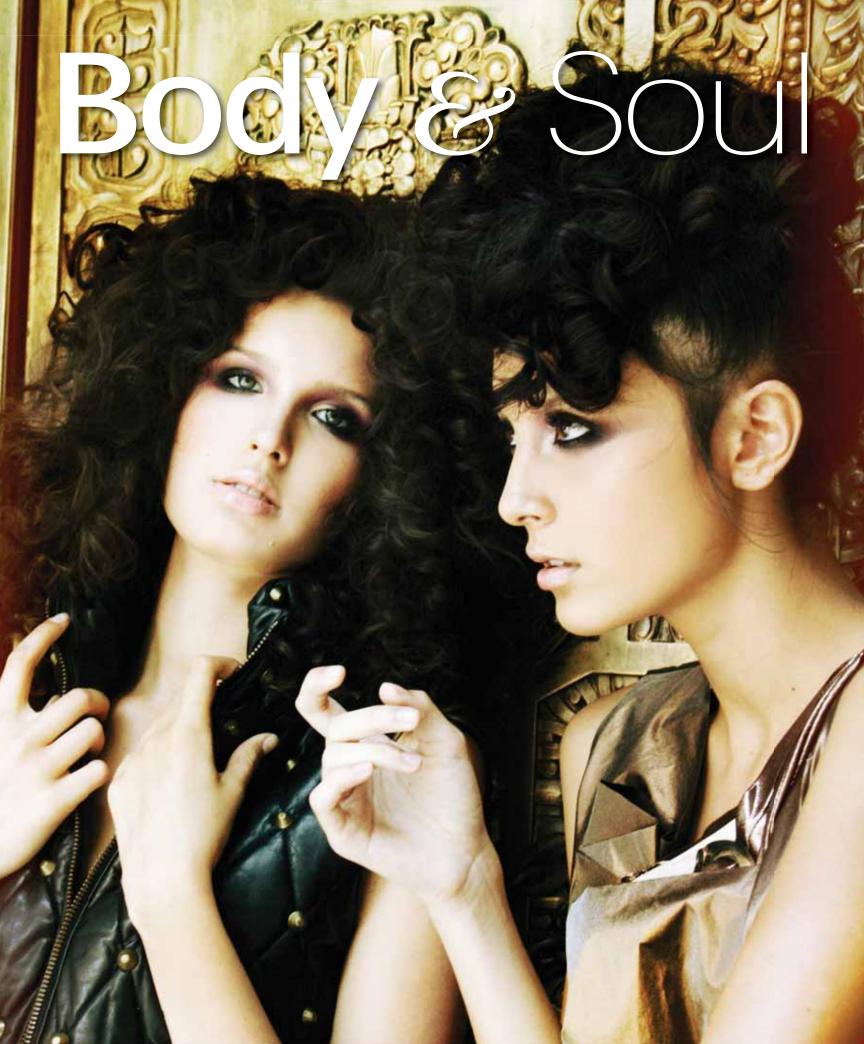
Following dinner, guests adjourned into the I.M. Pei glass Pyramid du Louvre (transformed into an intimate nightclub setting) for dessert, the live auction, and performance. Thrash, in her inimitable manner, ran the live auction, which included five extraordinary trips and a Richard Prince iconic joke painting, which sold for \$700,000. Thrash is famous for calling on bidders by name... not one person in the history of current society has ever turned down her appeal and this night was no different.

lanet Jackso

Then, the evening's featured act began. Pop diva Janet Jackson crooned a medley of her best hits, including "What Have You Done For Me Lately," "Miss You Much," "Rhythm Nation," and "Nasty" while the guests danced themselves into exhaustion before venturing over to Café Marley where the after-party went from the moon glow until the sun's rise. Now that's a party.

In a statement about the event made by Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand to The Associated Press, he enthused, "Americans have done so much for culture here in France. They saved Versailles and Giverny," He went on to say, "I can only applaud the work done by Mrs. Thrash, who's one of those marvelous Americans who put so much time and effort into saving the precious things we're lucky enough to have in this country."

