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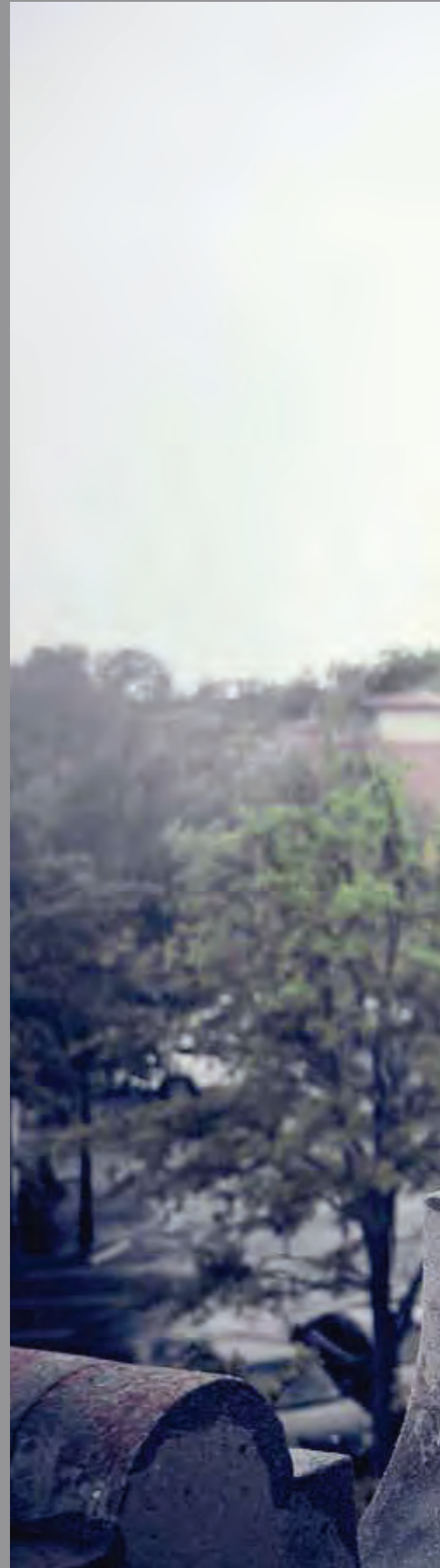


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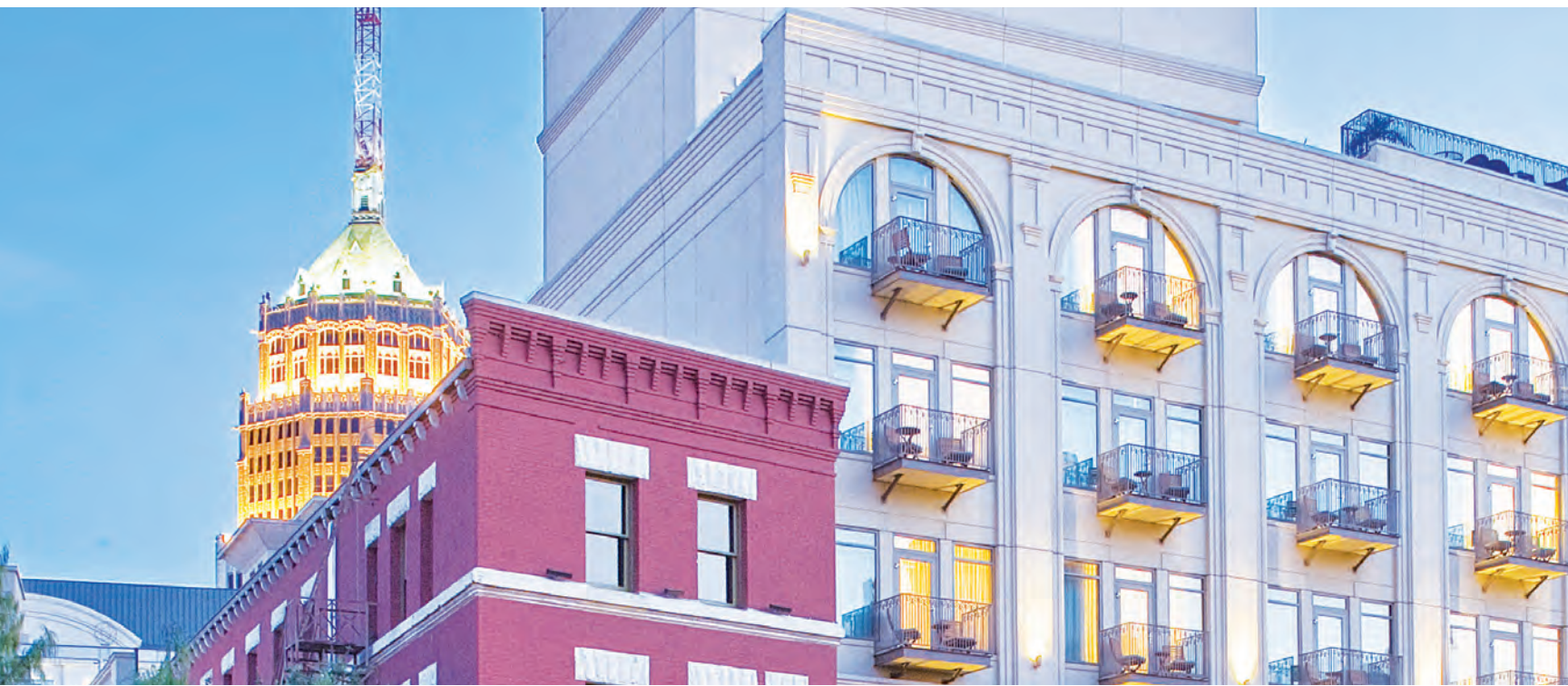
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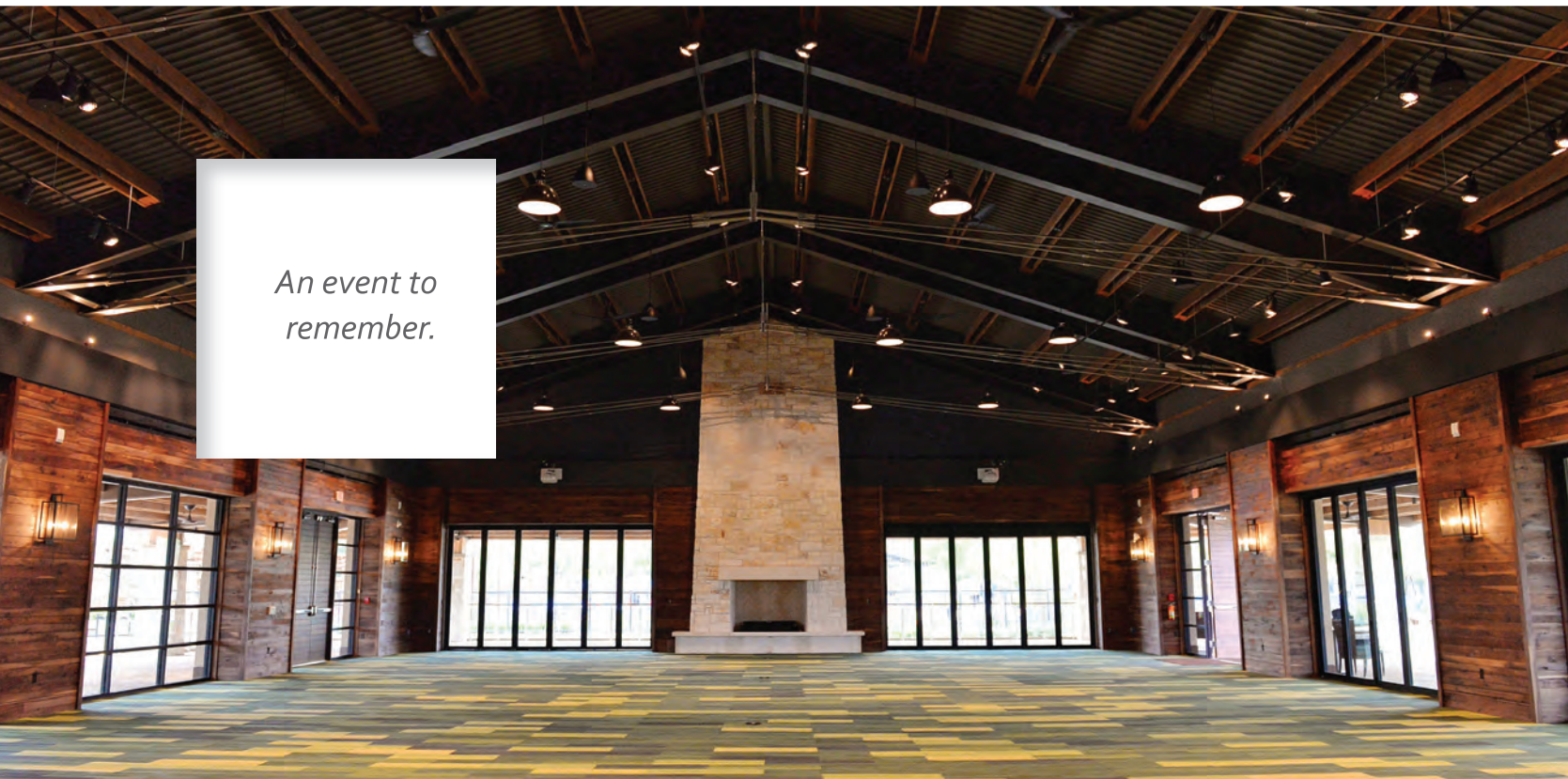
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312 WENNMOHS PL. • ON LAKE LBJ
1.7± acres • 11,104± sf • 7 bedrooms • 7 full & 3 half bathrooms • \$6,995,000

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416 LIGHTHOUSE DRIVE • ON LAKE LBJ

134' waterfront • 4,895± sf • 4 bedrooms • 4 full & 2 half bathrooms • \$3,500,000

This Grand Horseshoe Bay home is located on Lighthouse Drive, it is a remarkable lake house in a very prestigious and highly sought after location on Lake LBJ. Captivating open waterfront with views that delight the senses, designed and built specifically for ultimate enjoyment of Lake LBJ and has outstanding architectural detail that makes the home unique and a stand out on Lake LBJ. An intriguing wall of windows captures your attention as you enter and see the beautiful blue water of Lake LBJ. Not to be out done the massive fireplace stands tall and elegant, commanding its place in the home. Truly an inviting home with enduring style in a exquisite location.



82 APPLEHEAD ISLAND • ON LAKE LBJ

0.84± acres • 10,521± sf • 6 bedrooms • 7 full & 2 half bathrooms • \$5,700,000

Stunning is the only way to describe this majestic estate on prestigious Applehead Island in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. Undeniably one of the most amazing estates on Lake LBJ featuring exquisite open water of 487' and views that captivate the imagination. Overlooking the spa and negative edge pool that seems to flow endlessly into the lake are several outdoor areas embracing the unsurpassed view. The home features 10,521 sq.ft. of pure luxury and timeless architectural details.



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104. GAME OF STONES

The armature of this season's fashion is rock-solid magnetism from top to toe. Here we visit the most modern and feminine clothes paired with the stateliest of statues thousands of years old. Old meets new in fall's style game. Again.

Photography by Mark Oberlin
Styling by Franzy Staedter

114. THE NEXT BIG THING

The path to fame can be as sleek as silk, as Brandon Maxwell has proven with his meteoric trajectory from Lady Gaga's stylist to full-fledged designer. Here, in an exclusive, we get up close and personal with him and learn why he might just be the next Halston. Buckle up.

By Lance Avery Morgan
Photography courtesy of
Brandon Maxwell Studio

120. ADRIATIC ADVENTURES

Ever wanted to dive into the deep blue sea inspired by an ancient world? Look no further than the sophisticated shoals of Croatia, Dalmatia, Dubrovnik, and beyond.

By Rose Betty Williams
Photography courtesy of Rose Betty
Williams, Archival

126. SHORE THING

Down in Mexico. It still has a romantic ring when choosing a five-star resort for a long weekend, doesn't it? Look no further than our latest discovery on the Riviera Maya, the Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso.

By Amber Elliott
Photography courtesy of
Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso

MYTHIC PROPORTIONS
Dress by Rubin Singer, \$5990 at Neiman Marcus. Belt and bracelet by Gail Be Designs, at GailBe.com. Earrings by Charles Albert, \$132 at CharlesAlbert.com. Shoes by Salvatore Ferragamo, \$950 at Julian Gold.

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48. EVOLVE

Life is so much more vivid when lived in vibrant color; according to our Austin-based Resonance Repatterning practitioner Mary Schneider, and it's all about how the hues of experiences blend together.

50. ATTUNE

Want to live more of your life with a rock star vibe? Who wouldn't? Singer-songstress Amy Edwards shares valuable tips on how your life can be in tune with the relationships that mean the most to us.

52. READ

The chicest tomes that fall and winter have to offer are here and ready to be read and displayed, according to our bibliophile Jonathan Spindel.

54. CHERISH

There's nothing like adoring our pets with unconditional love as Suzanne Negley catches up with the poshest pooch owners.

56. RAISE

Dr. Miranda Fernande Walichowski, our family expert, weighs in on how authenticity is tantamount in every parent and child relationship.

58. DISCOVER

Dallas is a mecca for glam this fall, as our style setter Cynthia Smoot reports on the best of it.

60. SEEK

Around the world we want to see all there is to do this season, don't you? Our globe-trotting Jonathan Spindel is on the scene to select the most dazzling choices.

62. PROMOTE

A fresh look at the events, people places and things happening across the state this month.

32. CONTRIBUTE

It takes a village to create this magazine and our digital media platform. Here is a look at some of the many talented dynamos who make it happen.

36. EDIT

Editor-in-Chief and Creative Director Lance Avery Morgan is more than ready for pursuing the exciting fall ahead that's on the horizon for all of us.

38. CURATE

Looking for more culture? Who isn't? It's here, there and everywhere at some our state's finest museums in the country, according to our active arts devotee Jonathan Spindel.

40. ACQUIRE

Flower power rears it's pretty wintery head and our style editor Erin Busbee has selected her favorites that will look gorgeous on you. So, go ahead, surround yourself in the essence of the fervent florals.

42. BEHAVE

Our Ms. Modern Manners Sharon Schweitzer, JD is at the rescue for all your good behavior conundrums during the fall: from political savviness to declining sorority rush.

44. BEAUTIFY

We love bringing the newest and most exciting products directly to you for a fetching fall, thanks to our beauty trend follower Jason Grosgrain.

46. REVEAL

Texas style and philanthropy icon Carolyn Farb shares an unprecedented look at her favorite people, places and things with Lance Avery Morgan



Carolyn Farb

46

Photography by Sofia van der Dys



Illustration by Antonio Lopez

60



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**ENTRANCE
ARRIVAL**



66. NEW YORK, Pilar and Juan Pablo Molyneux and Catharine Hamilton



72. SAN ANTONIO, Texas Biomedical Forum Gala Committee Members



84. DALLAS, Brendan and Anne-Marie Morrow



100. HOUSTON, Gracie Cavnar and Celebrity Chefs



92. AUSTIN, Bobbi and Mort Topfer

**THE VERY BEST EVENTS
ACROSS TEXAS & BEYOND**

SPECTATE

66. NEW YORK

The biennial American Friends of Versailles gala

ENTRANCE

68. TEXAS

The Texas Women In The Arts event

72. SAN ANTONIO

The Texas Biomedical Research Institute gala

78. AUSTIN

The St. David's Foundation events

84. DALLAS

The Emmitt Smith Foundation gala

86. HOUSTON

The Houston Symphony ball

88. SAN ANTONIO

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation luncheon

92. AUSTIN

The ZACH Theatre gala

96. DALLAS

The DIFFA gala

100. DALLAS

The Recipe For Success event

102. SAN ANTONIO

The San Antonio Botanical Garden gala

104. AUSTIN

The Contemporary Austin gala

ARRIVAL

130. SAN ANTONIO

The Le Brunch des Chapeaux luncheon

134. DALLAS

The Dallas Museum of Art gala

138. SAN ANTONIO

The Gardenia & Musical Club gala

ARRANGE

144. Laura Villagran-Johnson and Kevin Smothers of Austin Social Planner have canvassed the state for all the best events for you to attend.



88. SAN ANTONIO, Laura Bush, Alice Foultz and Jenna Bush



78. AUSTIN, David Booth, Slavka Glaser, Julie Niedert and Tobie Funte Flannery



130. SAN ANTONIO, Brandi Sutherlans, Lindsay Nash and Nicole Hatter



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Dress by Pamela Roland, \$5785 at Neiman Marcus. Necklace by Gail Be Designs at GailBe.com. Earrings by Charles Albert, \$132 at CharlesAlbert.com. Shoes by Salvatore Ferragamo, \$950 at Julian Gold

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Toast of the Town 2016 was a blooming success. Contributions of more than \$491,500 were matched two-to-one by the St. David's Foundation Community Fund, providing a total of \$1,474,500 for the St. David's Neal Kocurek Scholarships. We would like to give a grand bouquet of thanks to the sponsors, hosts, partygoers and special guests who made Toast of the Town flourish in 2016.



CONTRIBUTE



ERIN BUSBEE

After years of working as an award-winning journalist at CBS in New York, a marriage and move to Texas, along with an inherent passion for fashion, prompted Erin to start her own consulting company in 2009, specializing in styling 'real' women. In an effort to reach women worldwide, Erin is now focusing most of her attention on her blog, BusbeeStyle.com, and YouTube channel, BusbeeStyle TV. Erin's goal is to share her styling expertise with her contemporaries... 40+ year old women.

AMY EDWARDS

Our *Attune* department contributor Amy Edwards is a rocker, podcast host, actress and writer. She first picked up a guitar five years ago, and now has two solo albums (*Ghosts and Saints*, *FORWARD*) and a new EP, *Get LIVE*, due out May 2016 with her band Amy & The Hi-Fis. She channels all she's learned on this journey into RYmagazine.com and her forthcoming book, *#RockYourLife: 30 Days of New Habits to Achieve Your Dreams*. For music and more, visit RealAmyEdwards.com.



AMBER ELLIOTT

Amber Elliott's preoccupation with style, philanthropy, and culture became a career when she assumed editorship of *Brilliant* magazine in 2009 until the magazine went digital in 2010. She then transitioned to Manhattan for opportunities at *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Vogue*, *Style.com*, *Hamptons*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Elliott currently reports on the Bayou City's philanthropic scene as the *Houston Chronicle's* society reporter. She's also a dedicated board member for The Printing Museum and Second Servings in addition to DiscoverU's executive council. In this issue she reports on a new resort on Mexico's Riviera Maya.



ROB GIARDINELLI

Certified professional life coach and branding expert by day, social commentator by night describes Associate Editor Rob Giardinelli and his multi-tasking when covering this month's social stories. What may appear seamless actually takes hours of research, interviews, and photo gathering to accurately chronicle the state's charitable event stories. Giardinelli himself is involved several philanthropies and loves sharing how Texans so generously and passionately give back to the community they love, while he weaves interesting social commentary that showcases the many who work tirelessly to raise awareness toward important issues in the state.



LAURA VILLAGRAN-JOHNSON AND KEVIN SMOTHERS

If there is an event or gala to attend in Texas, count on Laura Villagran-Johnson and Kevin Smothers to keep you in the know. As the founders of the social guide and online calendar *Austin Social Planner*, Austin's definitive online source for society events, they know where to go, when to be there and how to dial in to the particular charity behind it. The founders have a combined an events background of almost 30 years across Texas, New York and Los Angeles. Photography by Stacey Harrell.



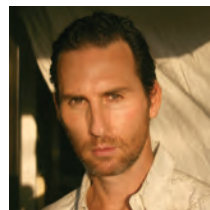
SUZANNE NEGLEY

Suzanne Negley helps our Cherish department page about chic Texas people and their pets. After completing her B.A. in Art History and a stint in haute cuisine at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, Negley worked as a styling assistant for Net-a-Porter.com and an accessories assistant for *Vogue* magazine in New York. She eventually and happily followed the siren call back to Texas, and now lives in Austin where she works as a stylist, river enthusiast, and full-time animal lover.



MARK OBERLIN

Our feature photographer for this issue's *Game of Stones* fashion editorial cover story is Los Angeles-based Mark Oberlin. Oberlin has also photographed 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 his work can be found at MarkOberlinPhotography.com



JENNIFER ROOSTH

Associate Editor Jennifer Roosth is a Houston-based writer who never ceases to be amazed by the wonderfully generous spirit of the Houston philanthropic community. "It's nice to live in a city where so many are excited about giving back," she says, "In the process, they throw some mighty fine parties."