When I ask Becca about her unending devotion to helping others in such a enchanting way, she confides, "Entertaining is what I do, Lance. In many ways it is considered an art form. I want to make a difference in the world, and in doing so, with style, glamour and beauty. It doesn't hurt that I have an extraordinary and supportive husband. Let's face it, without John Thrash, there would be no Becca." The Thrashes live and operate their philanthropic magic from their home base here in Texas and to say that Becca Cason Thrash is a girl from Harlingen who did well is an understatement... and we look forward to more triumphs from our dear friend, Texas' High Priestess of Chic.



The heat wave is over and it's time to look toward Fall Fashion... at its opulent and most glamorous. Here we've hand chosen the looks you'll love wearing in shimmery precious metals and luxurious fabrics.

> Photographer: Mark Oberlin, www.markoberlin.com Hair: Jason Orion Make Up: Klexius Kolby, Assistant: Akemi Yagi Stylist: Ramine Hajipour Models: Ashley and Widika, Ford Models, LA Sittings Editor: Lance Avery Morgan

> > Dress: Prada, available at Neiman Marcus San Antonio Leggings: American Apparel, available at American Apparel stores Shoes: Jimmy Choo, available at Neiman Marcus Austin



Blouse: Dior, available at Saks Fifth Avenue

Pants: Jean Paul Gaultier, available at Saks Fifth AvenueShoes: Jimmy Choo, available at Neiman Marcus San Antonio



Top and Leggings: Fendi, available at Saks Fifth Avenue Necklace: Safia Day, available at www.SafiaDay.com Shoes: Jimmy Choo, available at Neiman Marcus San Antonio Vest: Versace, available at Saks Fifth Avenue Pants: DKNY, available at Nordstrom San Antonio Shoes: Prada, available at Neiman Marcus Austin

Jacket: Versace, available at Saks Fifth Avenue Leggings: American Apparel, available at American Apparel stores Shoes: Jimmy Choo, available at Neiman Marcus Austin

ş



Top: Blumarine, available at Nordstrom Austin Leggings: American Apparel available at American Apparel stores Shoes: Jimmy Choo, available at Neiman Marcus San Antonio

Dress: Givenchy, available at By George Austin Shoes: Jimmy Choo, available at Neiman Marcus Austin





Capella Pedregal in Cabo San Lucas

By Lance Avery Morgan Photos Courtesy of Capella Pedregal

111

Where can you go for a few days that can actually seem like week of rest and relaxation? Look no further because the Capella Pedregal

in Mexico is the destination of the rich, celebrated and also, to those who understand the value of understated luxury at its finest.





irst, we all know there are more luxurious resorts in Cabo than just about anywhere else. It's the billionaire's playground and it has also become a popular destination with high-flying Texans. It is close and convenient since Cabo is really Baja California, plus the warm and inviting of Mexican resorts is irresistible. The glam strip of beach land connects the towns of San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas.

Opened in 2009 at the very end of the area's peninsula, Pedregal ascribes to Los Cabos' luxe point of view. Pedregal, nestled in the hills, is both a romantic rendezvous and family-friendly property with spacious 66 casitas and suites on 24 pristine acres, while some of the private residences are available for stays, too. "The service and the overall ambience, along the people who work here, is what makes this resort so special," says Peter Bowling, the resort's general manager.

Once you land in Cabo, a 40 minute drive along the area gets you directly to the resort.





TAN MANAGE SUST SUST

When I was picked up by the resort, a cold water bottle and finger towel awaited me in the resort's car service. Those small details set the exemplary six star standard for the rest of the trip.

The Sea of Cortez, on the Pacific side, is the body of water that captures your attention from any vantage point. A long tunnel, dug from the mountain that separates the town of Cabo San Lucas, highlights the journey that lands at the resort. Lighted like a James Bond film location, the 900-foot long cavern ends at the bright daylight of the hotel and then, just beyond that, you take in the full majestic ocean view.