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MARY SCHNEIDER

Do you believe that intelligence is fixed? Mary Schneider, who helms our *Evolve* column, does not and has been a student of alternative healthcare modalities for over 25 years. She is an Austin-based Certified Resonance Repatterning Professional in private practice (Repattermit.com). Schneider is also an ordained minister and certified in Touch for Health, and has studied homeopathy, the Chinese 5 Element Acupuncture System, the work of Byron Katie, Fabian Maman and numerous other alternative modalities. She regularly loves speaking in the community about how we heal.

SHARON SCHWEITZER

Our Ms. Modern Manners etiquette expert Sharon Schweitzer, J.D. is an internationally recognized intercultural communication and international etiquette expert who advises and trains executives, entrepreneurs and emerging leaders in Global 2000 companies. An avid writer and popular blogger, she is the author of *Access to Asia* (Wiley). Her travels, both business and leisure, have taken her to over 60 countries on the world's seven continents. She makes her home in Austin with her husband, John and their golden retriever, Charm. Photography by Korey Howell Photography.



CYNTHIA SMOOT

A partner at Gangway Advertising, Cynthia Smoot creates buzz for some of Dallas' hottest brands through interactive social media strategies and public relations for the firm's lifestyle clients. She is the go-to resource for what's happening and who you need to know in Dallas. Through her popular lifestyle blog OhSoCynthia.com readers get the latest scoop and inside information on fashion, food, philanthropy, events, celebrity and reality TV news. Smoot describes her blog as "a love letter to the city of Dallas" and enjoys taking readers along for the ride as she experiences all that the city has to offer.

FRANZY STAEDTER

Los Angeles-based Franzy Staedter styles this issue's fashion editorial cover story, *Game of Stones*. Her signature is creating styles that retain a clean and classic quality. She loves working with celebrities like Josh Dallas, John Cho, Kevin McHale, Grace Gealey and Stef Dawson, while her styling talents has been published in *Vanity Fair Italia*, *Vogue Italia*, *Elle Canada*, *Instyle*, *FHM*, *Di'Jour* and *Vents* with covers for *Bella*, *The Fashionista*, *Composure* and *XO*. Staedter also styles and costume designs for production houses creating content in film, television and advertisements.

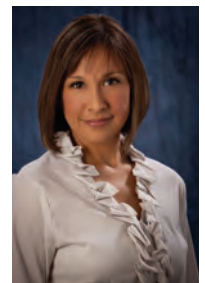


JONATHAN SPINDEL

Jonathan Spindel is a native Austinite with a global appetite for arts and culture. When he's not searching the world for the best trends to share with our readers, he can be found at local art galleries, music venues, and hip happenings around the capital city. He reports on all that makes us proud to be part of Texas society and is inspired by the unique individuals and organizations he engages as an Associate Editor, highlighting the happenings that bring the best to, and make the most of, our great state.

MIRANDA F. WALICHOWSKI

Miranda F. Walichowski, Ph.D. is a certified professional life coach and docent at Texas A&M University in the Department of Educational Psychology, helping her clients achieve measurable results when it comes to professional and personal growth in her role as coach and principal of MiraNous Coaching & Consulting, LLC (MiraNous.com). Dr. Miranda has developed a coaching process based on how the brain works to help individuals develop self-awareness, self-mastery, and self-actualization. She has co-founded a once-in-a-lifetime, transformational experience, the New You Journey (NewYouJourney.com), an intensive six-month coaching program that culminates in a 1,200-year-old pilgrimage from the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains in France to Santiago de Compostela, Spain.



ROSE BETTY WILLIAMS

Wherever there is a wonderful party, there is usually social chronicler Rose Betty Williams. This month she writes about Croatia from her five-star point of view. She leads symposia, plans events, serves on boards and supports organizations from OperaAmerica to the Helping Hand Home for Children and facilitates networking for project and product development. Williams is a longtime Austin resident, freelance writer and photographer with a passion for fine art, music, wine, books, tennis, food and life... and a deep love for her family and community.



ELAINE TURNER

Natural Curiosities

AWAKEN TO YOUR SENSES

FALL 2016



HOUSTON | THE WOODLANDS | PLANO | SOUTHLAKE | SAN ANTONIO

APPAREL | HANDBAGS | FOOTWEAR | JEWELRY

CAFÉ SOIGNÉ, ANYONE?

AUTUMN BECKONS. RECENTLY, WHILE DINING AT THE beyond-hip hotspot in Manhattan, Beauty & Essex, where brunch turns into a discothèque before you can say Jiminy Cricket, I immediately thought of how these sun drenched days will soon turn into cool-as-a-cucumber nights of fun and frolic around the state.

As the warmth of summer fades into a near distant past, the hustle of fall's bustle is here, as if to almost whisper in our ear, *Come to the party, it's time again to celebrate The Great Life.* With the election upon us soon and all of us voting our principles and world view of where we ideally want to progress in the next four to eight years, it promises to be a thrill a minute. In fact, buckle up since it will likely one heckuva invigorating ride this season because, hey, life is all one big ride, isn't it, with the twists, turns and curves mapping our progress?

Fall, to us around here, means not only priming ourselves for the fall gala season where so many philanthropies help so many in need, but also we are realists in knowing that swimsuits give way once again to black tie attire. To present what we see as the latest and greatest, yet enduring fashion trends, we love how our stellar photography team of Mark Oberlin and Franzy Staedter knocked our cover fashion feature out of the ballpark, while swinging for the fences. The new soigné, as we call it, is as effervescent as a freshly popped bottle of bubbly, all with a fun approach in mind to keep you on your toes from café to gala... and beyond.

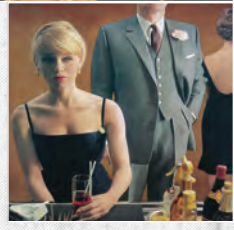
We're always looking for firsts, and we think we have a tiger by the tail with my catching up with new *It* designer Brandon Maxwell, appearing at the Women's Symphony League of Austin luncheon September 23rd, a chap from East Texas who is changing how the globe dresses: it started with styling Lady Gaga and now encompasses his own line in select chic stores. His talent, and folksy approach to his wide ranging talents will likely captivate you as much as it has us. In fact, we're going to be so bold as to predict his fiery talents light the sky much like the inceptions of the meteoric careers of Yves St. Laurent, Halston and Geoffrey Beene. Yep, that's how much we anticipate his career to soar, and dressing First Lady Obama recently at the State Dinner for Singapore is just another feather in his cap, too.

With our inimitable attention to culture both far and wide, we look to Associate Editor Jonathan Spindel's *Curate* and *Seek* columns, among his other thumbprints across the magazine, to inspire what we experience and how it can continue to impact us. Rose Betty Williams, a seasoned globetrotter who is as much at home fishing salmon in Wyoming as finding the best Christmas shopping in Paris, as she has reported here

before, sets sail on the Adriatic to give us a glimpse of the land of the actual setting for the hit series, *Game of Thrones.*

Closer to home, we whisk away to New York for the biennial American Friends of Versailles festivities, as well as across this grand state to see who raised what funds for what causes, who wore what where, and how and when the event spaces were transformed for their time in the sun. Like I mentioned, buckle up because each and every one of our stellar contributors lives and breathes the great life so they can chronicle it here and bring their specially curated perspective. We love featuring in the Contribute department pages so you can understand more about the person behind the approach.

Remember that it takes a village as fall awaits and you vote your conscience. And, so do we, with bated breath, anticipate the most glamorous months in the year where you live *your* own great life that you'll soon see reflected here. That's a promise and see you in the ballroom. **S**



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Editor-In-Chief
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Photography by Megan Kyle Bennett





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FALL FOR THE ARTS

As the season cools down, the arts continue to heat up. Follow our curatorial connoisseur Jonathan Spindel to discover some of our favorite events and exhibitions happening now

AUSTIN



WARHOL BY THE BOOK

If you like Andy Warhol's pop art style, you'll love this collection – the first of its kind – of the artist's book projects; from his early days as an art student to his height as a New York pop art superstar celebrity. Oct 16 to Jan 29, 2017. At BlantonMuseum.org

LUNCHEON SET

Join Brandon Maxwell, featured in this issue, as he is the keynote speaker and shows his latest runway collection at the Women's Symphony League of Austin event on September 23. Details at WSLAustin.org



DALLAS/FORT WORTH



CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE

Globally renowned artist KAWS draws from pop culture to depict complex human emotion, balanced with humor and bold artistic style. See the exhibition before it ships off to Shanghai. Oct 20 to Jan 22, 2017. At TheModern.org

CERAMICS 'CROSS THE WORLD

Don't you love iconic Talavera Poblana earthenware from Mexico? Did you know the style was influenced by Chinese porcelain? Learn the fascinating story of how it came to be, featuring stunning examples of pottery from around the world. Sept 17 to Feb 12, 2017. At CrowCollection.org



HOUSTON



IMPACTFUL IMPRESSIONS

Degas was known for his impressionist masterpieces of dancers, but his oeuvre spans myriad subjects and styles. See it all in this comprehensive collection, at the only U.S. venue for this exhibition. Oct 16 to Jan 8, 2017. At MFAH.org

PIONEERING PICASSO

Famous for pioneering Cubism, Pablo Picasso was one of the 20th century's most influential artists. See almost 100 of his works on paper that span a range of styles mediums. Organized by and shown exclusively at the Menil. Sep 16 to January 8, 2017. At Menil.org



SAN ANTONIO



ILLUSTRIOUS ILLUSTRATING

Carlos Mérida began working with folkloric themes of Mexico and Guatemala, but exposure to avant-garde artists such as Modigliani and Picasso, and styles like Surrealism and abstraction on travels to Europe, greatly influenced the artist. His graphic illustrations are alive with color and motion. Until Jan 29, 2017. At SAMA.org

BOTANICAL BEAUTY

Take in the natural beauty of the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, featuring special art installations, butterflies, hummingbirds and more. Learn more about the special summer events schedule at SABOT.org





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FLORAL ACCENTUATED

Add fall florals to your living room with bold accent pillows like these that really pop against this elegant, ivory sofa. Price upon request. Availability and photo courtesy of Stowers Furniture



BOUQUET OF BROOCHES

Beautiful brooches for your blazer or blouse. These handmade stunners, designed by Oscar Heyman, are made of gold, diamond and various standout stones like sapphire and ruby. From \$24,000. Availability and photo courtesy of Duncan & Boyd Jewelers

VERY CARRY

Liven up your LBD with this chic evening clutch by Judith Leiber Couture. And, yes, you can wear navy with black. \$4,495. Availability and photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus



BOHO TO BOOT

For the boho babe, and fashion risk-taker, these floral-embroidered suede over-the-knee boots by Laurence Dacade will no doubt make a statement. \$1,195. Availability and photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus



BOHEMIAN QUEEN

Beautiful, dark, strong with a touch of boho. This gorgeous, couture gown by Zuhair Murad is a work of art. Price upon request. Photo courtesy of Vogue



FIT FOR A PRINCESS

For your winter gala, this gorgeous gold and diamond collar necklace by Roberto Coin from the Princess Flower Collection is the perfect piece. \$30,250. Availability and photo courtesy of Lee Michaels

SECRET GARDEN

Florals, no longer reserved for the summer season, are on glorious display in every color and scale of prints, from blossoms in neutral tones, to fairytale florals and bold metallic botanicals. These romantic, stylish pieces hand-picked by our style editor Erin Busbee will inspire you

WINNER BY A NECK

The must-have accessory for fall is the choker necklace. This white gold and diamond choker from Penaloza & Sons is sexy, romantic and glamorous. \$6,525. Availability and photo courtesy of Penaloza & Sons



Lauren Bacall, 1944



PEPLUM PERFECTION

This satin, floral-print, peplum “Isadora” top by Erdem is the epitome of femininity. Wear with the matching skirt or with skinny jeans and pumps. \$970. Availability and photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus



FLORAL REWARD

This stunning white gold and diamond pendant will be a surprisingly versatile and luxe addition to your wardrobe. \$4,650. Availability and photo courtesy of Calvin’s Fine Jewelry



YOU’RE ‘DA BOMB’

Part of the athleisure trend, this floral-print bomber jacket by Roberto Cavalli. Wear with skinny jeans or add a bit of drama and pair it with wide leg, black trousers. \$1,980. Availability and photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus

LONG, LEAN LINE
Wearing pendent necklaces like this chic, caviar anemone piece by Hazel Smyth elongates the upper body. Adjust the length to fall just under your bust. \$375. Availability and photo courtesy of Baker Tatum



ARMED & GORGEOUS

For the classic woman who still wants to try the floral print trend. This Dolce & Gabbana bag combines classic print, bold colors, and versatile size and structure. \$2,745. Availability and photo courtesy of Saks Fifth Avenue



GO AHEAD, SPARKLE
This cashmere, sequin, flower cardigan by Maliparmi will add some sparkle to your otherwise muted fall palette. \$342. Availability and photo courtesy of Garden Room



WALL FLOWERS

A collection of Antique French Botanicals set on Archival Board, from a book dated 1892 is the perfect addition to any room. We love that preserving the fragility of a flower for hundreds of years like this creates a stunning décor statement. \$3,400 for the set. At Joyeux Home Decor



HELLO THERE, SUNSHINE

These cat-eye, floral print sunglasses by Dolce & Gabbana are the perfect accessory for your fall/winter looks. \$300. Availability and photo courtesy of Saks Fifth Avenue

PEONIES, PLEASE
In the front, this *Tiffany* chair by Haute House is stark white. In the back, it is upholstered in a bright, bold, floral-print fabric. Such a chic surprise \$1,424. Availability and photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus



TAKING THE HIGH ROAD

The attention to current etiquette can often be both a blessing or a challenge. Here, *our Ms. Modern Manners* etiquette expert Sharon Schweitzer, JD, shares her flawless insight on potential conundrums

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

How do I respond graciously to impertinent political questions about how I voted in the primaries, or am voting in the upcoming elections? I know this is de rigueur on the international scene. However, here in the U.S.A, it is still impolite in domestic social circles. How shall I handle?

Politically Inclined

Dear Polite Politico,

How to exercise your right to remain silent, keeping your views private:

Keeping your opinion to yourself can be difficult; however privacy is possible. Say something like, “In the midst of such a contentious political season, I feel it’s best to keep my opinion to myself. I do appreciate your interest and wish you the best in your own political decisions.” By acknowledging and thanking them for their genuine interest, you are able to defer a sticky political conversation, while keeping your views private.

How to respond graciously when faced with a persistent questioner:

If they are persistent and continue asking for your opinion, you can play the undecided card and change the subject. “I’m still evaluating all the candidates or all the issues and haven’t made up my mind yet. It will be interesting to see how it all plays out.”

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

Sometimes I feel like a Downton Abby Dowager when I see young ladies sitting down so casually in a social situation. Shouldn’t a lady always smooth her dress from the back when she sits so that when she rises the wrinkles are lessened? And while we are on the subject, shouldn’t she cross her legs at the ankles when seated?

Era Everlasting

Dear Era Eternal,

As with so many social graces, if you wish to see more of them, lead by example. Some young women may not have been taught the practice of dress-smoothing; they can learn by observing you and passing along the lady-like tradition.

Today, worldwide, seating positions vary for royalty, diplomats and business professionals, including women, on social and business occasions. For example, the appropriateness of a female crossing her legs at the ankles, or crossing her legs at all, varies by country. Most often the very best seated position for women and men, for business, health and social reasons, is to sit with your back straight and both feet firmly planted on the floor.

Dining Delicately

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

My daughter has chosen to not go through sorority rush due to the adjustment to college the first year and her attention to studies. My friends have inquired as to why she didn’t join the legacy sorority of our family. How shall I react?

Sisterly Seeking


Dear Sorority Sister,

Since the Greek System is a tradition in your family, when responding to this question, stress that academics are the highest family priority, even above her legacy status. Explain clearly and concisely that she plans to focus on her studies and build a solid grade point average before making the Greek commitment, if at all. Warmly smile and say you support her 100% and then segue to with a meaningful question about your friend’s children, upcoming travel, or career projects.

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

I’ve had it with my grown sister’s table manners. She eats too far from her plate and claws her silverware as if it were a sickle and trowel. How do I politely steer her to a finer path of more sublime dining etiquette?

Dear Sublime Diner,

Since it’s not appropriate to correct someone’s manners unless you have been hired as an etiquette expert, one possibility is to invite her to attend a Modern Dining Manners course with you. A second option is to give her a gift certificate from a local manners consultant. A third option is to hosting a children’s dining etiquette tutorial and inviting her to attend as a table hostess who must master the manners before the children arrive. *Bon appétit.* 



A woman with her hair styled in an updo and wearing glasses is looking through a microscope in a dark, historical-style laboratory. She is wearing a long, white, lace-trimmed gown with a long, flowing train that spreads out on the stone floor. The room is filled with various scientific instruments, books, and glassware, creating a rich, atmospheric setting.

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BRIGHT AND CLEAR complexion can be yours with SK-II GenOptics, based on research to eliminate spotting and skin clouds before they start. \$240. At SK-II.com and Neiman Marcus



FALL INTO BEAUTY

Effortlessly go from the warm late summer toward the brisk autumn breeze with these new beauty products that will help you look your best in every season, according to *Jason Grosgrain*

INTELLIGENT FACIAL OIL Arbonne Intelligence Nourishing Facial Oil adjusts to your skin's needs in any weather, giving you a glowing look all day long. Super antioxidants and high-impact botanicals create an even tone and smooth texture. \$75. At Arbonne.com



ILLUMINATE YOUR COMPLEXION with Pure Radiance Skin Serum, featuring cutting-edge technology for even toned, bright youthful skin, naturally. \$229. At MyPureRadiance.com



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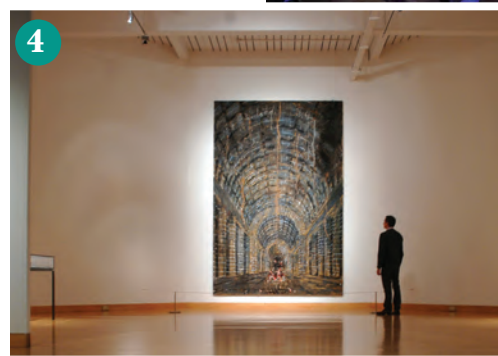
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THE MAGIC'S IN THE MIX

Carolyn Farb is a Texas legend, pure and simple. Patroness of the arts and humanities, her fame for fundraising paralleled Houston's meteoric climb on the national scene and hasn't stopped yet. Here, in an exclusive interview, she muses on her favorite things with *our social arbiter and dear friend Lance Avery Morgan*

- 1 **An unforgettable place I've travelled is...** Venice. It is magical, mysterious, fragile and such a romantic place, with the sounds of the classical voice of the castrato singing in the night.
- 2 **The site that inspires me is...** *The Beloved Immortal* memorial site for my son, Jake.
- 3 **The last music I downloaded is...** *Someone Like You* by Adele, *Yesterday* by The Beatles, *Tears in Heaven* by Eric Clapton and *Landslide* by Fleetwood Mac.
- 4 **An artist whose work I would collect is...** Anselm Kiefer, and there are many others. Art is my passion.
- 5 **My style icon is...** the inimitable Stevie Nicks because she is true to her spirit and her unique persona. She inspires my own expression of art: designing jewelry, clothes of assemblage and wearing hats with goggles atop, petticoats and laced corsets.
- 6 **The last item I added to my wardrobe is...** a gold python Tom Ford envelope bag with a tassel.
- 7 **The best gift I have given recently is...** several dapper baby outfits complete with a jaunting cap for my Godchild Keasbey and a peignoir set for my sister's grandchild, Isabella James from my two favorite baby boutiques: Mint Baby and Bering's. I love shopping for children's clothes – tutus are a must.
- 8 **The best gift I have received is...** challenging to have choose one. I am blessed. For sure a magnificent Ingrid Dee Magidson painting and my favorite pair of sexy, strappy low-heeled perfect blue shoes by Valentino.



9 **If I had to limit my shopping to one neighborhood in one city...** I can't do that; either Robertson Boulevard or Madison Avenue.

10 **My favorite room is...** my Elizabeth Taylor-style bedroom that I share with my two rambunctious Lucas Terriers – Lucas and his son, Maximillian.

11 **An indulgence I would never forego is...** the classic sumptuous warm five-nut brownie at Houston's – it might be worth skipping directly to the finale.

12 **My favorite go-to beauty essentials are...** Rouge Dior lipstick and Le Prairie's Skin Caviar Luxe Lift Eye Cream.

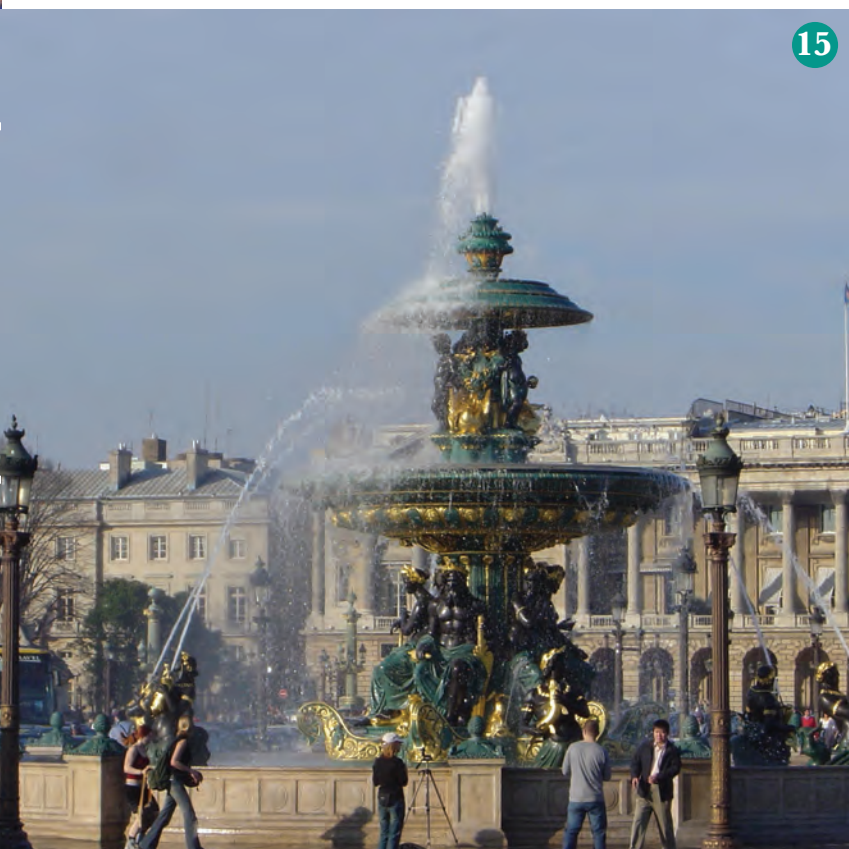
13 **My favorite fragrance is...** I have many, but I especially love *Le Baiser Du Dragon* by Cartier.

14 **If I didn't live in this city I'd live in...** it is difficult to imagine not being in Houston and Texas, as that is where my heart and soul reside.

15 **My favorite street in the world is...** the beautiful Place de la Concorde in Paris from its many views.

16 **If I weren't doing what I do, I would be a...** I had a speaking role as Ida in *Die Fledermaus*, which was quite a challenge, with Opera in the Heights and the late maestro William Weibell. Another maestro Svengali, who believes in my different types of artistic expressions, could inspire me and be the stage mother I never had.

17 **On my tombstone it will say...** *She did it her way with great care for others and the purposeful life, never wanting it to end.* S





COLOR YOURSELF ENLIGHTENED

What color is happiness? Ever felt a strong connection to colors that can change how you feel in an instant? *Austin-based Resonance Repatterning Practitioner, Mary Schneider* shares insight on how color can enhance the world around us

COLOR, MEET LIGHT

Substantial research shows that color matters, indeed plays a pivotal role in our visual experiences and lives. In fact, color addresses one of our basic neurological needs for stimulation, and engages participation, where it may draw us in or repel us. As an integral part of our life, it is used to both soothe and alert, yet many of us are unaware of the part that color plays in the healing process.

Using light as a healing modality has become an integral part of my practice. As I studied the different healing systems used in Resonance Repatterning, I've devoted time learning Chinese Five Element Acupuncture. And, you guessed it, color is a major component of this, and one of the most elegant healing systems I know.

Have you ever felt worry in your stomach, or laughter in your heart? According to the Five Element system, organs truly hold different emotions. Anger is the emotion of the Liver Meridian when it is imbalanced. The Liver Meridian is part of the Wood Element along with the Gall Bladder Meridian. The Wood Element is about anger, resentment, being stuck and unable to achieve what it is we want for ourselves. When the Wood Element is balanced, we have hope and we make positive decisions and good choices that lead us to where we want to go in life.

The color that heals the Wood Element is green. The color that heals the Fire Element is red. In 1999, I was suffering from serious angina and it hurt whenever I laughed. The Fire Element is associated with the heart, and laughter is a necessary and effective healer of the heart by supporting joy and connection. When it is imbalanced we experience disconnection and bonding stress. The acupuncturist told me, "You have a weak heart. Eat red food." I went back for two more sessions and the angina was completely healed. I had been eating apples and strawberries, pomegranates, and any red food I could find, and my angina never returned, thus I became a true believer.

COLOR AND CHAKRAS

The Indian Ayurvedic Chakra system also employs color as a major element of its healing structure. For instance, the colors that heal the heart chakra are pink and green. Many years ago, a client walked in my door dressed from head to toe in pink and green. It was as if they were holding a neon sign that said, "I have a broken heart." Sure enough, what came up was a session to help heal a shattered heart.

Much of the research in the area of color therapy was performed by Indian doctor Colonel Dinshah P. Ghadiali, MD, born in 1873. He immigrated to the United States with his wife and two children, and called this therapy Spectro-Chrome. The equipment we use in Resonance Repatterning for light therapy comes from the Dinshah Health Society in Malaga, NJ. We primarily focus on the following colors: scarlet, red, orange, yellow, lime, green, turquoise, blue, purple, indigo, violet, magenta and pink. Each of these colors has both physical and psychological attributes, the same color frequencies Dinshah used to heal with color and light. What we now know and use is what Dinshah taught almost a century ago. If we want a high level of health and wellbeing, we need to absorb the colors of the spectrum in the correct quantity and quality.

In her book, *Spinal Up! 27 Energizing Options To Be Your Best Right Now*, Chloe Wordsworth, who developed Resonance Repatterning, writes, "Negative beliefs, feelings and attitudes distort or inhibit the absorption of particular color wavelengths. If we are unable to absorb a specific frequency, we are also unable to radiate that frequency. This lack of radiant color in our energy field impacts our energy level, our emotional well-being, our thinking, and how others relate to us and we to them."

Many times the colors we are drawn to in our homes or in our clothing are the frequencies we are deficient in. Think about it. What are the primary colors in your closet or in your home? As the client dressed in pink and green, we know what we need on a fundamental and subtle level. This is just the tip of the iceberg of this fascinating healing modality. To learn more, consider scheduling a Resonance Repatterning session for yourself, and experience these phenomena first-hand. **S**



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KEEPING YOUR BEAT

Being close with someone who plays to their own beat may sometimes be challenging, but it's an opportunity to create melodious harmony, too. *Austin-based musician Amy Edwards* shares how playing in a rock band helped her understand successful relationships

EVERYTHING IN LIFE HAS WITH ITS OWN RHYTHM. When you're working, playing, and living life according to you — whether you're single or attached — you develop your own style and your own beat, so to speak, for cadence and crescendos.

Some of us, for better or worse, rarely, if ever, change. We've all heard that someone “marches to their own beat” and we've heard that used as a compliment and in a well-bless-their-heart kind of way. What about the opposite, though? We've all known that person... the one who adopts everything their significant other likes or doesn't like. The one whose whole identity becomes the relationship they are in, or maybe even subsumes the identity of their kids; the one who seemingly has no opinions of their own anymore. It comes in degrees, and as a relationship or marriage develops and blossoms, of course you're going to share more and more interests, but sometimes it goes too far. You know that person. Maybe that person is you.

A large part of an initial attraction is differences in personality. Yet without our sense of self, our own persona can slip away, without us even realizing it. Over time, perhaps, we fall into what's easy, like slipping on an old, favorite strappy heel, and we can forget to challenge ourselves and maintain our own beat, because the beat you're playing to is familiar and your “ear” has grown accustomed to it.

It's easy to think, “I'd never let that happen to me.” But I know of this firsthand. I know because I lost my beat once. Not so many years ago, I gave in, over time, to a lot of things that weren't me. One day, I suddenly looked up to see that my life was not mine anymore. I didn't know whose it was. I didn't dislike the life I was leading, necessarily. By many standards, it was fantastic, and what many people probably dream of: a beautiful house in suburbia; a child and room for more; a husband who loved me; thoughts of a minivan. But I knew, deep down, *that this life wasn't mine*. I was playing to a beat that made me feel

complacent. I wasn't living a life that made me move or that made my soul dance, corny as that sounds, but it's true.

That marriage ended in divorce. There's more to that story — yet, I learned how a partner can feel unfulfilled when there's too much symmetry in the relationship. Relationships can be revitalized, but we have to shake up that beat. When was the last time that you found something a new passion, simply for no other reason than it interests you? Has it been a while? Now's the time to refresh yourself.



Think for a moment to what it means to be in a band. When you're in a band, yes, you have to go with the drum beat, or it's chaos. You all have to fall into your roles and stay together, in time, to have a unified sound. But the sound of rock 'n roll doesn't necessarily stay right with the drum beat. It varies, and the guitar often plays a little off the beat, pushing or pulling, in order to get the intended vibe.

In music, and in life, it's key to have your own part, literally, as well as your own cadence, and your own “beat.” Yes, you want to stay “in time” together, but finding your own

way, your own sound, and your own original part to play is crucial to staying engaged in all life has to offer.

Your own relationship is just like a band. Mutual independence while co-existing closely is a trick that takes time and practice to master. It's beyond sanguine to say you're “making music together,” but it's the truth. *This* is your band, the interdependent partnership that lets both parties flourish. You may come into the whole thing with clashing rhythms, but the sounds meld together and you find a common tune, one that suits each of you and provides you the freedom to move within it — one you can come back to if you lose your way, but one you won't lose yourself in. You each shine and play your part and get heard... together. Hang onto yourself and trust yourself, because you've got your beat — and the unique “sound” that makes you, *you*. Go ahead, be your own rock star. **S**

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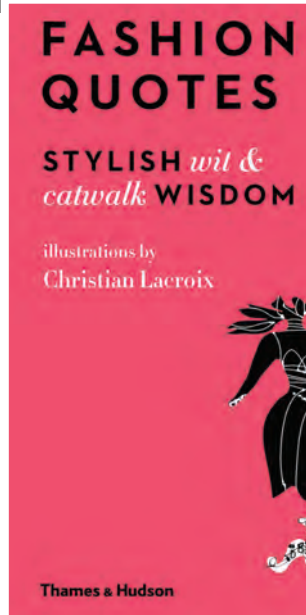
2015 NE Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78217 In Los Patios, off Starcrest Exit
11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Wednesday thru Sunday or by appointment

READ

STEFANO PAPI & ALEXANDRA RHODES

SELF ON THE SHELF

Looking for ideas to invigorate your intellect? Take inspiration into your own hands with our selection of this season's most beautiful books as our *bona fide bibliophile Jonathan Spindel* shares



MOTOWN: THE SOUND OF YOUNG AMERICA

BY ADAM WHITE, BARNEY ALES, ANDREW LOOG OLDHAM Dive into a visual history of the Motown record label, which defined an era with the sound of The Jackson 5, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and more. \$60.

At ThamesAndHudsonUSA.com

20TH CENTURY JEWELRY & THE ICONS OF STYLE

BY STEFANO PAPI, ALEXANDRA RHODES See the most spectacular gems and jewelry of the 20th century, and the influential women from international society who wore them. Featuring the collection of eleven glamorous women including the Duchess of Windsor and Maria Callas. \$65.

At ThamesAndHudsonUSA.com

FASHION QUOTES: STYLISH WIT AND CATWALK WISDOM

BY PATRICK MAURIÈS, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE NAPIAS, CHRISTIAN LACROIX The fashion world is known for the quickest wit and sharpest tongues. From Oscar Wilde to Miuccia Prada, this collection includes hundreds of the snappiest quotations selected over three centuries. \$19.95.

At ThamesAndHudsonUSA.com

MOMENT BY MOMENT BY JOHN LOENGARD A good photograph captures an instant of time that can hold our interest forever. This book collects Loengard's iconic shots of movie stars, politicians, artists and the influential personalities of our modern times. \$50. At ThamesAndHudsonUSA.com

IN THE SPIRIT OF RIO BY BRUNO ASTUTO The spirit of Rio lives in the hearts of its citizens: generous, creative, open-minded, and in constant motion, they are a people of all colors and creeds. \$50. At Assouline.com

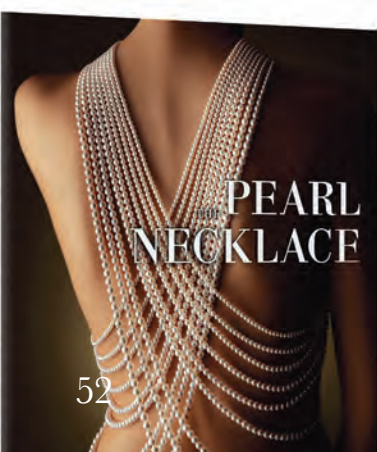
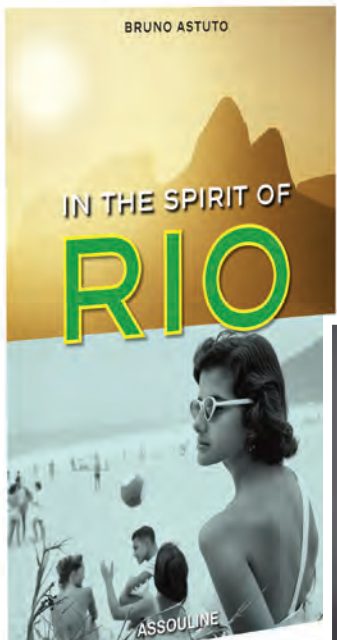
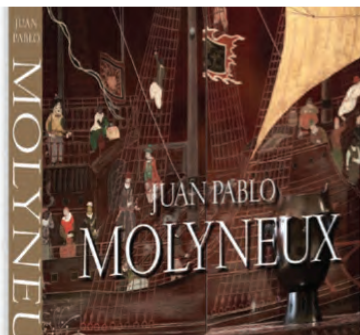
JUAN PABLO MOLYNEUX AT HOME

BY LAURE VERCHÈRE The internationally acclaimed interior designer creates luxurious interiors the way others write epics. Molyneux's interiors are space-time extravaganzas, to say the least. \$95. At Assouline.com

THE PEARL NECKLACE BY VIVIENNE BECKER The pearl necklace is an iconic classic, which has offered an irresistible invitation to subversive reinterpretation through the centuries. Renaissance queens, maharajas, First Ladies, and starlets from the Golden Age of Hollywood. \$85. At Assouline.com

YVES SAINT LAURENT: THE PERFECTION OF STYLE BY FLORENCE MÜLLER An intimate look at the famed designer and his work, revealing his artistic process and influences. Understand the motivations behind the designs that modernized haute couture. \$45. At RizzoliUSA.com

CAROLINA HERRERA BY CAROLINA HERRERA, JJ MARTIN, SUZY MENKES The first name in American elegance, Carolina Herrera's style exudes luxury, femininity, and impeccable taste, seen here as the house celebrates its 35th anniversary, \$75. At RizzoliUSA.com



INTERIOR DESIGN MASTER CLASS

BY CARL DELLATORE Poised to become the next essential book on design, this collection includes expertise from the best interior designers in the world today. \$50. At RizzoliUSA.com

BEAUTIFUL: ALL-AMERICAN DECORATING AND TIMELESS STYLE

BY MARK D. SIKES A showcase of chic ideas for every home, Sikes's interiors are inspired by classic California living. \$45. At RizzoliUSA.com

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE OF THE CAFÉ SOCIETY

BY BARON DE CABROL The glamorous European aristocrats from the 1920s to the 1960s are chronicled like never before. The watercolors, collages and archival documents help the reader discover the journey back in time. \$120. At RizzoliUSA.com

WANDERLUST: INTERIORS THAT BRING THE WORLD HOME

BY MICHELLE NUSSBAUMER, HUTTON WILKINSON Get inspired by Nussbaumer's lush, dramatic interiors inspired by travels around the world. \$50. At RizzoliUSA.com

WOMEN IN DIOR: PORTRAITS OF ELEGANCE

BY LAURENCE BENAÏM An exquisite celebration of Dior's most glamorous dresses and the women who wore them. \$45. At RizzoliUSA.com

CECIL BEATON AT HOME: AN INTERIOR LIFE

BY ANDREW GINGER A private tour of Cecil Beaton's passion for interior design, gardening, and fashion. Peek into the British renaissance man's own beloved residences. \$65. At RizzoliUSA.com

GREAT HOUSES, MODERN ARISTOCRATS

BY JAMES REGINATO This stunning book presents the intriguing stories and celebrated histories of some of the UK's leading families...and their occasional scandal. \$60. At RizzoliUSA.com

DERUNJINSKY CAPTURING FASHION

BY ANDREA DERUJINSKY The golden age of European haute couture was captured stunningly with his revolutionary ideas and the mystique and glamour that is now pervasive in fashion. \$80. At Rizzoliusa.com

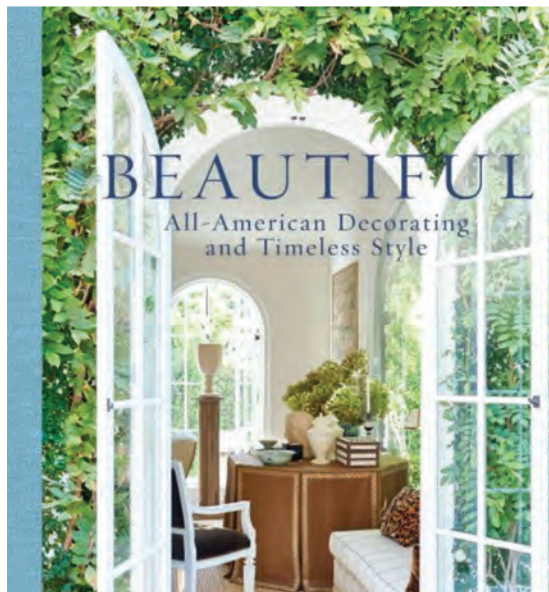
KELLY HOPPEN: THE ART OF INTERIOR DESIGN

BY KELLY HOPPEN Master designer Kelly Hoppen offers a wealth of experience and advice on achieving your signature style. \$60. At RizzoliUSA.com



INTERIOR DESIGN MASTER CLASS

100 LESSONS FROM AMERICA'S FINEST DESIGNERS ON THE ART OF DECORATION



DOG DAY AFTERNOON

Our resident pet expert *Suzanne Negley* loves to capture dogs and their owners. Here she again finds the most interesting pooches and their owners to photograph to share how their pets enjoy their chic environments



Mayson Pearson & Gus
Austin

MAYSON PEARSON & GUS, AUSTIN

What is your pet's most outstanding quality?

Gus is so beautiful that he answers to the word. People say it to him so often that he thinks that *Beautiful* should be his name.

Who was Gus in another life?

Ernest Hemingway... in the Cuba years.

BURKLEY FITZSIMONS & GUS, HOUSTON

What is the genesis of your pet's name?

My husband would say Augustus McCrae from *Lonesome Dove*, I say Gus the mouse from *Cinderella*. Both suit him perfectly.

What's Gus's look these days?

He's very versatile. He has a large collection of sweaters because he's often cold. Camo for the ranch, preppy stripes for city.



Burkley Fitzsimons & Gus
Houston



Kelly Negley & Heidi
San Antonio

KELLY NEGLEY & HEIDI, SAN ANTONIO

What is your dog's signature trait?

She's a girl's girl, through and through. She'll flirt with the male dogs at the park, but gets scared if they come too close and runs away.

Who was Heidi in another life?

A Hollywood starlet, possibly Audrey Hepburn. She walks like a poodle and is sure she is the greatest thing to happen to this world. **S**



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TRUE GIFTS OF PARENTING

We know that being our genuine selves helps us be better parents. Here *our dynamic parenting and relationship expert, Dr. Miranda Fernande Walichowski* shares how your true authenticity creates the best parenting path possible

GO AHEAD, BE YOURSELF

Mothers can feel burdened by their own expectations of perfect parenting. It is not perfect parenting that mothers should strive for. To be happier in parenting, mothers just need permission to be themselves. They need permission to give themselves in the most authentic way. At times, this type of authenticity can be a matter of life or death, as it was in the Debakey family.

Houston-based Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey (1908 – 2008) was an renowned cardiologist, scientist, innovator, and educator. This accomplished doctor saved and will continue to save thousands of lives because of the advances that he created in medicine. He was able to do this because of the authenticity of his parents. DeBakey credited much of his success to his mother, Raheecja Debaghi, for teaching him to sew, crochet, and knit. DeBakey's mother was simply being herself and giving of her authentic self: her talents, her interests, and her natural contributions.