A modern yet traditional perspective of Mexico is the resort's signature vibe. That mix helps to create an authentic ambiance to make every guest feel at home, yet be ready to play. The suites and rooms are environments that make you not want to leave them, or their ubiquitous ocean view. Large couches, chairs, flat screen TV's and fireplaces are standard. Push button luxury is what it's all about here, and that carries out to your terraces fire pit and plunge pool, too. Want to live like a billionaire but not spend a king's ransom? It's all here; paradise found.

"When guests arrive here, it doesn't feel like a new and modern hotel," further explains Bowling. "It has the soul and feel that is loving, caring and welcoming." Before you arrive, you'll be contacted by email by your personal assistant



(your especially dedicated concierge) at the resort to take care of any advance needs you might have. A majordomo is also available should you require a full time attendant at the property. Service with a smile is putting it lightly with the friendly staff that is always within eyesight for anything you desire from the hotel.

The resort is within a five minute walking distance of the town's marina where you can take in the flair of Old Mexico with the wares of the local artisans. Nearby, jaunt over to Capella Pedregal's private yacht club in the heart of the Cabo Marina, where you can board Carina, the resort's private Viking sport cruiser, as the sun sets over Pedregal Mountain.

Several pools, all with ocean views, await you. A special poolside kiddie area accommodates the family minded, too. You can sun, then take a dip into the pool and swim over to the poolside bar, plus the servers can bring you anything you want, too. Hungry yet? You won't be after you choose one of the resort's three onsite restaurants; Don Miguel's, El Farallon, or the Beach Club (for lighter poolside fare). I learned to cook authentic Baja cuisine with Per Se -trained Executive Chef Marco Bustamanto, the resort's resident expert in all things culinary. Don Manuel's features Mexican contemporary cuisine; light cuisine is served at the poolside Beach Club and then there's the Ocean Grill Farallon, with seafood specialties in an alfresco setting at the ocean's cliff. The background roar of the waves and the candlelight makes for a romantic evening.

On the subject of romance, the hotel was recently the weekend-long affair backdrop of a mulimillion dollar wedding for the daughter of an industrial tycoon, so consider that when making destination wedding plans. As if that wasn't swank enough, John Legend and The Roots, along with Joss Stone, recently performed an intimate concert (poolside on Plexiglas, naturally) that is part of a recurring series to benefit Capella's foundation.

Want to do more than sun by the pool among your fellow bold and beautiful guests? You can run along the beach's azure blue water at sunrise like I did. Or, you can go deep sea fishing or snorkeling a boat the resort can arrange for you, too. Call it couture vacation.

When you want to be pampered, just sashay down the sidewalk to the Sylvia Sepielli-designed Auriga spa. You'll want to arrive at the spa 40 minutes prior to treatment time to experience authentic pretreatment Baja rituals, and then let the massage, body treatments and facials begin. After your treatment, cool off in a snow chamber by the Jacuzzi and heated sauna, or dip in the freshwater pool just steps away. Thinking like a billionaire yet? You'll be feeling like one with the captivating attention to detail when you are set to jet to the new paradise called Capella Pedregal.

For more information, contact Capella Pedregal, +52.624.163.4300 and www.capellahotels.com

TWO DREAMS

Dos Sueños was inspired by the architecture and culture of Andalusia.

Set sail with us on a trip into an interpretation of Spain's glorious region right here in Texas

Photography: Paul Bardagjy and Jeff Truitt

hen Spanish explorers first set foot on what would one day become the state of Texas, they must have been amazed by the bountiful lands, rivers and lakes. Fast forward about 500 years and a role reversal occurred when two native Texans explored the southern region of Spain, known as Andalusia. Al Aguilar and Gisela Girard, founders of the successful San Antonio-based full service advertising agency Creative Civilization, were inspired by their visit to the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. The adventurous couple set forth with a vision to create a piece of this mystical and enchanting palace in their home town of San Antonio. "Few spaces on earth have inspired us more than this architectural masterpiece built by the Moorish civilization in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries," says Al Aguilar. "The simplicity of the design belies its intrigue and artistry."