His father, Shaker Debaghi, also had a strong influence on him because he owned a pharmacy in which the younger DeBakey worked. It was there that he was inspired to become a doctor because of the interactions that he had with the doctors who frequented the pharmacy. His father shared of himself, in his most natural way, in his most natural setting. Had Debakey's parents expended energy in trying to provide perfect parenting instead of having the simple approach of parenting and loving as their authentic selves the world might not have ever benefited from his greatness.

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

What is *your* greatest gift? You are the unique, best, and original version of yourself. Striving to be someone other than whom you are only creates a second-rate version of the person you are emulating. Not allowing yourself to be authentic and give of yourself in that way, deprives the world of your true gifts. Nothing happens by coincidence. Who you truly are is who your children truly need. Joan of Arc said, "one life is all we have, and we live it as we believe in living it. However, to sacrifice what you are and to live without belief, that is a fate more terrible than dying." That in mind, being your true self will always be the best path possible. Your children, friends, and everyone you influence will be better for it, and you'll gain so much more enjoyment from your parenting and personal life. **S**

WHERE PARENTING STANDS

When Dr. Daniel Kahneman, cognitive psychologist and father of behavioral economics, surveyed working women in the United States, he asked them to rate their enjoyment of various activities in their lives. Out of 15 items, "time with children" ranked 14th, after housework. In the same study, working mothers ranked "intimate relationships" and "socializing outside of work" as the two most enjoyable events.

It would stand to reason that engaging in conversation that has depth and intimacy allows someone to feel understood and accepted for being themselves. It would stand to reason that in socializing with her friends, a mother would feel the freedom to be self-expressive, to be herself. In the same study, they found that fathers seemed to express more positive feelings about parenting. Many fathers are more playful in their parenting. Fathers seem to bring more of their authentic selves into their parenting. Are mothers not themselves when they are parenting?

The study suggests that women feel a sense of inadequacy when it comes to their ability to parent well. Mothers may overthink things. It's not uncommon that they second-guess themselves. They vacillate with rules and following through on consequences because they are afraid to make mistakes. Mothers are more apt to compare themselves to other mothers and feel that they are not as effective. Some have come to trust the latest parenting information instead of only trusting their intuition.

Being your authentic self is not just a nice gesture in sincerity. The quest for authenticity is a visceral pursuit of our hearts. William Shakespeare intertwined his wisdom and life maxims in his plays. One of Shakespeare's most recognized verses is from Hamlet, spoken ironically by Polonius: "This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man..."

Perhaps the quotidian aspects of parenting contribute to a mother losing her sense of self. Perhaps feeling insecure about parenting and seeking to emulate others might contribute to a loss of self. Perhaps, in the quest for perfect parenting, a mother's true self is subsumed by whom she perceives she needs to be. But it doesn't need to be this way.

CARMEN

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FAN FAVORITES

There she is. That's our Dallas-based girl-on-the-go Cynthia Smoot you see about town. Here she shares her favorite things to do and see as the warm weather cools off in Dallas this season

MEET ME AT BIG TEX

Celebrating 130 years of tradition this fall, the 2016 State Fair of Texas is bringing you another round of Texas-sized fun. From traditional State Fair staples to the latest new additions, the Fair offers a wide range of entertainment included in the price of admission. Music fans can enjoy free concerts on the Chevrolet Main Stage featuring headliners like Kacey Musgraves, Nelly, and Ben Rector. New attractions include The Taylor Swift Experience™, Lords of Gravity Basketball Slam Dunk Show, the Lone Star Stampede show, multiple new food locales around the fairgrounds and a special exhibit focusing on this year's theme "Celebrating Texas Agriculture." Fairgoers can have their annual fill of corn dogs and funnel cakes at the 2016 exposition, running September 30 through October 23. For more information, visit BigTex.com

Photography by Kevin Brown/State Fair of Texas®



Big Tex



Gown by Nardos Imam

John Cain



Nardos Imam

GLOBAL GLAM

Growing up in the war-torn country of Eritrea in northeast Africa, Nardos Imam had very limited exposure to fashion, yet she dreamt of becoming a fashion designer since childhood. As a child, she would look through her mother's old *Vogue* pattern books for inspiration for her own designs, which she created by using the scraps from her mother's work room. At the age of 25 Nardos enrolled in El Centro

College in Dallas where she developed a skill for costume design that later developed into a passion for designing wedding gowns. Today, her collection has grown to include evening and cocktail dresses and she handcrafts every detail of her gowns to bring them to life, adding select high-end fabrics, custom beadwork and jewels that are hand-selected from around the world. Nardos also recently opened a new boutique in tony Victory Plaza. Shop in person or online at NardosDesign.com
Photography by John Cain Studio



Kari Lord



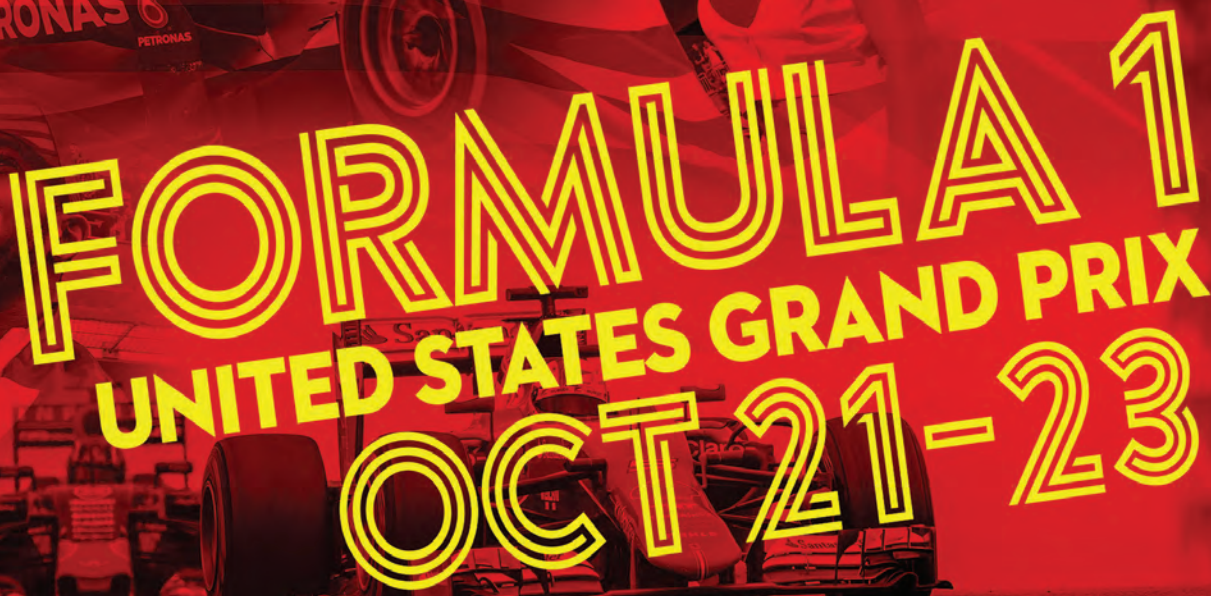
Simply Glowing Tee

TONE & TAN

Summer is fading fast, yet thanks to Simply Glowing, your tan doesn't have to disappear with the season. Founded by Kari Lord, the sunless tan solution is formulated with FDA approved Dihydroxyacetone, known as DHA. DHA is a simple sugar that reacts with the protein in the epidermis layer of the skin. The specially formulated solution was designed

to avoid orange tones, so the result is a completely natural-looking tan. Simply Glowing has many celebrity devotees including Candace Romo, Tiffany Hendra from *The Real Housewife of Dallas* and fashion bloggers Courtney Kerr and Tori Gonzales. Celebrate your love of the tan with one of Lord's adorable tees, too, with multiple designs on her website. Simply Glowing operates out of Era Salon in Highland Park and Reign Salon in Southlake. For more information, visit Simply-Glowing.com

Photography of Kari Lord by My Little Umbrella Photography
T-shirt photography by Courtney Renee Photography **S**



FORMULA 1

UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

OCT 21-23



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Amanda Valentine's collection. Photo by Carlos Barron

Lone Star, Meet High Style

Making strides in the fashion world, Fashion X brings fashion week home, featuring the best and brightest emerging designers from Texas and around the world.

Fashion X Dallas hits the runway September 8-10. At FashionXDallas.com
Fashion X Houston takes place October 13-15. At Houston.Fashionx.com



Rijksmuseum Netherlands

Dutch Master Duo

Quite possibly the greatest renaissance painter, Rembrandt captured the human condition with such skill and empathy that is rarely matched. Two newly acquired masterpieces now on display at the recently refurbished Rijks Museum in Amsterdam until October 2. At RijksMuseum.nl



George O'Keeffe

Beauty In Bloom

Delicate and powerful, Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings capture the enchanting allure of nature and femininity. On display at the Tate Modern in London until October 30. At Tate.org.uk

Life, Through A Lens

Photographer Diane Arbus' portraits catch precious moments from the hustle and bustle of city life. Each portrait tells a story with subtlety, compassion, and artistic truth. In NYC until November 27. At MetMuseum.org



Stuart Davis

Bold, Meet Beautiful

Harnessing the speed and spontaneity of modern American, Stuart Davis created impactful abstractions that exude the spirit of popular culture. His bold pieces continue to reflect and influence modern style. In NYC until September 25. At Whitney.org

Diane Arbus



Illustration by Antonio Lopez

Artful Fashion

Inspired by real-life looks from the New York street scene, Antonio Lopez turned his inspiration into high fashion design illustrations. His bold, spectacular style pays homage to the history of art and fashion. In NYC until November 26. At ElMuseo.org



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READY, SET... ZOOM

Circuit of The Americas, F1 & Taylor Swift = The American Sound Track

By *Jake Gaines* Photography courtesy of *Circuit of The Americas*

F1 IS BACK AT CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

Formula 1 returns to the Circuit of The Americas this October...bigger and better than ever. Having a premier, world-class racing venue in Austin has been the wildest dream come true for thousands, and to properly celebrate its fifth anniversary of F1 at COTA, they've enlisted the aid of someone who knows all about *Wildest Dreams*; 10-time Grammy winner and pop superstar Taylor Swift will perform a full concert Saturday evening after qualifying races on October 22nd.

SEE THE AMERICAN DREAM IN ACTION

Raise the red, white and blue flag and strike up the Star Spangled Banner. There are new kids on the block making waves in Formula One. Haas F1 Team has not only revived F1 in the U.S. as an active American team, they've finished 6th and 5th in the first two F1 races of 2016. By scoring points in their debut race, they have become the first F1 team since 2002 to score points in their inaugural Grand Prix.

FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAN PRIX

Following Lewis Hamilton's championship-clinching win at last year's wet and windy race, widely considered to be the best of the 2015 season, COTA is thrilled to welcome F1 back to Austin for the fifth year running. With the addition of Haas F1 Team - the first American-led Formula One outfit since 1986 - to the grid, this year's race will take on extra significance for fans of F1 in the U.S. This year's Grand Prix will be the first time to have an American-led Formula 1 team race in the U.S. since 1986, and at the rate they're going now, we could very well see an American team win points at their home race at COTA. Haas is excited. Fans are excited. It's going to be a USGP like never before.

RIVALRY REVELRY

The rivalries are already heating up, bringing unparalleled passion to the on-track action. You can almost taste the tension between Rosberg and Hamilton, and truly feel the excitement Ferrari and Mercedes' rivalry brings to the track. With fierce competition and intense drive comes spectacular racing. Get in on the action and witness the drama unfold live on the 3.4-mile stage.

VIP HOSPITALITY

Circuit of The Americas offers the ultimate in world-class excitement in VIP premium hospitality areas, where comfort meets luxury and international style mingles with Texas flair. Located at the most exciting turns around the track and featuring the best views of the action, they are the place to be for the biggest entertainment weekend in the US.

COTA invites you to experience the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Grand Prix Formula 1 with upgraded amenities, hotel packages and attentive customer service. To connect with a COTA representative about ticket options or questions call 512.536.1453 or visit CircuitOfTheAmericas.com.



Taylor Swift



JW MARRIOTT SAN ANTONIO HILL COUNTRY RESORT & SPA'S NEW LUXURY

River Bend Pavilion Group For Special Events

The JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa and TPC San Antonio has brought a new level of luxury to the legendary Texas Hill Country. The first JW Marriott resort in Texas, the site is surrounded by rolling hills, meandering creeks and live oak trees, all just minutes away from San Antonio International Airport. It is the one of the largest JW Marriott resort in the world, situated among 600 picturesque acres and boasting 1,002 richly appointed guest rooms with expansive views of the Hill Country terrain. The resort features the 36-hole TPC San Antonio golf course, adjacent to the newly expanded 9-acre River Bluff Water Experience, which includes a 5,100 square foot indoor pavilion and expansive event lawn.

Ideal Destination For Special Events

Designed to host events of all sizes, the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa offers the largest customizable convention, meeting and event space in the market, with more than 288,000 square feet of area designed with the latest audiovisual technology.

River Bend Pavilion

The newest addition to the impressive selection of event space is the River Bend Pavilion and event lawn located in the recently expanded River Bluff Water Experience. With indoor and outdoor event capabilities, the Pavilion offers an ideal space for weddings, special events, golf award banquets, receptions, group meetings and concerts as well as resort recreational experiences. Steps away from and overlooking portions of TPC San Antonio, the picturesque setting of the new event space gives groups access to impressive views in a more intimate and unique location with immediate access to the River Bluff Water Experience. The 9,400-square-foot indoor pavilion boasts an enormous outdoor event lawn, a perfect location for indoor-outdoor events, including a large deck and stage, ready to entertain over a thousand attendants.

Catering Capabilities

Catering at the River Bend Pavilion and event lawn is a culinary delight. Groups are given the option of several customized menus, depending on the style of the event. Fresh ingredients, all breads made fresh and in-house, handcrafted dessert creations and healthy menu options are closely planned with each group. Among group favorites are seasoned locally

grown pecans, dried fruit, beef jerky and smoothie bars. In the mood for grilling? The Pavilion boasts a custom outdoor grill measuring 7-feet wide and weighing more than one ton. Guests will be delighted with an interactive display of wood fire grilling for events of all sizes.

Technology Know-How

The resort's robust infrastructure allows for today's ever-changing technology needs. There is an Executive Business Center with 24-hour access offering an environment conducive for work or meetings with a full spectrum of services available. Wireless capabilities are also available inside the entire property, and technology staff is available for all audiovisual and networking needs, allowing state of the art presentations with HD displays, projectors, and professional sound.



Green initiatives

The JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa, a LEED certified resort, is a proud participant of various environmental, energy conservation and waste reduction initiatives, or as they like to call them, *Green initiatives*. A few unique efforts include: the TPC San Antonio golf facility is

designed for water conservation, featuring a closed loop irrigation system that catches water run-off for reuse with a vision that has been certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

World Class Accommodations & Hospitality

With the 9-acre water experience with multiple pools, a meandering river, and water rides, and seven restaurant and lounge options including a multi-media sports bar, the resort offers something for everyone. The resort's rooms, including 85 suites, reflect the authentic style and hospitality of the Texas Hill Country. The spacious rooms feature custom designed furniture and finishes that make use of hand-tooled leather, copper and ironwork also used throughout the property. Spacious bathrooms offer the serenity visitors expect from a luxury resort experience.

Located less than 20 minutes from the San Antonio International Airport and 30 minutes from downtown, JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa is part of the master-planned community of Cibolo Canyons.



SA Women's Hall of Fame



Henry Cisneros, Gilberto Ocanas and Lionel Sosa



Mayor Ivy Taylor



Hon. Sandee Marion, Beverly Guerra, Susan Franklin and Kathy Sosa

THE HONORS GO TO...

San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame Hosts Annual Event

South Texas women gathered at the Omni Colonnade to induct the 2016 class into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. The sold-out crowd of 600 guests enjoyed an evening of inspirational tributes and entertaining musical performances that celebrated the 17 iconic inductees who represented outstanding accomplishments in more than a dozen professional and creative fields.

Guests enjoyed an elegant evening with a focus on the future as they paid tribute to the honorees and raised over \$139,000 for college scholarships for graduates of the Young Women's Leadership Academy, a program of the San Antonio Independent School District. With the theme of *Visionary Women Who Inspire Tomorrow*, the organization inducted Hon. Sandee Bryan Marion, Sylvia Ramirez Reyna, PhD, Col. Lark A. Ford, RN, MSN, PhD (Retired), Sondra Grohman, Elaine Mendoza, Hon. Karen H. Pozza, Hon. Phylis Speedlin, Barbara B. Gentry, Hon. Patti Radle, Jeanie Wyatt, Susan C. Franklin, Major General Angela "Angie" Salinas (Retired), Mayor Ivy R. Taylor, Janie Martínez Gonzalez, Kathy Sosa, Janet Campbell, and Beverly Purcell-Guerra. Legendary singer and Hall of Fame member Patsy Torres began the program with an energetic start, while students from the Young Women's Leadership Academy served as ushers.

The San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and the San Antonio Independent School District began a five-year partnership in 2014 to improve higher education graduation rates by providing scholarships for the YWLA. This includes funding scholarships for graduating high school students and college students from the Academy and a mentoring program between students and Hall of Fame members. The Academy is San Antonio's only all-girls public school focused on the core values of college readiness, leadership development, and health and wellness.

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SPECTATE REGALLY SPEAKING

Gala de Versailles Series In New York Stuns With Royal Opulence

By *Kelsey Goldberg* | Portrait Photography courtesy of *American Friends Of Versailles*



THE SCENE:

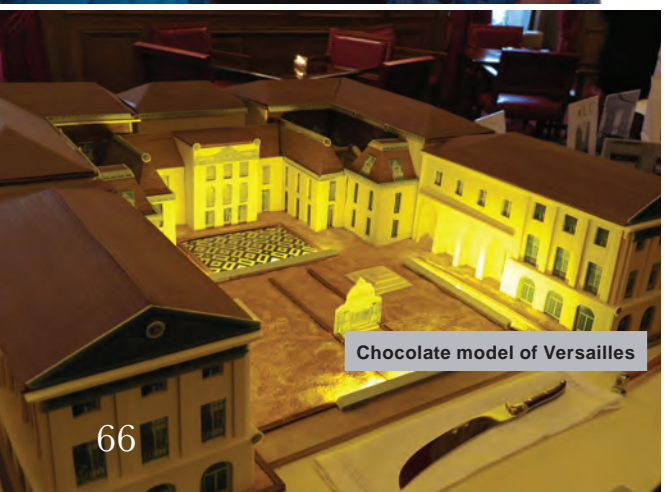
Benefiting the restoration projects of the Château de Versailles, the American Friends of Versailles, the brainchild of Amarillo-born and Chicago resident Catharine Hamilton who is originally from Amarillo, presented Le Grand Gala de Versailles, an extraordinary series of events honoring The Queen's Guards Room of the exquisite French landmark. Hundreds of guests arrived at one of the most elite private clubs in New York. Myriad exclusive events, luncheons and cocktails were attended throughout the week of festivities at the fabulous residences of many honorable chairmen and committee members, culminating in a special reception in the Palace of Versailles itself.



Pilar and Juan Pablo Molyneux and Catharine Hamilton



Cassandra Longoria



Chocolate model of Versailles



Princesse Beatrice de Bourbon des Deux Siciles and Mr. and Mrs. Alain Fournier-Laroque Heusser



Cheri Longoria



Frances LaGatta Shelton

THE VIBE:

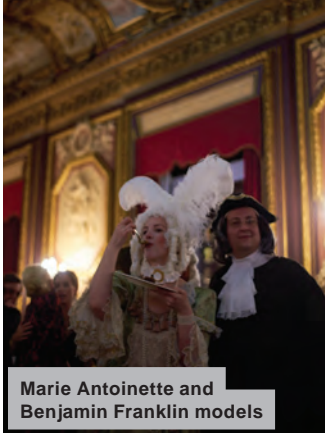
Many spectacular festivities occurred in order to honor this tremendous event. The unforgettable week kicked off with a welcome reception and tour of the beautiful, private art collection of Aso O Tavitian. Following, Henry and Nancy Kissinger hosted a magnificent luncheon. This first evening also included an elegant cocktail reception and buffet cocktail dinatoire at the residence of board member Elizabeth Segerstrom. The next day continued with a view of an incredible art collection at the residence of Francine LeFrak Friedberg and Rick Friedberg and a luncheon to follow.



Nathan Glassell, Daria Hanson and Sharon Hoge



CC Kellogg and Gates Peabody Torrey

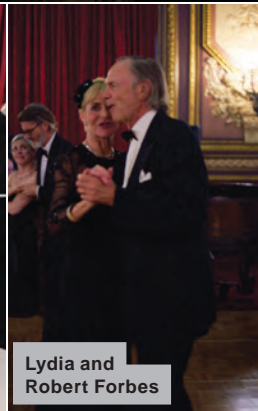


Marie Antoinette and Benjamin Franklin models

The main event was The Grand Dinner. There was also an extremely successful Silent Auction stemming from the exclusive donors Comité Montaigne, an association of prestigious luxury houses. The events continued with another luncheon put on by the jewelry designer Kenneth Jay Lane, festive cocktails at another of the city's chicest private clubs, and a light dinner at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Maroney with entertainment from internationally acclaimed pianist, Princesse Caroline Murat. Next, another luncheon was held at the grand historic Rockefeller estate and mingling to continue at the residence of Mrs. John Gutfreund. Lastly, there was a lovely farewell buffet to complete the spectacular week of events that occurred.



Sandra Schulte and Melinda and Tyler Hassen



Lydia and Robert Forbes

THE CAUSE:

Benefiting The American Friends of Versailles, the honorable chairmen of the Restoration Committee Kimberly and Steven Rockefeller, Pilar and Juan Pablo Molyneux, Lydia and Robert Forbes, Francine Lefrak Friedberg and Rick Friedberg, and Catharine and David Hamilton and many more members helped make this event a success. The mission of this event was to successfully restore the deteriorated ceiling of the Queen's Guards Room in the Palace of Versailles to the historically significant, architectural gem as it was originally designed. It was inspiring to see all of the intense dedication in bringing this mission to life.



David Horn, Vicki Hood, Phillip Hartung and Bonnie Duetsch



Edgar Baptista and Margot Langenberg



Custom metal AFV medallion



Kimberly Rockefeller, Alain Cuissart de Grelle and Miles White

ENTRANCE: TEXAS



Duncan & Boyd Luncheon

ARTFUL ALLIANCE

Texas Women For The Arts Honors Annual Champion Of The Arts Awards

By Jonathan Spindel | Photography by Ralph Duke



Ron Boyd



THE SCENE:

Recently over 150 women from across the state experienced why Amarillo is the perfect place to get a big taste of Texas mixed with a small town charm. The 11th Annual Meeting of Texas Women for the Arts, themed *The Romance of the Texas Panhandle – An Affair to Remember*, featured many of the city's unique arts and culture amenities. The ruggedly beautiful landscape provided a stunning background for the events, while Amarillo's renowned arts scene and the city's colorful history provided an unforgettable cultural experience.



Shopping at Duncan & Boyd



Carol Holden, Texas performer and Astrid Van Dyke



Debbie Montford, Donna Axum Whitworth and Patsy Donosky



Sandra Gilliland



Sandra Chunn, Jan McKee and Laura Matz



Lisa Kopecky, Charlotte Triplehorn, Patsy Donosky and Janis Brous



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Luncheon at Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts



Luncheon at Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts



Chuck Alexander, Sharon Oeschger, Mary Jane Johnson and Charlotte Rhodes



Duncan & Boyd Luncheon



Laura Street



Tanya Schwartz and Jan Mckee

THE VIBE:

The yearly gathering culminated in the 2016 Champion of the Arts Award, which recognizes a Texas Women for the Arts member who has made significant contributions to the arts statewide, and whose work has embodied the mission and vision of the organization. This year's honoree is Amarillo resident, cultural icon, and civic leader, Sandra Gilliland. A life-long patron of the arts, Sandra was instrumental in building the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts, raising \$33 million and creating a children's education center that today works with schools in the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. She continues her support of the arts with scholarships, sponsorships, donations, events, creative ideas, leadership, and volunteerism with a passion that shows. The Champion of the Arts Award was created by Texas Monthly, generous sponsor of the Texas Cultural Trust and Texas Women for the Arts. This year's award was also sponsored by Ron Boyd of Duncan & Boyd Jewelers.

THE CAUSE:

Program co-chairs and Amarillo residents Sharon Oeschger and Charlotte Rhodes, along with their host committee, organized the event, which honored its impactful membership while disbursing much-needed funds to arts initiatives to awaken and nurture the artist in every Texas child.

Texas Women for the Arts, a giving circle of the Texas Cultural Trust, is an alliance of Texas women funding initiatives for the arts and arts education programs throughout the state. Since its inception in 2005, Texas Women for the Arts has awarded nearly \$1.6 million in grants to 99 arts organizations, impacting more than a million children across the state. The Texas Cultural Trust promotes the importance of the arts in educating our children and sustaining our vibrant Texas economy, through awareness, outreach, economic research, and arts education for public school students.



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Thomas and Chrissy Labatt & Rachael and J Kuper

BLANC, MEET NOIR

Texas BioMedical Forum Gala Celebrates With Vintage Appeal

By *Jake Gaines* | Photography by *Greg Harrison*

THE SCENE:

One summer evening, men in tuxedos and women in black and white gowns, faces adorned with masquerade masks of all shapes and sizes gathered at The Argyle for the annual Texas BioMedical Forum Gala. The theme, taken from Truman Capote's lauded black and white-themed 1966 event renowned as *The Party of the Century*, mirrored the historic soiree's aesthetic in more ways beyond the attire. Just as Capote envisioned his guests being the "flowers" of the evening, the gala allowed the guests with their elaborate masks amongst a sea of black and white decor to serve as the centerpieces of the evening.



Photo Courtesy of Super Q Photography



Texas Biomedical Forum Gala Committee Members 2016



Dr. Tony Serna and Daniela Serna



Hunter and Kate Thunell



Courtney Percy, Stephanie Bailey, Tori Speilhagen, Hayley Conger and Jenevieve Zoch



Elise and Craig Boyan



Sherry Johnson and James Warner



Kelly and Steven Fry



Ana Montoya and Gobie Walsdorf



Amy Garcia, Carla Nelson and Heidi McCullick



Shannon and Jon Turner



Jody Lutz, Amanda Bezner and Sara Stumberg Walker



Todd and Anna Wulfe & Bob and Jennifer Shemwell

THE VIBE:

Staying true to Capote's vision, every detail was carefully considered from the vintage photos of the original Black & White Gala party that adorned the back wall of the party tent, to the quotes on each table card, even down to the wax seal on the invitations. The goal was the same as Capote's: to create an unforgettable event for the glam guests.

The night was beautiful and elegant, and much like the man who inspired it, the evening had a quirky lightheartedness as well. Inspired by *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, the event inspired a mood "dizzy with excitement," and although the aesthetic was classic, ghost chairs and opulent hydrangeas abounded, resulting in a feel that was both vintage and modern at the same time.

Gala guests enjoyed frozen champagne *In Cold Blood* cocktails in a nod to the author's most famous work. Internationally acclaimed artist, Bryson Brooks, created a live event painting that would later be auctioned. After the seated dinner was served throughout The Argyle, guests moved to the tent to join the after party at the plaza, where they danced the night away to Jordan Khan, who kept the party bopping all night.





Gary and Joanne Lawton



Danny Cuellar and Danessa Cuellar



Scott Koehler and Tripp Stuart



Cynthia Kirby and Dr. Paul Kirby



Molly Draught and Stephanie Bailey



Sara Stumberg Walker and Jody Lutz
Photo Courtesy of Super Q Photography

THE CAUSE:

This year's gala, organized by gala chair Sara Stumberg Walker and co-chair Jody Lutz, raised a record-breaking sum from both private and corporate donors. These funds will be used as seed money to fund projects in the idea stage at the Texas Bio-Medical Research Institute. Forum president Amanda Bezner stated, "The mission of the Forum has always been to act as ambassadors for Texas BioMed. It was an evening our guests and the scientists at Texas BioMed will always remember."



Paige and Patrick Bitter



Raven and Fred Labatt



Brooke Meabon, Sarah Owens and Anne Davidson



Michael and Beverly Rohlf



Clyde and Kim Johnson & Kristen and Sam Shannon



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Lindsey Spillman and Ty Sheehan



Kevin and Elizabeth Cox



Roberto Sanchez and Aurora Baumgartner



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Ali Shahbazi and Dennis Trammell

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Monday, October 17, 2016
6:00 to 10:30 p.m.
 Held in the new Mays Family Center and
 Zachry Family Acequia Garden at the Witte Museum

Honorary Chairs: The Mollie and Bartell Zachry Family
 Game Dinner Co-Chairs: Nancy and Robert Hunt and Helen and Paul Rohlfs, Jr.

The Witte Museum would like to thank our generous sponsors



For reservations and information please call 210.357.1905 or contact GameDinner@WitteMuseum.org



All funds raised at the Witte Game Dinner provide valuable support for the programs and exhibits of San Antonio's most widely visited museum.



TALK OF THE TOWN

St. David's Foundation's Annual Toast Of The Town Party Series Offered Something For Everyone

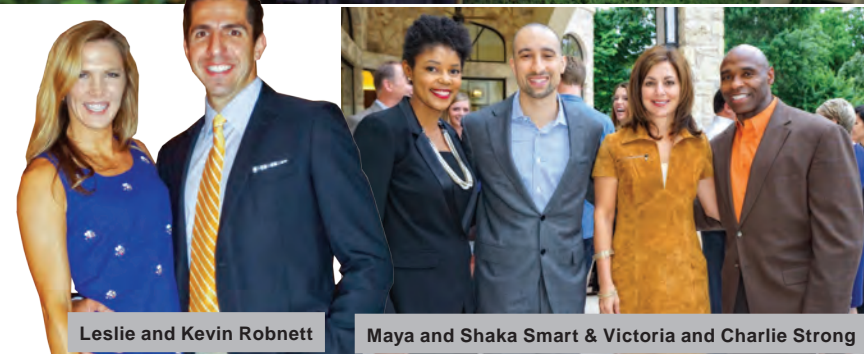
By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Matthew Fuller, Robert Godwin and Stacey Harrell

THE SCENE:

Twenty themed parties, each drawing their own unique crowd making for the quintessential Austin type of event, proved there is something for everyone who supports the St. David's Foundation. St. David's annual Toast of the Town party series is designed to offer incredible experiences that perfectly capture the spirit of Austin: intimate, unpretentious and welcoming, all the while saluting the best and brightest of the upcoming generation of medical professionals who are fast making Austin a world-class medical destination.



Jennene and Ray Mashburn & Craig and Felicia Hester



Leslie and Kevin Robnett

Maya and Shaka Smart & Victoria and Charlie Strong



Catherine Robb, Julie Niedert and Earl Maxwell



UT President Greg Fenves and David Huffstutler



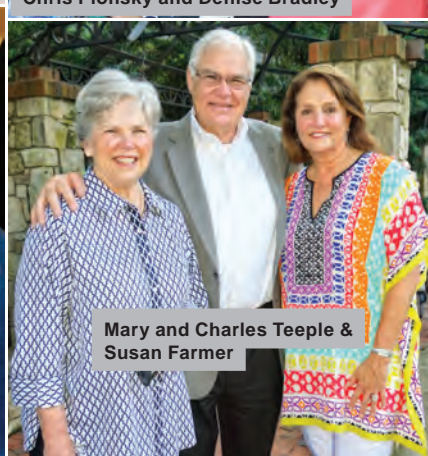
Bruce and Libby Malone & Jim Vier



Sharon Schweitzer Robinson, Chris Plonsky and Denise Bradley



Randy and Kathy Taylor & Nancy and Admiral Bobby Inman



Mary and Charles Teeple & Susan Farmer



Melissa Ferguson and Lady Huffstutler



Dionne Green, Lorrie DeAngelis and Donna Pigg

THE VIBE:

The “Austin-chic” attire was prevalent in all of the Toast of the Town experiences, each offering an array of opportunities and featured highlights. For those seeking incredible food and stimulating conversation, one could experience the Jazz Brunch at the top of the Austonian high-rise, the highest point in Austin, or go lakeside to the home of Kathy and Randy Taylor for an “intelligent” discussion on the role of global intelligence in a transforming society with former Director of the National Security Agency, Admiral Bobby R. Inman.



Michael Breen, Ann Marie Lozano & Catherine and Devin Garza



Andrew and Ericka Levack



Joe Annis, Caitlin Etherton & Dave and Alice Glass



Kent Ferguson and John Robinson



John and Vivian Lee & Shelby and David Marquardt



Chandra and Chris Hose



Jannis Baldwin, Donna Baldwin and Jan Burrow

If you were interested in experiencing history and culture, you could learn more about Lady Bird Johnson, Texas’ first First Lady’s granddaughter, Catherine Robb or enjoy an evening of dining while experiencing the sensational sounds of the award-winning Cordova Quartet at the home of Jannis and Robert Baldwin. For those wanting to learn more about the University of Texas sports world, they could experience a Smart and Strong evening with UT basketball head coach Shaka Smart and UT football head coach Charlie Strong at the home of Sandra and Joe Aragona, or learn more about the future of Austin with UT President Gregory Fenves sharing his vision for Texas’ largest and oldest institution for higher learning, at the home of Melissa and Kent Ferguson.

For those who simply wanted to experience an incredible one-of-a-kind party, the private airplane hanger of local philanthropist David Booth hosted a Studio 54 party where the crowd, dressed in their best 70s disco attire, danced to the incredible tunes of DJ Johnny Bravo with a private jet in the distance – which undoubtedly would have even made Studio 54 founders Steve Rubell and Ian Schrager blush.



Susan Auler & Darren and Maria Woody



Joanie Bentzin and Charles Teeple



Nicole and Mike Niefert



Chuck Girard and Lauren Hammonds



Abby O'Connor and Jessica Teruki

THE CAUSE:

The series of parties, co-chaired by Tobie Funte Flannery and Julie Niedert, raised over \$1.4M for St. David's Dr. Neal Kocurek Scholarship, which awards high school seniors in Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop and Caldwell counties pursuing careers in the healthcare field. This year, 55 high school seniors were awarded with scholarships.

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JK Baxter Hunt and Deborah O'Connell



Billy and Lucy Reagan



Rushmi and Pradeep Kumar



Franco Herrera and Kevin Smothers



Christina Hester and Kat Brooks



Katherine and Matt Gallagher



Venus and Bill Strawn

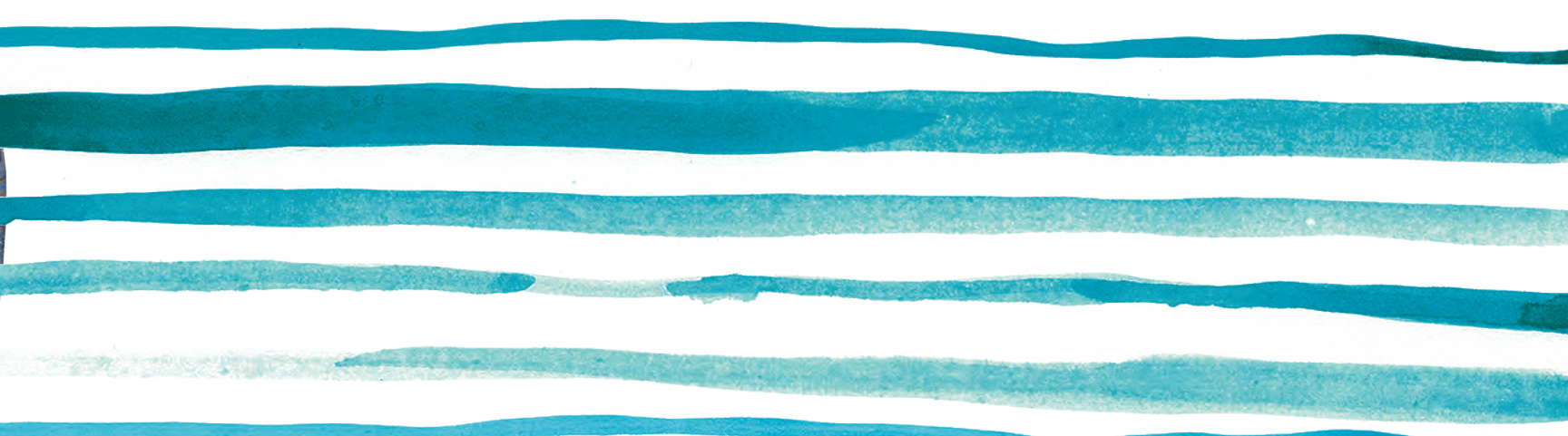


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2016 DIFFA Style Council Ambassadors

OVER THE BIG TOP

DIFFA's Annual Gala Raises Funds And Style

By Cynthia Smoot | Photography by Thomas Garza Photography and Rhi Lee

THE SCENE:

DIFFA/Dallas (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) concluded its social season with an unforgettable signature gala, *House of DIFFA: Circo Rouge*, presented by the Heddington Companies and The Joule Hotel for over 2,000 patrons.

The opulent event was hosted at the Omni Dallas Hotel, and featured a curated selection of one-of-a-kind tailored jackets by world renowned designers such as Alexander Wang, Alice + Olivia, Badgley Mischka, Billy Reid, Diane von Furstenberg, Edo Popken, Elie Tahari, Escada, Etro, Giuliana Teso, Gorski, J Mendel, Kay Unger, Lanvin, Lela Rose, Moschino, Missoni, Marc Jacobs, Naeem Khan, Sebastian, St John, Ted Baker London, Versace, Vince, Zac Posen, and many more.



Olya Sinitsyna and Andy Beal



Bart Kieschnick, Phillip Murrell and Zach Ripp



LeeAnne Locken and Jeanette Chivvis



Nancy Rogers and Chuck Steelman



John Roberts and Dallas Snadon



Shelby Wagner and Niven Morgan



Matthew Carrigan, Brittanie Buchanan Oleniczak and Jim DiMarino



Greg Haynes Johnson and Zach Hess



Allan Knight, Lonnie Jordan, Mary Crosland



Simona Beal and Clint Bradley



Cynthia Smoot, Tiffany Hendra and Cary Deuber



Cathy Vieth and Phyllis Comu



Jody Stein, Patrick Tichacek and Carol Quist



David and Tina Craig



Shane Allen, Jane McGarry and Ron Corning

THE VIBE:
 The event began with a Big Top cocktail party and silent auction where guests sipped on cocktails, enjoyed live circus performances and browsed the selection of jackets in this year's show. Charitable patrons were then escorted into the ballroom by circus performers to take their seats for dinner and were welcomed by DIFFA/Dallas board chair Justin Bundick and House of DIFFA chair Clint Bradley. Patrons like Nancy C. Rogers, Tiffany Hendra, Ron Corning, Jeannette Chivvis, Chuck Steelman, Niven Morgan and Anne Stodghill were dazzled by a runway show featuring TenOverSix, Forty Five Ten and Traffic LA, with circus performances interlaced between the shows including suspension hook performers, a sword swallower, aerial dancing and more. The night ended with a fashion show featuring interpretations of the 87 jackets from this year's House of DIFFA collection and a surprise performance by international pop star Viktoria Modesta.

THE CAUSE:
 DIFFA/Dallas is one of the largest HIV/AIDS organizations in Texas, providing funding to local HIV/AIDS Service Organizations within the community. DIFFA/Dallas has granted over \$7.4 million to 25 front line HIV/AIDS Service Organizations in North Texas providing direct care to those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Highlighting the fashion design community, DIFFA/Dallas hosts multiple events throughout the season.

ENTRANCE: HOUSTON



Lynn Wyatt



Valerie and Tracy Dieterich

DOWN SOUTH AMERICAN WAY

The Houston Symphony Gala Celebrates With *Carnaval* Theme

By Jennifer Roosth | Photography by Priscilla Dickson, Anthony Rathbun and Dave Rossmann

THE SCENE:

Imagine this: sultry Samba dancers, dressed in vibrant costumes and headdresses, greeted 600 guests on the red carpet into Jones Hall for the 2016 Houston Symphony Ball themed *Carnaval*. Upon arrival, guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while perusing the silent auction items, including a trip to Rome to learn about Bulgari jewels, thanks to auction chairs Mary Ann and David McKeithan.

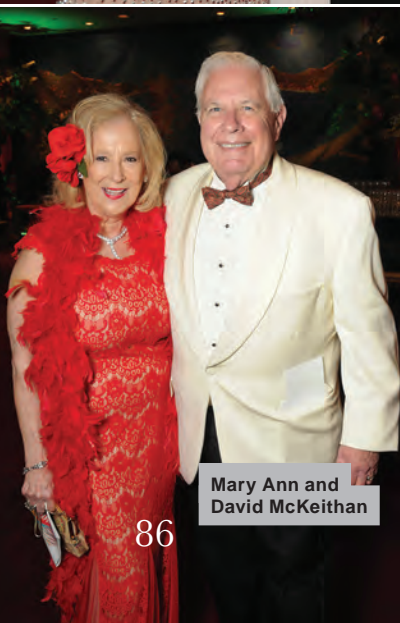
Soon after, event chairs Jana and Scott Arnoldy ushered guests to their tables in the auditorium of Jones Hall 'Samba Line' style. Arnoldy later underwent a wardrobe change from a red Alexander McQueen gown paired with Bulgari jewels and a feathered headdress to a second fun dress by Jovani.