Trickling fountains, hand-crafted mosaics and palatial spaces typify some of the details they wanted to incorporate on eight acres at the threshold of the Texas Hill Country. There, on the brow of a sunny hill with golden Texas sunsets, the dreams of "Dos Sueños," as the property is known, came alive. "Every day I wake up to enjoy a world of peacefulness, aesthetics and a Zen-like environment like no other I have ever experienced," says Gisela Girard.

The couple's creation of Dos Sueños was a love affair with a culture that transcends into a special feeling that the homeowners frequently share with their many guests. The rambling property has served as an engaging setting for many gatherings and social events such as cast parties for the San Antonio Opera, welcome parties for celebrities visiting the city such as Hollywood director Garry Marshall, singer Joseph Leo Bwarie who plays Frankie Valli in "Jersey Boys," and numerous non-profit organization fundraisers. "Many a toast has capped an enchanting evening of celebration at Dos Sueños. From intimate dinner gatherings, to large dance parties by the fountain of the garden court, we've found this is a place that makes you feel like you are truly in a different world", muses Aguilar.

When choosing an architect to design their home, Aguilar and Girard were looking for a firm that would fuse this traditional design of Andalusia with the landscape of their hilltop retreat. Michael G. Imber Architects was the perfect fit because Imber's background in classical design provided a foundation to translate these early Spanish styles to a current home for the 21st century romanticist



"Standing in awe at the footsteps of the Alhambra, we thought, 'now this was a creative civilization.""



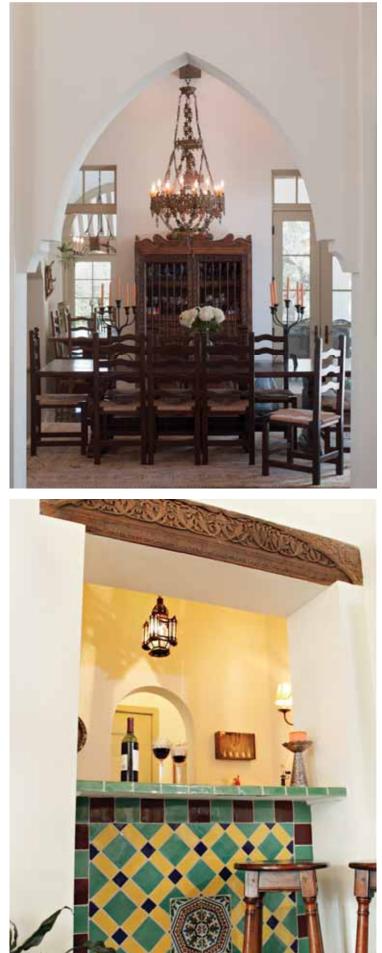


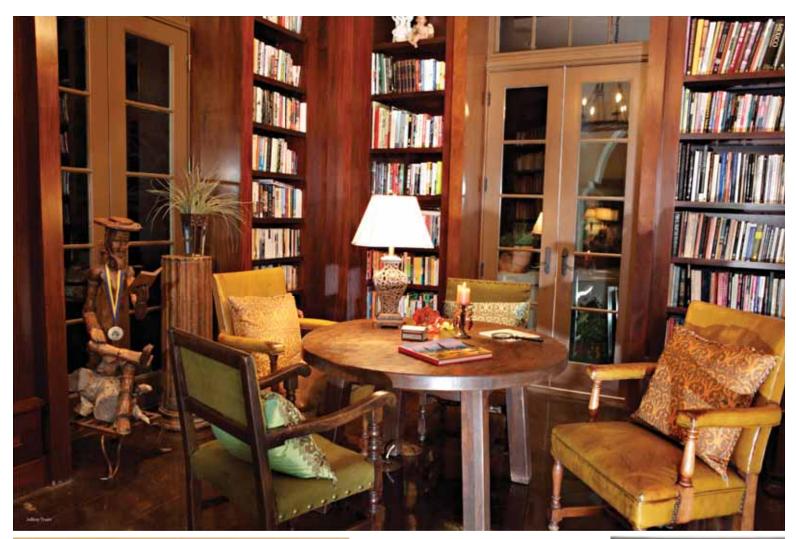
clients. "The classic design of the Alhambra in Granada, along with its adjoining gardens of Generalife provided the context for a home which also needed to complement their modern lifestyles," comments Imber.