Candace Lyons, Kari Anderson, Julie Moulas and Jaci Smith



Stephanie von Stein and Daniel Paltridge



Mary Ann and David McKeithan



Betsy Garlinger, Sybil Roos and Cathey Cook



Phoebe and Bobby Tudor



Steve and Joella Mach & Jana and Scotty Arnoldy



David and Tara Wuthrich & Gina and Devinder Bhatia



Lindy and John Rydman, Bebel Gilberto and Lisa Rydman



Heidi Kashani and Monsour Taghdisi



Margaret Alkek Williams



Richard and Kim Lucas



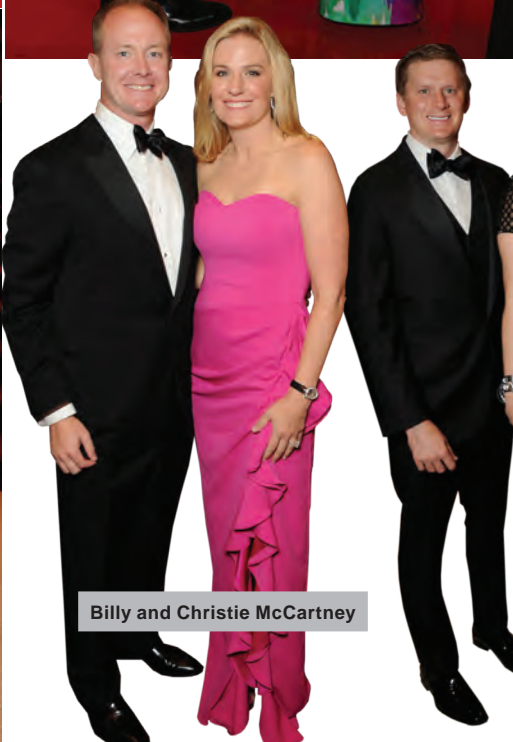
Cora Sue and Harry Mach



Jim and Dancie Ware



Diane Lokey Farb



Billy and Christie McCartney



Bill Gutknecht and Christine Falgout-Gutknecht & Jo Lynn and Greg Falgout

THE VIBE:

This year's event will go down in history as one of Houston's most colorful! The décor, created by Richard Flowers of The Events Company, transformed the auditorium of Jones Hall into Houston's own *Carnaval*, with exotic floral centerpieces and colorful table cloths. The week-long build-out, which converted the auditorium into a spectacular five-tiered ball room, was executed by Staging Solutions in conjunction with the Symphony's operations and production team. The headline entertainer was Bebel Gilberto.

After Jackson and Company catered the Brazilian-style dinner, an additional one hundred guests poured into the ballroom for the ball's after party chaired by Valerie and Tracy Dieterich that featured New York's DJ Kalkutta. Upon exciting the grandly colorful affair, guests received gift bags courtesy of Bulgari featuring its new fragrance, Te Bleu.

THE CAUSE:

The ball raised almost \$1.5 million for the Symphony's Education and Community Programming. The evening honored Sybil Roos, Lindy and John Rydman, Spec's Charitable Foundation, and Robert Franz, with awards presented by Houston Symphony Executive Director/CEO Mark C. Hanson and Houston Symphony Society Board President Steven P. Mach.

ENTRANCE: SAN ANTONIO



Jenna Bush Hager, Laura Bush and Sonya Medina Williams



Ramiro Salazar and Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar

THE SCENE:

Over 450 supporters of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, including city leaders and Mayor Ivy Taylor, celebrated the centennial year of the National Parks service and San Antonio Libraries by welcoming former First Lady Laura Bush and her daughter Jenna Bush Hager to the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts for the *Our Literary Mission Luncheon* and conversation with special guests.

CHILD'S PLAY

San Antonio Public Library Foundation and Los Compadres Host Luncheon

By Jake Gaines | Photography by Greg Harrison and Grant Miller



Laura Bush, Alice Foulz and Jenna Bush Hager



Cynthia McMurray and Brianna Kirk



Laura Bush, Dina Cole, Jenna Bush Hager and Norb Cole



Guillermo Nicolás



Kelly Wade Fry and Suzanne Wade



Maggie Kelleher, Kathy Kelleher, Clara Kelleher, Lisa Kelleher



Lacey Fischer, Meg Walker, Diane Hanrahan and Carol Black



Beverly Rohlf, Laura Bush, Jenna Bush Hager and Michael Rohlf



Mayor Ivy Taylor



Susan Hausser, Carolyn Biedenharn, Allie Biedenharn and Martha Fuhrmann



Jennie Embrey, Alex and Denae Schenker and Courtenay Nolen Fowler

Sonya Medina Williams and Gene Williams

THE VIBE:

The venue was swathed in textural neutrals and vibrant green that set the stage in a welcoming living room-style, with a distinctive forest backdrop and illuminated live trees. After arriving, guests had the opportunity to purchase copies of *Our Great Big Backyard*, the new children's book co-authored by Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager celebrating literacy and national parks. Greeted by soft marimba music courtesy of Henry Brune, the attendees entered the H-E-B Performance Hall and took their seats to enjoy lunch and a lively conversation with Bush and Hager. The event was moderated by Sonya Medina Williams, luncheon chairman and Former Deputy Assistant to President George W. Bush and Director of Projects for First Lady Laura Bush, The White House.

The Tobin Endowment was the presenting sponsor; chair Bruce Bugg and past SAPLF chair, Guillermo Nicolas welcomed the crowd and the honorary chair, Charline Mc-Combs. Afterward, the authors took to the stage to discuss their latest book and personal dedication to both libraries and parks. The heartfelt afternoon was a reminder for guests to look away from their computer screens and toward what the libraries and parks have to offer and teach to future generations. Remarks from Nicolás and Los Compadres board member Cynthia McMurray concluded the event.



Laura Bush, Charline McCombs, Jenna Bush Hager and Bruce Bugg



Mary Bomar, Moyra Jardon, Cheryl Cage Boriak, Kathryn McCall, Valerie Katz, Billy-Kite Howard, Pam Cage, Cheryl Ernst and Donna Koch



Ty Edwards and Janet Holliday



Karen Lee Zachry



Charline McCombs and Jenna Bush Hager



Emilie Petty and Alice Welder



Tracey Bennett

THE CAUSE:

The luncheon raised nearly \$500,000 which was divided between both organizations. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation and Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions partnered to bring Bush and Hager to San Antonio to raise essential funds for both organizations. Both of these established local non-profits led by Tracey Ramsey Bennett (SAPLF) and Susan Chandoha (Los Compadres) felt this was the perfect opportunity to bring awareness to the missions of the Libraries and UNESCO World Heritage site.



Heather Wolff, Deborah Kline, Caroline Thornton and Jennifer Sparr

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ZACH Theatre's Annual Red, Hot and Soul Event Was A New York State Of Mind

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Charles Quinn Photography

THE SCENE:

Over 420 sociables, an array of dazzling production numbers and the feeling of being transported to the city that never sleeps – what more could a gala guest hope for? The Zachary Scott Theatre's annual Red, Hot and Soul Gala with its *New York, New York* theme delivered an evening full of heart, passion and philanthropy as ZACH paid tribute to one of Austin's most beloved philanthropic icons.



Karen Hawkins



Bobbi and Mort Topfer



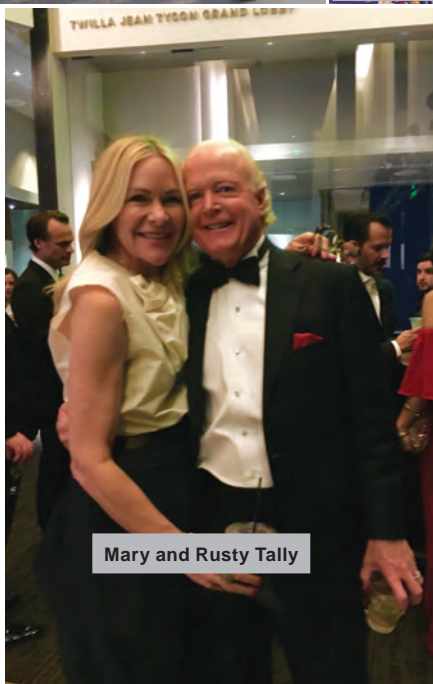
Gary Cooper, Rob Giardinelli, Dan Jackson and Jeremy Guiberteau, Bryan Gardner and Armando Zambrano, Bobbi Topfer, Lance Avery Morgan, Richard Hartgrove, Will Coombes and Eric Copper



Holland Taylor and Sarah Paulson



Justin and Wendy Harvey



Mary and Rusty Tally



Dave Steakley



THE VIBE:

The “New-York Chic” attire, with ladies in red and men in black tie, created the perfect complement to the New York state of mind of its revelers, felt from the moment posing on the red carpet, complete with Statue of Liberty backdrop as well as the Big Apple art installation. The seven-foot-tall apple perched outside the Bobbi and Mort Topfer Theatre served as the focal point for candid shots of guests on their way into the lobby for cocktails. Guests mingled with the crowd while posing for photos with various actors dressed as Lady Liberty, skyscrapers and other landmarks synonymous with New York.



Carla McDonald and Ava McDonald

The action then turned to the Bobbi Pavilion for the gala’s “Dinner and a Show” theme, complete with a stage featuring electronic billboards transporting guests to the iconic Times Square. An exquisite dinner catered by The Four Seasons was served during several musical and performance numbers, including ZACH’s Pre-Professional Company ensemble, as well as a live auction that featured a trip to Bali complete with a John Hardy Artisan Jewelry experience and a live-recorded voicemail by Holland Taylor, who recently wrapped a tour-de-force performance in *AMN*, as the former Governor of Texas, Ann Richards.



James Armstrong



Nicholas Rodriguez and Elisabeth Challenger



Jeremy Guiberteau and Dan Jackson



Mindy Ellmer and Hon. Charlie Geren



Richard Hartgrove and Gary Cooper



Jan and Gary Pickle

The festivities then moved to the Topfer Theatre where the “show” went on, featuring numbers from many of the performances coming up in the 2016-2017 theater season. Included in the performances was a special tribute to Mort Topfer, who was honored for his generosity and passion for the ZACH Theatre and the lasting impact of his leadership that has provided a world-class theatre that Austinites will enjoy for generations to come. After the performances and tribute, the party went on well into the night to the as everyone moved back into the Topfer Theatre lobby to cut a rug at the Studio 54 after-party.



Armando Zambrano and Bryan Gardner

THE CAUSE:

The event, chaired by Bobbi Topfer and co-chaired by Will Coombes, Eric Copper, Richard Hartgrove and Gary Cooper, Dan Jackson and Jeremy Guiberteau, David Kurio, Lance Avery Morgan and Rob Giardinelli & Armando Zambrano and Bryan Gardner, raised over \$630,000 for ZACH Theatre, which provides a year-round season of 600 performances reaching over 55,000 children and 128,000 Central Texans annually.



Chris Hendel and Matthew Redden



Trent Tatsch, David Camp, Eric Copper & Brian Luna and Will Coombes



Michael Smothers and Sergio Durante



Hon. Jim Pitts and Deborah Hamilton Lynne



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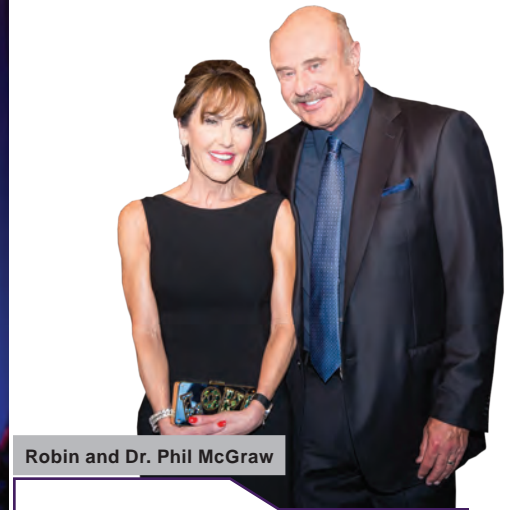
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www.ikardwynne.com





Chris Daughtry and his band



Robin and Dr. Phil McGraw

THE SCENE:

Thousands of Dallas' most glittering and fabulous came to the Omni Dallas Hotel for the Friday Night party celebration of the 7th Annual Emmitt Smith Celebrity Invitational (ESCI) presented by Axxess, and sponsored by Albertsons/Tom Thumb. The event was emceed by comedian Broderick Rice and entertainment for the Friday Night Party was provided by Daughtry, sponsored by PlainsCapital.

FRIDAY NIGHT HEIGHTS

Emmitt Smith Celebrity Invitational Wows Crowd

By Cynthia Smoot | Photography by Thomas Garza Photography and Gittings Photography



Thomas and Carmen Surgent



Brandon and Tori Carr



Rich Emberlin and LeeAnne Locken



Brendan and Anne-Marie Morrow



Jim Jackson



Tamara and Tony Casillas



Pat and Emmitt Smith

FASHION X

HOUSTON

SEPTEMBER 8-10

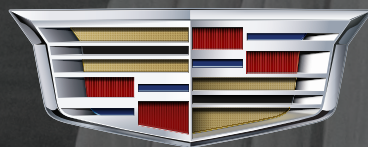
FASHIONXDALLAS.COM

FASHION X

DALLAS

OCTOBER 13-15

HOUSTON.FASHIONX.CO



Cadillac



Pat and Emmitt Smith with Team 22 Kids



Dr. Jen Welter

THE VIBE:

A slew of sports and entertainment celebrities walked the red carpet, including former Dallas Cowboys and current FOX sports analyst Daryl Johnston, former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin, NFL Arizona Cardinals Assistant Coach Dr. Jen Welter, Grammy Award winner Kirk Franklin, former Raiders Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Marcus Allen, Assistant Coach of the Sacramento Kings Nancy Lieberman, and *The Real Housewives of Dallas* cast members LeeAnne Locken and Tiffany Hendra. Bishop T.D. Jakes led the attendees in prayer and while guests enjoyed dinner, Pat and Emmitt Smith presented the Roger Staubach award to Dr. Phil and Robin McGraw for their exceptional work with women and children around the country.

THE CAUSE:

Honorary chairs Alan and Leann White and event chairs Carmen and Thomas Surgent organized this successful event. Before the ballroom doors opened, ESCI had already raised \$1 million dollars and by the night's end, a figure of \$1.2 million dollars raised was being extolled. Over its seven years, the event has raised more than \$6.2 million dollars in support of Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities, including PESC's very own Team 22 program. Team 22 provides long-term mentorship, unique enrichment experiences, a summer enrichment program, college tours and access to a college education for students through scholarships.



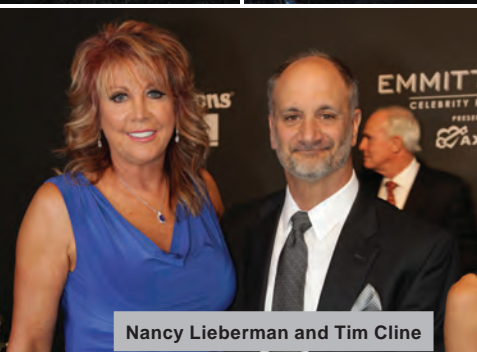
Marcus Allen



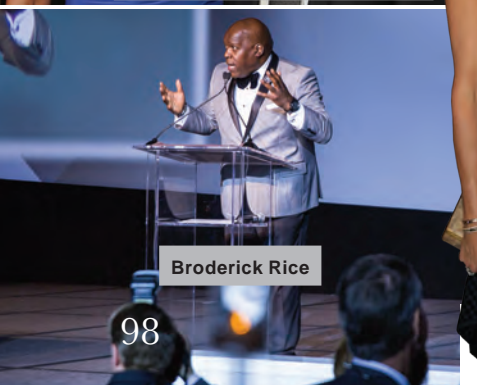
Aaron and Tiffany Hendra



Bishop TD and Serita Jakes. Robin and Dr Phil McGraw & Pat and Emmitt Smith



Nancy Lieberman and Tim Cline



Broderick Rice



Diane and Daryl Johnston



Kirk and Tammy Franklin

Congratulations,

DENNY, ON YOUR
INDUCTION INTO
THE 2016 CLASS OF
TEXAS BUSINESS
HALL OF FAME!



THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR
VISION, DISCIPLINE, KINDNESS AND
GUIDANCE OVER THE YEARS...



FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



BIOSCIENCES

PERENNIAL PLEASURES

San Antonio Botanical Garden Gala Blossoms

By *Jonathan Spindel* | Photography by *Greg Harrison*



Peggy Walker, Honorable Nelson Wolff and Marise McDermott



Luci Pitman, Pamela Rosser and Sarah Steves

THE SCENE:
More than 550 attendees enjoyed the opening reception of the 10th Annual San Antonio Botanical Garden gala, Splendor In The Garden, honoring the Circle Bar Foundation and its three decades of support for children's programming at the Botanical Garden. Guests entered through the award-winning Children's Vegetable Garden, then strolled through the Garden for a seated dinner beneath a soaring white tent at the Garden's entrance.



Laurie White, Tuleta White and John White



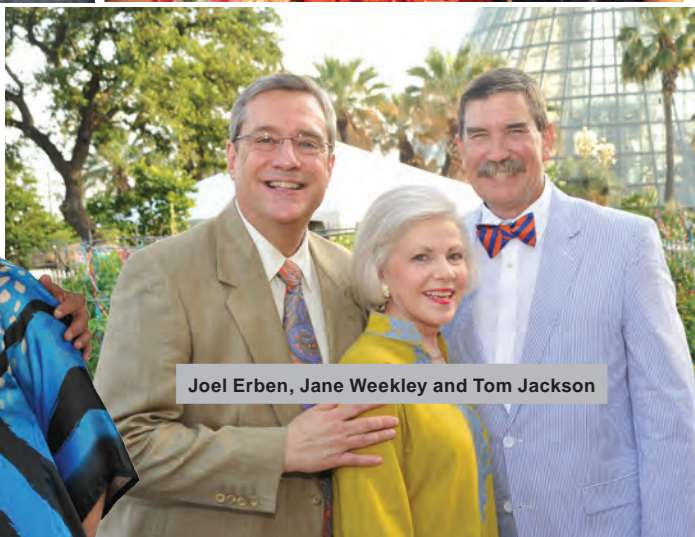
Tisha Beck, Denise Carranza and Denise Landon



Barry and Lisa Menick



Robin Howard, John Troy and Belinda Nixon



Joel Erben, Jane Weekley and Tom Jackson



Kim Lewis and Mimi Zoch

THE VIBE:

In celebration of a transformative era for the Garden, guests were invited to tour the ongoing construction of an eight-acre expansion of the Botanical Garden, to open next May. The Garden will soon have a new entrance, new gardens (including a Culinary Garden and Family Adventure Garden), and new programming that encourages visitors to learn about the natural world and reap the benefits of health, wellness and nutrition.



Anne Rochelle, Allison Hayne and Jessica Koontz



Bob Brackman



Peggy Pace and Libby Golden



Jeannie and Bill Wyatt



Vicki McLaughlin



Jamie and Whitney Smith

THE CAUSE:

Gala chairs Robin and Mark Howard, Belinda and Will Nixon, and Alice and John Troy organized the event honoring the Circle Bar Foundation, along with committee members Meta and Boo Hausser, Lisa and Mike Kelleher, and Vicki and John McLaughlin. The San Antonio Botanical Garden strives to inspire people to connect with the plant world and understand the importance of plants in our lives.



Pete and Lyn Selig



Joan Cheever and Dennis Quinn



Steve and Pat Pritchard



Karen and Jim Greenwood



ARTFUL DINING

The Contemporary Art Dinner Celebrates 100 Years Of The Driscoll Villa At Laguna Gloria

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Brian Fitzsimmons and Annie Parish Photography

THE SCENE:

Austin's Laguna Gloria, a vital part of The Contemporary Austin organization, was the setting for an evening of exceptional scenery inside and out, from the incredible art on display inside, to the views of the stunning grounds outside. The scene was set to celebrate a century of the Clara Driscoll Villa, a space that symbolizes the natural beauty of Austin, during the third annual Contemporary Art Dinner, a sensory overload of visual and energetic beauty held in the venue's Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park.



Liz Lambert and Erin Lee Smith



Jonathan and Margo Tate, Emily Seiders & Margaret and Lee Rigby



Tim and Kim Dowling



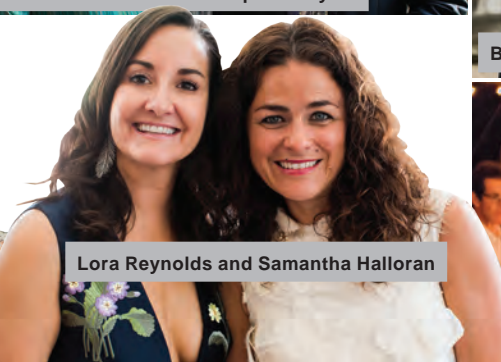
Richard Marcus and Christopher Moyles



Bill Hudspeth and Sheri Gallo



Kathleen Loughlin and Kristen Gish



Lora Reynolds and Samantha Halloran



Alyse Brill



Vico Sharabani, Ronen Sharabani and Adi Sharabani



Laura Moorman and Tyler Haney



Hon. Steve Adler, Janelle and Lance Braun & Diane Land



Mike Chesser and Guy Cohen



Clayton Maebius, Jocelyn Hornblower and Fredericka Middleton



Eric Herschmann and Orly Genger



Andrew and Maya Narin



Elizabeth Stanley and Carrie Saxbe



Clayton Aynesworth and Deborah Green



Teresa Windham and Chris Mattsson



Rad and Ashley Weaver

THE VIBE:

The garden chic-attired crowd knew they were in for a special evening the moment they arrived; the cloudy heavens parted, and they enjoyed a magical cocktail hour in the cool air after a recent rain. The festivities then turned toward a tented outdoor dining hall, placed on the Laguna Gloria grounds for a sensational meal catered by celebrity chef Larry McGuire.

The program continued with a live auction by Kevin Doyle of Sotheby's, featuring artwork by artists including Terry Allen, Anya Gallaccio, Jim Hodges, Mark Mothersbaugh, Monika Sosnowska, Sofia Táboas and Garth Weiser. Upon completion of the robust live auctions, patrons were treated to a performance by Ronan Sharabani, after which guests celebrated the perfect evening with cocktails and dancing into the night.

THE CAUSE:

The event, chaired by Lora Reynolds, raised funds for The Contemporary Austin's exhibition program, which contributes to Austin's artistic landscape through a unique combination of urban and outdoor sites that reflect the eclectic and collaborative spirit of the city.



MUSEUM QUALITY

Dress by Monique Lhuillier,
\$1995 at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Earrings by Dori Csengeri,
\$209.00 at DoriCsengeri.com

Bag by Manjerica, \$260, at
Manjerica.com Shoes by J.Maurice,
\$150, at ShopJMaurice.com



GAMME *Of* STONES

This fall, the **modern woman** relies on her strength of character and intuition for her **empowered style** moments. Wildly feminine and **marvelously substantial**, the season's new round of parties and affairs are more alluring than ever while wearing these **tantalizing ensembles**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK OBERLIN STYLING BY FRANZY STAEDTER

Makeup by Julia Taylor, using Dior and Make Up For Ever
Hair by Zoraida Saray, using Redken styling products and Sam Villa styling tools
Sittings Editor: Lance Avery Morgan



STONE'S THROW

Blouse by Fendi, \$1450 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Skirt by Sacai, \$960 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Scarf by Silver Serzh at Unicorn Silk Twill, \$180. Choker by Huckleberry LTD, \$24,500, at HuckleberryLtd.com. Shoes by Alejandra G, \$254.00 at AlejandraG.com

PATINA OF LUSTRE

(Opposite) Dress by Sonia Rykiel, \$2880 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Bracelets by Danielle Stevens at DanielleStevens.com. Ring by Charles Albert, \$60 at CharlesAlbert.com. Shoes by Alejandra G, \$295 at AlejandraG.com





LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Dress by Leanne Marshall, \$3800,
at LeanneMarshall.com. Choker
by Gail Be Designs at GailBe.com. Necklace by Ami Clubwear,
at AmiClubWear.com. Belt by
Molly Bracken, at MollyBracken.com. Shoes by Alepel, \$309 at
Alepel.com





**FREESTANDING
FORMATION**

Dress: Sacai, \$1905 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Necklaces by Sacred Jewels, each \$179 at SacredJewels.com. Bracelets by Ami Clubwear at AmiClubWear.com Custom Shoes by Marion Ayonote at Ayonote.com

BREAKING THE MOLD

(Opposite) Dress by Fendi, \$2650 at Saks Fifth Avenue. Earrings by Dori Csengeri, \$465 at DoriCsengeri.com. Necklace turned bracelet by Gail Be Designs at GailBe.com. Shoes by Alepel, \$325 at Alepel.com





CAST YOUR FATE

Dress by Lela Rose, \$1995 at Neiman Marcus. Earrings by Dori Csengeri, \$350.00 at DoriCsengeri.com. Cuff by Charles Albert, \$350.00 at CharlesAlbert.com. Necklace by Ami Clubwear at AmiClubWear.com. Shoes by Alejandra G, \$328.00 at AlejandraG.com



THE NEXT BIG THING

Native Texan Brandon Maxwell is **making a splash in the world** of high fashion. From being Lady Gaga's stylist to creating his own collection that is a **favorite of famous celebs and Sociables alike**, he reveals to *our chronicler of style Lance Avery Morgan* what it's like to be the newest and most **dynamic talent** on the scene

Photography courtesy of Brandon Maxwell Studio





Karli Kloss in Brandon Maxwell at the 2016 Met Gala.
Photo by Dimitrios Kambouris.
Courtesy of Getty Images



Lady Gaga, 2016 Academy Awards.
Photo courtesy of Getty Images

BORN CREATIVE

If you had a crystal ball and could conjure fashion's future, the image of Brandon Maxwell might just appear quite vividly. The native Texan's intense relationship with modern chic is one for the books. With today's Snapchat-equivalent of ephemeral fashion designers coming and going, count on him to be in it for the long haul – and to take home the prize. In fact, Maxwell, who turns 31 this month, recently won the coveted CFDA Swarovski Award for Womenswear. He loves designing for a woman's body; in fact, he cuts on it. "I don't sketch," Brandon Maxwell condes in our conversation about life, Texas and the pursuit of fashion in advance of his appearance in Austin. He will be there speaking at the Women's Symphony League fashion show and luncheon, where the theme is *Texas Women – Past, Present & Future* on Friday, September 23, as a part of the organization's annual Jewel Ball festivities.

In fact, when Lady Gaga took to the stage to perform the rousing musical tribute this year to *The Sound of Music* at the 87th Academy Awards, she was wearing a white tulle creation designed by Maxwell. His work as Gaga's stylist is almost as acclaimed as her musical accomplishments. Their creative partnership, as he calls it, got him

to right here, right now by way of a winding route from East Texas. To the kid from Longview, Texas who read every *Vogue* he could get his hands on... it's a place that is in his heart even when he is not there, he told me. Much like the town's intersecting highways that converge north of the Sabine River, Maxwell has evolved from being a stylist into a full-fledged fashion designer. *Forbes* magazine called Longview the sixth fastest-growing small city, and style experts are just as bullish regarding Maxwell's fashion business prospects. The Next Big Thing he may well be, and like all great stories, it had to start somewhere.

ROOTS OF STYLE

His grandmother worked in a boutique in town, Riff's, and Brandon spent as much time as possible there, learning. "She and my mother were my style icons. I mean, my own life is not that stylish or super glam," Maxwell muses. "I like to be surrounded by strong women. I've always been really focused on them." He goes on to say, "It started with my grandmother's store that included high-end furs and jewelry dressing rooms. She laid out clothes, head to toe, so I learned to be a stylist by watching and seeing what women loved and what they were



2016 CFDA Fashion Awards

insecure about. It's not about me. It's about them." Even though it was a small town, people were very knowledgeable about style. Maxwell's parents went out frequently, and he recalled his mother coming down stairs dressed up. "Even though I am in New York now, it still feels like I am in Texas with these memories," he recalls.

Maxwell is quick to share how much he loves Texas, and Austin, where he counts his sister and many friends as his ties. He attended St. Edward's University where he studied photography and continued to hone his stylist eye. "My own style is different in Austin. There's so much going on there, but I'm all about shorts and queso when I visit. It's one of the best cities in the world," he confesses. The Live Music Capital of the World also influences his collections, "I create my collections with music," he reveals. "The two weeks after a previous collection I'll hibernate and create."

That creative process is never-ending. "Going from stylist to designer was easy for me," Maxwell shares. "They go hand in hand. Listen, I

didn't go to design school so my career as a stylist is a master class." He learned by observing the fashion design world in real time, in real life. He quickly learned to absorb everything he studied, and the transition from stylist to designer was surprisingly easy. But he still had to play the part, and project a confidence that was still in fledgling form. "Believe me, it was terrifying at the time," he confesses. "I told myself I'd take the leap before I reached 30. A lot of the people wearing my clothes were stylist friends who I knew in my career, so that helped, too."

CELEB CACHE

In the real world of top celeb clients and high stakes-high level design, I ask him about what is inspiring his new collection that will be all black and white. "It's not referential, meaning my designs don't change by the season," he states emphatically. "It never starts with a theme. I am inspired by women throughout history and in my life. The clothes are shape- centered, sculptural and made on the woman." Unlike other designers, he doesn't sketch his designs. "Colors, shapes and the cut reflect where I am in my life. I start with making things on the body and a few months into it, it all comes together with cohesion. I never start with a theme since each collection is an extension of the one before it. My client can get something similar in this new collection that she loved before with what I do."



Brandon Maxwell and Naomi Campbell at the 2016 CFDA Awards, Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Maxwell's line in stores like Saks Fifth Avenue, Bergdorf Goodman, Jeffrey, among other chic destinations. Yet, he's quick to point out he's still new in the business. "I'm not a mass market brand yet, so it's a personal connection to me. I know sales teams. When a woman is trying something on I am there to zip her up. Since I've been a stylist for many years the point is to go in and do something with the hem here, or tighten this there. It's really important to get feedback. I ask my client: What do *you* want to feel like? A woman should feel good when she walks out the door." That connectivity applies to his bold face-named clients, too. "It means everything to me. For every woman who has worn my clothes I've had a personal connection with them.

Maxwell is not only influenced by the women in his family, modern fashion icons, and also by one Lynn Wyatt of Houston. Wyatt, known and chronicled extensively for her tremendous sense of style. "I called her and asked if she'd appear at my first collection. Although she is not a client, she sent a great message that we played at the start of the show and it was a dream come true" recalls Maxwell. "Women in Texas inform my collections. With my collections, I start simple and clean, and that progress to more-is-more toward the end of the show and the skirts get bigger."

CHANGE ARTIST

In fact, Maxwell's attention to more-is-more creativity happened recently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Ball in May with supermodel Karli Kloss who wanted versatility for the evening for her choice of a dress. As most know, there's the presentation, or red carpet, dress that is photographed by jillions of paparazzi and beamed across the world at the beginning of the evening. Then there's the let's-have-fun and sexier after-party dress change.

The cameras snapped away when Kloss arrived in Maxwell's architecturally-inspired white gown, a type of cloak, that covered her shoulders and highlighted her slim waist. For Act II, in what seemed like moments, she appeared in an even sleeker silhouette, one that had



Brandon Maxwell models backstage

“Everyone will have an opinion. If your name is on it, take responsibility for what you do and what it represents.”


a choker neckline, waist cut-outs and a more well, décolleté. Cut to Act III, post gala where Maxwell takes his scissors and pristine point of view, transforming the evening gown into a get-down min dress. It's convertible clothing at its best and clearly defines the designer's skill. Fittingly, since the evening's theme as fashion in the age of technology, Kloss's and Maxwell's teams created the triumvirate through Facetime and Skype, of course. Some might call that evening a career triumph. For Maxwell, it was just another Monday night... and a dream come true.

That kind of versatility hasn't been seen since the heyday of Yves St. Laurent, Halston and Geoffrey Beene. When he won the CFDA award, his humility was evident, similar to how he approaches life. "I'm a slightly overweight boy from Texas, where my idea of a fine meal is something rolled into a ball and deep fried," said Maxwell. "I was so nervous about putting on pants that weren't elastic waist...and that there would be three forks at dinner and I would use the wrong one. But I'd like to thank my father who manages my business, and my mother, who always tells me I'm doing awesome even when I'm not." The award was presented, fittingly, by Karli Kloss.

MOTIVATION BY DESIRE

When I ask Maxwell if he has a favorite thing, a touchstone, that keeps

this meteoric rise in perspective, he's quick to note, "I don't have a particular possession, but it would be my family. They are a great motivator. We're one large family and they go everywhere with me. They inspire me to push myself forward and making them proud since I chose a non-traditional career. If I'm not with them, I talk to them every day."

Asked if he has any advice for aspiring designers, he's emphatic when stating, "Have conviction in yourself and do what you want to do. Everyone will have an opinion. If your name is on it, take responsibility for what you do and what it represents." He goes on to say, "I'm grateful. Before the Internet the only way I saw fashion was pouring over the magazines at the grocery store. Some other kid can see me do it and think they can do it themselves, too." Regarding the magazines he used as a fashion resource, when asked what his favorite era in fashion was that he wishes he'd been attached to, Maxwell is quick to note, "The 80s when I was born. I'd also loved to have been in New York during the Warhol 60s, but essentially I love the here and now. Moving forward. Fashion is always moving forward." 

For more information on Brandon Maxwell visit brandonmaxwellstudio.com and for more information on the Women's Symphony League luncheon, visit wslaustin.org



ADRIATIC *Adventures*

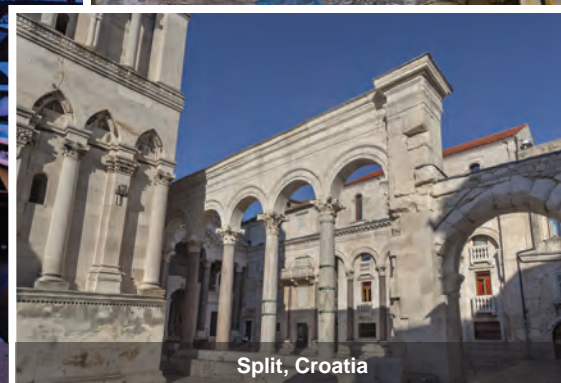
For most, cruising the Adriatic Sea is a **once in a lifetime opportunity**.
Join our *global travel expert Rose Betty Williams* as she **canvasses the sea
and shore** in Croatia, the **latest European hotspot**

Photography by Rose Betty Williams, Archival





Dockside in Split



Split, Croatia

DALMATIA'S DELIGHTS

What do men's neckties, Dalmatians and the white stones used for the White House have in common? They all come from Croatia.

The cravat, a precursor of the modern necktie, was first worn by 17th century Croat soldiers who were mercenaries in France. It is speculated that the term cravat derives from the French cravat, a corrupt French pronunciation of Croate. Every year Cravat Day is celebrated on October 16. (Wikipedia)

The Dalmatian dog breed traces its roots back to Croatia and the historical region of Dalmatia. The Dalmatian was initially used as a "dog of war" to guard the borders of Dalmatia. It is often known as a firehouse mascot because it was easily trained to run in front of horse-drawn carriages to clear a path and guide the horses and firefighters to fires. It also protected firehouses and equipment from theft.

The White House in Washington, D.C. gleams with white limestone, which was harvested from the quarries on Brač Island in central Dalmatia. Roman Emperor Diocletian used the same white stone to build his palace in Split, Croatia, in the fourth century. Today, Diocletian's Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered by many historians to be one of the best preserved Roman structures in the world. Diocletian's Palace was used as a location for filming the fourth season of the HBO series *Game of Thrones*.

When I was a little girl, I remember my mother talking about Dubrovnik often. She described it as absolutely magical and her most favorite city in the world. I

did not give Dubrovnik too much thought then and was clueless where to find it on a map or how to spell it, but years later, I knew I wanted to visit the city that Lord Byron called *The Pearl of the Adriatic*. Bucket list or not, my plans to visit were delayed over the decades by the fall of Yugoslavia, the War for Croatia and the troubles in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

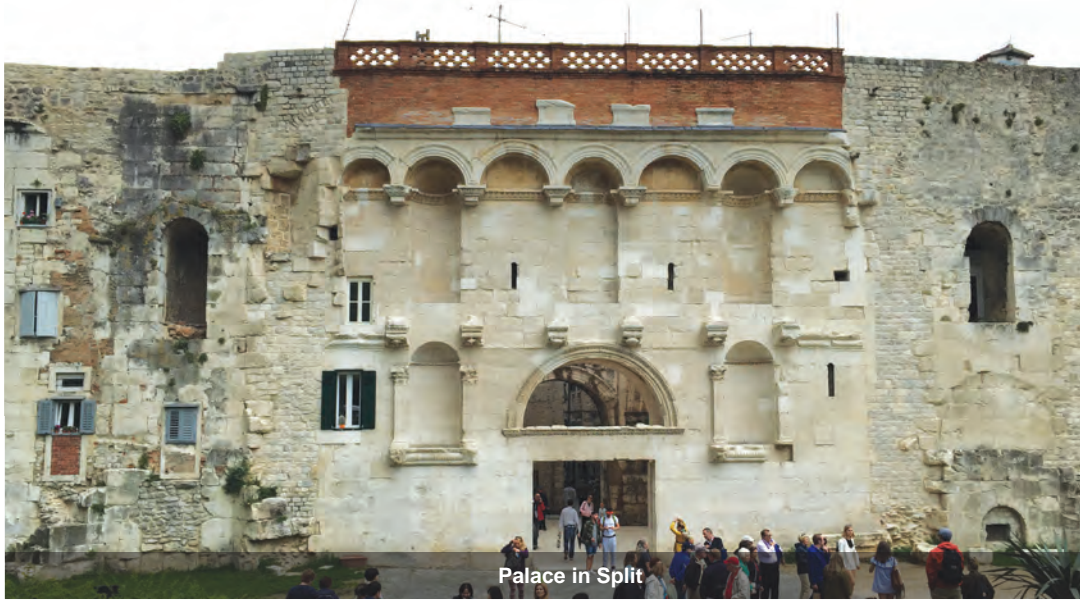
Now that travel to Croatia and Montenegro is deemed safe and my interest enhanced by the prospect of sailing in the Adriatic and exploring the area's rich cultural heritage, my husband Allan, a history buff, and I signed on with Windstar for a Dalmatian Coast cruise. We bookended the trip with a few days in Rome at the start and a few days in Venice at the end. We chose Windstar because its yachts carry fewer than 300 passengers and can sail into ports that cannot accommodate the big cruise ships.

EMBARK UPON ENCHANTMENT

We began our voyage from Civitavecchia (near Rome), sailed to Capri, then Sicily, followed by a day at sea, and then woke up to the splendors of Kotor. Soaring Montenegrin mountains (almost black in appearance - hence the name Montenegro), breathtaking fjord-like views with sparkling blue and green water and medieval stone structures with red roof tops greeted us. We visited Old Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which was developed within a small triangular area enclosed by walls and structures built by the Venetians from the 15th to mid-18th centuries. No cars are allowed on the streets. We admired Baroque palaces and Romanesque churches before we joined a motor coach tour that took us on



A view of Dubrovnik



Palace in Split



Francesco di Cosimo II de' Medici (1614-1634) with Dalmatian by Justus Sustermans



Windstar yacht

a 25-switchback serpentine frighteningly steep road to Loveen Mountain. That we didn't fall off the cliff when another motor coach passed us is a miracle, and a real credit to the driver.

We stopped in the picturesque village of Njegusi where we dined on Dalmatian pršut (Croatian prosciutto), cheese and "black wine" (actually a regional red), and noticed central to the bar and surrounded by a variety of vodka in different bottle shapes and sizes, a large picture of Vladimir Putin, a reminder that Russia had and has a stake in Montenegro. Our tour then took us to the town of Cetinje to visit the Museum of King Nikola. En route, our proud Montenegrin guide pointed to many vacant buildings in disrepair, noting that prior to Serbian rule, they were prosperous factories. We then drove to the popular summer resort of the Budva Riviera with its alluring beaches and then back to Kotor where we went to the 12th century Cathedral of St. Triphon to light candles for loved ones, something we did in every city we visited.

DAZZLING DUBROVNIK

My mother was right: Dubrovnik is stunning, magical and awesome with marble and cobblestone streets, orange-tiled rooftops, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings, art and artifacts from a rich cultural history and impressive medieval stone walls and forts that encompass the Old City -- also designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We took the four-minute cable car ride to Mt. Sr for a 360-degree view of the city and we were enchanted by the scenery - the shimmering,

A 360 degree-view of the entire city and we were enchanted by the scenery - the shimmering, clear blue Adriatic.

clear blue Adriatic, Lokrum Island and the Elafiti Islands on the horizon. Although we didn't visit Lokrum Island, it is reputed to be a wonderful place to swim and kayak. Lokrum Island also has a monastery built in the 12th century by Benedictine monks who lived there for the next six hundred years.