Imber's solution? To create a compound situated in open loggias looking out over the rolling hills below. These spaces serve as the circulation axis of the home while connecting the public and private areas. The ultimate design presents a home that is bright and airy with arabesque arches, vaults and loggias, all typical of the architecture of Southern Spain. A unique touch incorporated into the home are the artifacts and materials the homeowners brought back from their myriad travels, such as an antique chandelier in the dining room from a Spanish church, antique tiles known as "azulejos" and carved wood from Morocco.

Along the main hallway corridor is a series of dramatic groin vault ceilings leading to the main living area that is an extravagant space with soaring wood coffered ceilings, a decorative plaster fireplace









and handcrafted ironwork. Located off the principle room are the library, dining room, kitchen and two wings, including the master wing and a soaring tower wing with guest bedrooms, a study and a dark room to accommodate Gisela's talents for black and white photography. Room to roam indeed.



The other dimension of the homeowners lives at Dos Sueños, whom they share with their two Great Pyrenees, "Little Papa Bear" and "Sugar Bear" and their two terriers, "Mr. Bud" and "Boo Boo," is the couple's fast pace life as the owners of one of the region's most successful companies. "Wouldn't you know it, we named our agency to honor our visits to Spain," confides Girard. "Standing in awe at the footsteps of the Alhambra, we thought, 'now this was a creative civilization."



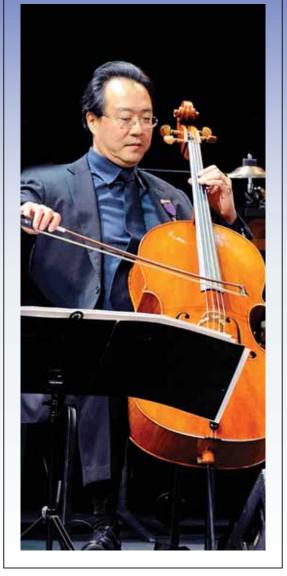
ARRIVAL

Asian Aesthetic

Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble Enthralls

sian nights in San Antonio may seem impossible to come by, yet with the music of world-famous cello virtuoso Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble, spectators were aurally transported eastward, experiencing the blend of musical cultures that once lined the legendary Asian Silk Road.

After the captivating harmonic performance, San Antonio arts patrons walked the red carpet from the Majestic Theater to the Hotel Valencia for the post-concert gala organized by the ARTS San Antonio foundation and the San Antonio Chamber Music Society. Taking his inspiration from the historical Silk Road trading route as a modern metaphor for multicultural and interdisciplinary exchange, Yo-Yo Ma brought together musicians and composers from around the world in this exciting performance that explored the relationship between tradition and innovation in music



from the East and the West.

Following the "world class" theme of the performance was certainly a worldclass event. Yo-Yo Ma graciously joined ARTS San Antonio and the Chamber Music's patrons at the Hotel Valencia for a gala honoring Asian tradition. ARTS San Antonio board member Trudy Madan claims that this event had more energy than most. "It was because of Yo-Yo Ma. He really wanted to get to know his supporters and he has such an exuberant personality," she says.

Guests enjoyed the lively company of Yo-Yo Ma in addition to the dazzling Asian cultural entertainment heard in a candle lit atmosphere surrounded with garlands of floating white orchids. Between the mysterious dances of the Chinese dragons and the exotic photo lounge with Asianinspired artwork by Cesar Proa, guests were entertained well into the wee hours.

By Ellie Leeper. 🔊

AN EVENING ON THE SILK ROAD WITH YO-YO MA AND THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE POST-CONCERT GALA ARTS SAN ANTONIO SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

> AN EVENING ON THE SILK ROAD WITH YO-YO MA AND THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE POST-COMMERT GALA

ARTSSA





Susan Franklin, Yo Yo Ma, Trudy Madan, John Toohey

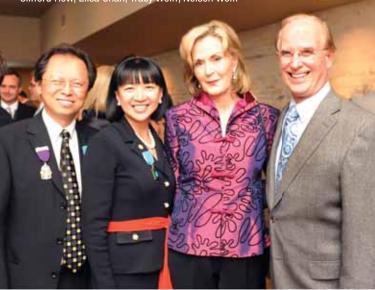


John and Vicki McLaughlin





Clifford Hew, Elisa Chan, Tracy Wolff, Nelson Wolff





BEYOND IJCHTS



It was the perfect day recently for successfully raising funds for the two vital charities; The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis and The Gridiron Heroes Spinal Cord Injury Foundation. Only in its fourth year, the event was sold out the celebrity golf tournament and evening for the second time a month before the event.

Created by NBC's critically acclaimed television show, Friday Night Lights' actors Kyle Chandler and Brad Leland, both decided years ago to create the tournament to raise funds for charities that help those with spinal cord injuries after shooting season one in which one of the characters sustains a spinal cord injury.

The celebrities were out in full force to support the charities. NBC's Friday Night Lights actors were out to support their cast-mates and Beyond The Lights hosts, Kyle Chandler and Brad Leland. Their cast mates like Scott Porter, Jeff Rosick, Derek Phillips, Danny Hunter, Stacey Oristano, Drew Waters, Jesse Plemons and Taylor Kitsch all appeared for the great event. Other celebrities in attendance included first timers, University of Texas coaches, Manny Diaz, Bryan Harsin and Stacy Searles, and STYX bass player, Ricky Phillips. At the golf tournament earlier in the day the Dallas Cowboys' secondary coach Dave Campo, and cornerback Terence Newman, and as well as CBS's CSI Miami's Rex Linn.

Austin Wows Guests

Most of the attendees can't wait until next year's shindig and many have already begun to brush up on their golf strokes in preparation for it. We love to play golf with our favorite celebrities, don't you?

NBC's Friday Night Light's star Kyle Chandler and event chair Heather Page



Steve Late, Ava Late, FNL star Taylor Kitsch, Jennifer Welch



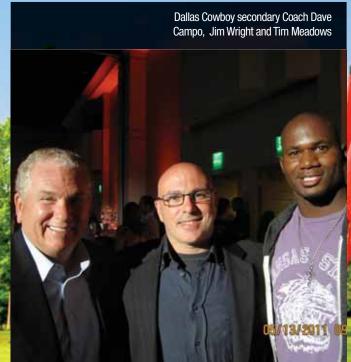




Velma Roppolo, Jeff Rosick and Linda McCollum









Gail Wells and George Pugh







Meenu Gurnani, FNL's Brad Leland and Payal Gurnani



Marvin Kanter and Shelly Kanter.



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continued on pg.92



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KATHLEEN SOMMERS 2417 North Main Avenue 210.732.2207

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RANCH AT THE RIM 18007 IH 10 West 210.319.3001

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K CHARLES & CO 7959 Broadway St. 210.798.3383

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THE WAVE SALON 440 Broadway Street 210.533.3831

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VERSI SALON & SPA 5528 Broadway 210.828.4407

> SEE MUSEUMS

THE ALAMO 300 Alamo Plaza 210.225.139

ARTPACE

445 N. Main Ave. 210.212.4900 Exhibitions: International Artist.

in.Residence: Andrea Büttner, Kurt Mueller, Adrian Williams

BLUESTAR 116 Blue Star 210.227.6960

Exhibitions: Chuck Ramirez: Minimally Baroque and Recent Works: Rodolfo Choperena and Carlos Betancourt

MCNAY ART MUSEUM 6000 N. New Braunfels Ave. 210.824.5368

Exhibitions: Shakespeare to Sondheim: Designs for the Tobin Collection and The Nightmare Before Christmas



SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART 200 W. Jones Ave. Exhibitions: Feria! Fold Art from Regional Fairs in Latin America

THE WITTE MUSEUM 3801 Broadway St. 210.357.1900

Exhibitions: Amazon Voyage: A Visual History of the San Antonio River

GALLERIES

ANARTE GALLERY 5800 Broadway, Ste. 202 210.826.5674 Maricela Sanchez

FINESILVER GALLERY

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GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER 1300 Guadalupe St. 210.271.3151

RENDON PHOTOGRAPHY & FINE ART 733 S. Alamo 210.288.4900 Exhibition: Harry Burg: Given to Oblivion

RUIZ.HEALY ART 210.804.2219 220 Paceo Encinal Exhibition: Chuck Ramirez: Minimally Baroque

DAVE SHELTON GALLERY 20626 StoneOak Pkwy, Ste 202 210.481.5200

SOUTH TEXAS: LAREDO

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AGAVE AZUL RESTAURANT BAR 120 W Village Blvd 956.722.2985

COSMOS BAR & GRILL 201 W Del Mar Blvd 956.727.3393

KOTO SUSHI & SEA BAR 1010 Hillside Rd 956.723.5685

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TONO'S 1202 East Del Mar Blvd # 106 956.717.4999

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RUMORS 9802 Mcpherson RD 956.795.1800

PAMPER

STUDIO 55 DAY SPA 7815 Mcpherson Rd # 102 956.712.4444

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COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT LAREDO 2410 Santa Ursula Avenue 965.725.5555

EMBASSY SUITES LAREDO 110 Calle Del Norte 956.723.9100

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POLLY ADAMS 101 Calle Del Norte 956.723.2969 VEGA'S INTERIORES 4002 San Bernardo Ave 956.724.8251

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REGIS SALON 5300 San Dario Ave Ste 454 956.723.233

> SEE MUSEUMS

LAREDO ART CENTER 500 San Agustin Avenue 956.725.1715

GALLERIES

LAREDO ART CENTER 500 San Agustin Avenue 956.725.1715

ROSALIE G. GOODMAN GALLERY-LAREDO ART CENTER Mario Cavasos Vela-Photography Show

LILIA G. MARTINEZ GALLERY-LAREDO ART CENTER Josephine Sacabo-Photography Show

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HOUSE WINE 1117 U.S. 83 Business 956.994.8331

KUMORI 400 Nolana Ave 956.618.5677

SANTA FE STEAKHOUSE 1918 S 10th Street 956.630.2331

COCKTAILS

MEZZANINE ON 17TH 109 South 17th Street 956.627.3899

PATIO ON GUERRA 116 South 17th Street 956.661.9100 PAMPER

SPA LA POSADA 4500 N 10th St # 110 956.687.7544

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CASAS DE PALMAS RENAISSANCE 101 N. Main Street 956.631.1101

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ARRANGE

austin social <mark>planne</mark>r

September 6 - 12 Austin Gay and Lesbian nternational Film Festival agliff.org

September 8 Fashion's Night Out The Society Diaries Launch The Society Diplomat Book Signing neimanmarcus.com/austin

September 8 Tour de Vin The Wine and Food Foundation of Texas winefoodfoundation.org

September 9 Beauty of Life Gala and Glossy 8 Austin Style Maker Awards Hospice Austin hospiceaustin.org

September 10 Austin Pride Festival austinpride.org

September 11 16th Annual Champagne Brunch Breast Cancer Resource Center bcrc.org

September 16 - 18 Austin City Limits Music Festival aclfestival.com

September 18 Seton Social 2011 Seton Medical Center Hays seton.net

September 23 Fete '11 Ballet Austin balletaustin.org

September 24 Glitz Out Youth outyouth.org

September 25 The Big Give 2011 I Live Her, I Give Here ilivehereigivehere.org

September 27 Food for Thought Communities In Schools cisaustin.org October 1 Austin Lyric Opera 25th Anniversary Celebration Ball austinlyricopera.org

October 1 Austin Pictures: Art, Music, Film, Inspiration Austin Classical Guitar Society austinpictures.org

October 1 5th Annual Hill Country Nights Hill Country Conservancy hillcountryconservancy.org

October 2 Seton Development Board Gala The Seton Fund setonfund.org

October 6 Signature Chefs Austin March of Dimes marchofdimes.com

October 8 OctoTea 16 Octopus Club octopusclub.org

October 13 La Dolce Vita Austin Museum of Art amoa.org

October 13 Lone Stars and Angels St. Jude Children's Research Hospital stjude.org/Austin

October 15 57th Annual Jewel Ball Women's Symphony League of Austin wslaustin.org

October 20 - 27 Austin Film Festival austinfilmfestival.com

October 21 Celebration Luncheon SafePlace safeplace.org

October 21 Masquerade Gala American Diabetes Association diabetes.org

October 22 Texas Book Festival texasbookfestival.org October 22 Viva la Vida Fest 2011 Mexic-Arte Museum

October 22 A Season of Dance Gala Austin Children's Shelter austinchildrenshelter.org

mexic-artemuseuminfo.org

October 23 The Pink Ball Seton Development Board setonfund.org

san antonio social planner

September 7 - 8 Dos XX Taste of the River Walk thesanantonioriverwalk.com

September 7 16 de Septiembre Ernie Awards Gala Avenida Guadalupe Association avenidaguadalupe.org

September 8 Fashion's Night Out The Society Diaries Launch neimanmarcus.com/San Antonio

September 9 Fire & Ice Gala The San Antonio Fire Museum Society sanantoniofiremuseum.org

September 17 4th Annual President's Gala for the Future of Health University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio uthscsa.edu

September 18 Chefs & Cellars culinariasa.org

September 23 Dancing with the Stars San Antonio Family Endeavors safamilyendeavors.org

September 23 Las Americas Awards Gala & Julian Gold Fashion Show Ayundar es Posible lasamericasgolf.com/gala

September 26

An Evening with Deepak Chopra Battered Women and Children's Shelter of San Antonio fvps.org October 1 Red & White Ball 2011 Texas Cord Blood Bank bloodntissue.org

October 6 Gala in the Garden Southwest School of Art swschool.org

October 10 -San Antonio Fashion Week fashionweeksa.com

October 14 AT&T Championship PGA Golf Champions Tour pgatour.com/tournaments

October 15 HRC San Antonio Gala and Silent Auction Human Rights Campaign sanantonio.hrc.org

October 15 33rd Annual Cattle Baron's Gala American Cancer Society gala.acsevents.org

October 17 41st Annual Witte Game Dinner Witte Museum wittemuseum.org

October 18 Hole in Wine Golf Classic culinariasa.org

October 19 18th Annual Holiday Ole Market Junior League of San Antonio jlsa.org

October 22 Red Carpet Gala American Red Cross, San Antonio Area Chapter saredcross.org

October 23 20th Annual Alamo Theatre Arts Council Globe Awards atac-sa.org

October 31 25th Anniversary Gala Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities hacu.net

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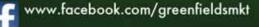
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