In 1859, Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, made it his holiday home. We wore comfortable shoes for a walk around Dubrovnik's famous walls and brought water with us. The walk is a must but it is strenuous with a lot of steps. We paid attention to the rooftops because we were told that the bright orange terracotta tiles are replacements for tiles that were damaged or destroyed by shells during the 1990s war. Dubrovnik suffered considerable damage during the war. Shells struck 68 percent of the buildings in Old Town, and left holes in two out of every three tiled roofs. Fortunately, most buildings are now repaired and restored. We visited the Franciscan Monastery & Museum and saw the artillery that penetrated the monastery walls. We also visited the pharmacy in the monastery, which started doing business in 1391 and is the third oldest pharmacy in Europe. Dubrovnik was also a filming location for *Game of Thrones*, and stores in Old Town carry many souvenirs from the television series.

SENSATIONAL SPLIT

Split is called the *Flower of the Mediterranean*, is Croatia's second largest city, is both modern and with ancient roots, and is a very busy port. It is a ferry and transportation hub to nearby islands, including Brač Island, Hvar and Trogir. It is also the



The streets of Dubrovnik, Croatia



Trogir, Croatia

residence of the 2014 US Open Tennis Champion Marin Cilic and the birthplace of 2001 Wimbledon Champion Goran Ivanišević, and several current University of Texas women players who told me in Austin that the most beautiful women and very tall people live in Split. According to *Lonely Planet*, Andy Roddick once commented “I don’t know what’s in the water in Croatia, but it seems like every player is over seven feet tall.” It does seem that way. Croatian Ivo Karlović is the tallest player ever on the ATP Tour at 6’11”. A tennis player myself, I hope to return to Croatia in the future for the Konzum Croatia Open Umag, an ATP World Tour tennis tournament, which takes place every July.

Split’s main claim to fame is Diocletian’s Palace. It is a military fortress, an imperial residence and a fortified town that covers nearly eight acres and was built with white stone from Brac Island, marble from Italy and Greece, and columns and sphinxes from Egypt. It is considered to be the world’s most complete remains of a Roman Palace. However, it is not a palace in the conventional sense – it has narrow maze-like streets, passageways and courtyards lined with souvenir and jewelry shops, restaurants and bars, markets, tourists, and approximately 3000 residents who live in the apartments within the palace walls. Our guide told us that the apartments are popular with renters, particularly with fans of *Game of Thrones*, since many scenes were filmed there. We were astonished to see laundry drying on lines from windows and children playing soccer in the streets.

Immediately outside the palace is the statue of Gregorius of Nin. It’s said that rubbing the statue’s big left toe will bring good luck and guarantee a return visit to Split, so of course we took part in the tradition.

TRANSCENDENT TROGIR

We took a bus to nearby Trogir, situated on a small island connected to the mainland by a bridge. Trogir’s culture was created under the influence of the ancient Greeks, then the Romans, followed by the Venetians who influenced the Renaissance and Baroque architecture within the city’s medieval walls and for which it was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Trogir’s colorful history includes rule by the Hapsburgs, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs and occupation by Napoleon Bonaparte. During World War II, it was conquered by Italy. Tito occupied it in 1944. Later it became part of Yugoslavia, and beginning in 1991, became part of Croatia.

We visited the Church of St. Lovro (also known as St. Lawrence), whose main west portal is a masterpiece by Radovan and considered to be the most significant work of the Romanesque-Gothic style in Croatia. Neither time nor weather permitted us to visit Zlatni Rat beach in Bol, which is one of the most popular beaches in all of Croatia. Beaches in Croatia, incidentally, are typically rocky or pebbly, not sandy, and many are FKK (German for *freikörperkultur*, meaning free body culture or clothing-optional).



Trogir, Croatia



Old town in Split



Rovinj

We walked up and around steep streets and piazzas, admiring the most fantastic views.

RADIANT ROVINJ

Rovinj was our final stop and perhaps, my favorite, in Croatia. I love Rovinj! It is located in the Northwest corner of the Istrian Peninsula. We walked up and around steep streets and piazzas, admiring the most fantastic views of the Adriatic and sailboats en route to any of the fourteen green islands of the Rovinj archipelago. We visited the Church of St. Euphemia, the largest Baroque building in Istria. Euphemia is Rovinj's patron saint. She was tortured for her Christian faith by Emperor Diocletian, and her marble tomb is found behind the church altar. The belfry is modeled after St. Mark's in Venice, and a copper statue of St. Euphemia tops the bell tower and shows the direction of the wind by turning on a spindle. We strolled through the Old Town, sipped on coffee—a Croatian pastime, enjoyed a lunch of fresh fish and Italian gelato and were re-energized for more walking. We discovered Grisia, a street lined with galleries and shops featuring Croatian lace, lavender, olive oil, white truffles, jewelry and fashion.

We saw local artists at work and with their work on display. We stopped at several galleries, and I found a painting by Croatian artist Walter Dadich I had to

have. The gallery only accepted Kuna, and since we were nearing the end of our Croatian adventure, we didn't have enough of the local currency. We went to one of the banks that required us to change dollars to Euros to Kuna, a loss for us no matter how we calculated, but I did get my painting. It depicts Rovinj harbor and features the iconic Church of St. Euphemia. I am so glad to have it!

Croatia, a true jewel of the Mediterranean, is a must-see destination for all globetrotters. The sparkling clear blue and green water, the gorgeous coastline, the mountains, lakes and forests, the mixture of ancient and new contribute to Croatia's allure. The Greeks, Romans and Venetians went there for rest and relaxation. Emperor Diocletian went there to retire. Agatha Christie spent her second honeymoon there. Alfred Hitchcock said the most beautiful sunsets anywhere in the world are there. Whether you travel to experience international style, delectable dining, captivating culture or outdoor sports, Croatia has it all. Whether you sail up the coast by boat, or travel overland, Croatia's stunning sapphire coast and rich cultural history will make an unforgettable impression.

Special thanks to these resources: [LonelyPlanet.com/Croatia-Guide](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/croatia), [WikiTravel.org/en/Croatia](https://www.wikitravel.org/en/Croatia), [En.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia), [ChasingTheDonkey.com](https://www.chasingthedonkey.com), [Rick-Steves.com](https://www.ricksteves.com), [InYourPocket.com/Split](https://www.inyourpocket.com/split), [InYourPocket.com/Croatia](https://www.inyourpocket.com/croatia), [Partner.City.Discovery.com](https://www.partnercitydiscovery.com) and Irena Klaić, Croatian and former University of Texas tennis player.

SHORE THING

A quick flight away to Mexico awaits paradise at Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso in Cancun, as our bon viveur Amber Elliott learns on a long weekend jaunt

*Photography courtesy of
Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso*



SWEPT AWAY TO MEXICO

There are all-inclusive resorts and there are all-inclusive resorts. Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso is unabashedly the latter. The former connotes images of all-you-can-eat buffets, several blue lagoons-meet-playground-style pools, cabanas on the beach, and a daunting itinerary of hourly activities, performances and programming. Iberostar Grand Hotel Paraiso does offer all of the aforementioned activities; this Mexican auberge's distinction, however, lies within its subtle charm.

Upon arrival at the Riviera Maya compound's pearly gates, yes, complimentary transport from the Cancun International Airport is available, travelers whiz past Grupo Iberostar's additional four on-property hotels, each representing a unique accommodation level. Iberostar Paraiso Maya, Paraiso Lindo, Paraiso Beach, and Paraiso Del Mar all cater toward the luxury-loving clientele.

The Grand Hotel Paraiso sits in a class, perched on a hill of its own. At first glance, the resort is all at once intimidating and magnetizing. There's both a warm reception from the bellhops who confidently whisk away luggage and a hushed greeting from check-in staff who receive new guests at the lobby bar, a rather refreshing departure from whipping out one's credit card in line airport-style, thank you. Admittedly, the Le Cirque-esque watering hole isn't particularly lavish nor modern, but what the parlor lacks in flash, the receding atrium hall compensates for in spades.

Just beyond the foyer's stately columns lies a domed garden oasis with decidedly transformative powers, especially after a welcome cocktail or two. Its gilded ceiling, majestically painted ala Sistine Chapel, enchants so convincingly, one partially expects a mythical creature or, at the very least, an opera singer, to appear from thin air. On second thought, make that dense, humid air.

Thankfully, in my case, a porter broke the neo-Renaissance spell for the first true adventure: locating my suite. There are two methods of travel across Grand Hotel Paraiso's expansive TK acres: golf cart or on foot. My advice? Opt for the wheels.

Past serene, interior facing balconies, the spa's palatial two-story dwelling complete with a tiled saltwater pool, several glass-enclosed restaurants, and the colossal, ocean-facing pool of Poseidon's dreams – more on those later - are dueling beachfront towers. Each one boasts three floors of plush, butler-attended rooms with spectacular views.

HOW ACCOMMODATING

Here, accommodations feel more like the home of a dear friend or relative's decadent, yet lived-in, pied-a-terre. The staff, décor, and personal touches are warm and inviting, a difficult quality to mimic when servicing some 310 chambers including ten private villas. And yet, Grand Hotel Paraiso delivers with aplomb.

According to one guest who's visited the resort some 30 times in his 30 years, the property's allure is the ability to reinvent itself without sacrificing hospitality. The little details, handwritten notes from housekeeping staff, chilled champagne and daily fresh fruit, seamlessly restocked minibars, and nightly chocolates, *read home away from home*, only chicer.

Take the resort's mammoth-sized main pool, for example. All of the conventional trappings are there: swim-up pool bar, partially submerged lounge chairs, cabana vignettes of every size and configuration. But the barkeep are dressed to the nine's, books and magazines are available via a poolside library, the music is subdued and remarkably tasteful, and fellow guests gussy up a tad swankier than one would expect.





The same rings true of the Grand Hotel Paraiso's seven dining options. Each of the property's sweeping Greco-meets-baroque restaurants, Venecia, Toni's, L'Atelier, Haiku, and Bella Vista, serve Italian, surf & turf, French gourmet, Japanese, and steak a la carte, respectively. Attire for each is resort chic; no collarless shirts or maillots, however posh, allowed. In the mood for Mexican? (When in Rome...) Try Las Brisas for "show cooking" and sprawling buffet options amidst white tablecloth service overlooking the clubhouse's mod al fresco bottle-service setup in the sand. A glass of Rose', anyone?

TRY ADVENTURE OR REFRESH

For the adventurous types, Cancun Adventures' luxury sailing and snorkeling tour comes highly recommended. The concierge can happily arrange a day out in the Caribbean for diving, reef exploring, or sun bathing on a catamarans pristine deck. Open bar and a seasonal bento boxed lunch are included, of course.

If rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation are itinerary must-haves, Grand Hotel Paraiso's indulgent Spa Sensations does not disappoint. The couples-oriented haven features both Turkish and Roman baths, full salon services, and an impressive menu of pampering options. I elected for a caviar massage though rumor has it that the chocolate scrub is equally divine.

Relishing one's suite is also unexpectedly gratifying. From the soaking tub, rain-head showers, and well-appointed bath products to the cocoon-style porch swings that dot each terrace, staying can be a splendid experience, too.

Although Iberostar's Grand Hotel Paraiso may have not reinvented the all-inclusive wheel, it's certainly perfected the art form of a chic Mexico stay. Leave the kids at home, pack an extra Pucci caftan or two, and prepare to fall in love with Riviera Maya's most unexpectedly charismatic destination.



Linda Leavitt and Leslie Mullins



THE SCENE:

The pastoral lawn of San Antonio's historic Argyle club provided the ideal setting for the 13th Annual Le Brunch des Chapeaux benefiting the Autism Community Network. It was Paris, Paris, Paris as the City of Love's inimitable style took center stage at the event. Over 400 guests dined on chic luncheon fare as San Antonio style star, Julian Gold, presented stunning spring fashions for all to enjoy.

A FEATHER IN HER CHAPEAU

San Antonio Stylish Luncheon Tops Them All

By *Jake Gaines* | Photography by *Greg Harrison*



Co-chairs Denise Moser, Holly Basing and Carla Nelson



Stephanie Bailey and Stephanie Hill



Sarah Manny, Renee Ojeda, Stacey Hill and Emily Carr



Brandi Sutherland, Lindsay Nash and Nicole Hatter



Kim Lewis



Mike and Shannon Sieger



Sara Owens, Katie Loftin and Anne Davidson

THE VIBE:

The Parisian Fashion theme and decor were the vision of co-chair Holly Besing of Holly Besing Designs who, with the help of her wonderful committee, designed and created most of the 50 table centerpieces. Many of the sublime designs worn by guests set the pace for the busy social season. From Eiffel Tower-themed hats to pastel shades of macarons, the terrific toppers were a highlight of the event.



Lesley Edwards and Lisa Alvaredo



Corrie Williams and Renee Wright



Heather Craig, Jordan Delaney and Andrea Olson



Kendall Mazurek, Sarah Caruth and Lauren Pepping



Lauren Itschner and Laurie Barnes



Cynthia Kirby, Tracee Feik and Raven Labatt



Kathleen Whitten



Shelly Miles and Carroll Dorsey Walker



Amy Swaney and Chrissy Labatt



Robin McEldowney, Michelle Shetler, Stephanie Barnes and Kelly Fry



Liz Lamoureux, Libby McKelvain and Jill Peavy

THE CAUSE:

The event was co-chaired by Denise Moser, Holly Besing and Carla Nelson. The Autism Community Network was founded in the summer of 2008 in order to help meet the needs of the growing number of children with autism in the San Antonio area. ACN's mission is to maximize the potential of children with autism by providing early diagnosis for those with limited access, and educating and empowering the community to support them.



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Becca Cason Thrash

ALL ABOUT ALCHEMY

Recipe For Success Host 10th Anniversary Dinner

By Jennifer Roosth | Photography by Kim Coffman

THE SCENE: Under the sparkling chandeliers of The Dunlavy, 70 guests gathered to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Recipe for Success Foundation, *Delicious Alchemy*, and enjoy an exquisite and sumptuous ten-course Banquet prepared by ten iconic chefs: Chefs Bryan Caswell, Charles Clark, Robert Del Grande, Monica Pope, Ouisie Adams Jones, Randy Evans, Lance Fegan, Randy Rucker, Peter Garcia and John Sheely, all of whom are founding members of the organization's Chef's Advisory Board.



Bianca Ferrer, Stephanie Hill and Candace Hoelscher



Chef Randy Evans



Bob and Gracie Cavnar & Cynthia and Tony Petrello



Romy Lauren and Charles Clark



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saks.com



*FROM THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 TO OCTOBER 30, 2016, TWO PERCENT (2%) OF NET REVENUE (AS DEFINED BELOW), FOR UP TO A TOTAL OF USD\$500,000 ON A PRO-RATA BASIS, GENERATED FROM SALES OF MERCHANDISE OF VENDORS PARTICIPATING IN THE KEY TO THE CURE PROMOTION (THE "PARTICIPATING VENDORS") (I) AT THE SAKS FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK STORE, THE SAKS FIFTH AVENUE BEVERLY HILLS STORE AND ON SAKS.COM WILL BE DONATED TO THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOUNDATION ("EIF") AND ITS PROGRAM STAND UP TO CANCER ("SU2C") AND (II) AT THE SAKS FIFTH AVENUE QUEEN STREET TORONTO STORE, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE SHERWAY TORONTO STORE AND ON SAKS.CA WILL BE DONATED TO EIF CANADA AND ITS PROGRAM STAND UP TO CANCER CANADA ("SU2C CANADA"). IN ADDITION, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) OF GROSS REVENUE GENERATED FROM SALES OF THE KEY TO THE CURE T-SHIRTS SOLD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 2016 (I) AT THE SAKS FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK STORE, THE SAKS FIFTH AVENUE BEVERLY HILLS STORE AND ON SAKS.COM AND SAKSOFF5TH.COM WILL BE DONATED TO EIF/SU2C AND (II) AT THE SAKS FIFTH AVENUE QUEEN STREET TORONTO STORE, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE SHERWAY TORONTO STORE AND ON SAKS.CA AND SAKSOFF5TH.CA WILL BE DONATED TO EIF CANADA/SU2C CANADA. AS USED HEREIN AND FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PROMOTION, "NET REVENUE" SHALL MEAN GROSS REVENUE MINUS SALES TAX, DISCOUNTS, RETURNS, CREDITS, CANCELLATIONS, LOST, STOLEN OR DAMAGED MERCHANDISE AND BAD DEBT.
IN ADDITION, ALL SAKS FIFTH AVENUE STORES, OTHER THAN SAKS FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE BEVERLY HILLS, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE QUEEN STREET TORONTO AND SAKS FIFTH AVENUE SHERWAY TORONTO STORE, (THE "REMAINING LOCATIONS") WILL EACH DESIGNATE AND PARTNER WITH A LOCAL CANCER CHARITY. ANY FLAT DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING VENDORS WILL BE PAID OUT TO SUCH LOCAL CHARITIES BASED ON THE ALLOCATION FORMULA SET FORTH BELOW. IN ADDITION, TWO PERCENT (2%) OF NET REVENUES GENERATED FROM SALES OF MERCHANDISE OF PARTICIPATING VENDORS FROM THURSDAY TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 TO OCTOBER 30, 2016 AT THE REMAINING LOCATIONS (THE "REMAINING LOCATION NET REVENUE") WILL BE ALLOCATED AMONG SUCH LOCAL CHARITIES BASED ON THE ALLOCATION FORMULA SET FORTH BELOW. THE ALLOCATION TO EACH LOCAL CHARITY WILL BE BASED ON ITS PARTNER STORE'S PORTION OF THE REMAINING LOCATION NET REVENUE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF STORE A IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE REMAINING LOCATION NET REVENUE, THAT STORE A'S DESIGNATED LOCAL CANCER CHARITY WILL RECEIVE FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE AVAILABLE DONATION (I.E. FROM ANY FLAT DONATION FROM PARTICIPATING VENDORS AND THE REMAINING LOCATION NET REVENUE). IN ADDITION, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) OF GROSS REVENUE GENERATED FROM SALES OF THE KEY TO THE CURE T-SHIRTS SOLD FROM OCTOBER 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 2016 AT SUCH REMAINING LOCATION WILL BE DONATED TO SUCH STORE'S DESIGNATED LOCAL CANCER CHARITY.



JORGE L. MENENDEZ
 Certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery
 Fellow of The American College of Surgeons
 Member of The American Society of Plastic Surgeons
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Gracie Cavnar and Celebrity Chefs



Astley Blair, Becca and John Thrash and Sharron Melton



Ariana Smetana, Karen Penner, Karen Garcia

THE VIBE:

The dinner celebration was the ultimate expression of the Recipe for Success vision: A world where healthy eating is the norm and a culture where nutritious food is shared, appreciated, and celebrated. The evening tickled all the senses: sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. Anchored by a Big Board auction of *Art on a Napkin: Dinner at Eight*, featuring work from iconic artists interpreting their philosophy of shared meals, curated by Catherine Anspson and Eleanor Williams, there were dozens of tasting stations with Houston's most creative chefs and wine tastings orchestrated by Amy Carron Power, The Wine Wonkette, and music from DJ Sun, Paul English and Houston's first Silent Disco, as well as poetry on demand from the Inprint Poetry Buskers, and performance art.

THE CAUSE:

Recipe for Success founders Bob and Gracie Cavnar chaired the event for the organization that focuses on combating childhood obesity by changing the way our children understand, appreciate and eat their food and by educating and mobilizing the community to provide healthier diets for children. Their programs have empowered more than 30,000 children in Houston and beyond with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthier lives.



Amber Elliott



Sharron Melton and Karen Garcia



Jennifer and Bryan Caswell

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The San Antonio Gardenia Music Club 2016 Coronation

GLORIOUSLY GARDENIA

Gardenia And Musical Club Hosts 55th Annual Coronation

By *Jake Gaines* | Photography by *Greg Harrison*

THE SCENE:

On a recent evening in San Antonio The Gardenia and Musical Club hosted its 55th annual coronation dinner dance at the Oak Hills Country Club honoring the 2016 Queen, Natalie Wils Curran. The coronation, which had over two hundred guests, was the high point of an entire season of celebration.



Siobhain Buckley and Sharron Batchelor



Edmund Curran and Natalie Curran



Thomas Curran, Nora Walker, Natalie Curran and Edmund Curran



Natalie Curran and Texas Military Institute Color Guard



THE VIBE:

Tom Cardenas of RTC floristry transformed the ballroom into a lush garden awash in fragrant Star-gazer Lilies, chandeliers festooned in greenery, and the stage draped in swaths of fuchsia and ivory drapery. Each table sparkled with Ivory bengaline tablecloths, candles surrounded by fresh roses, hydrangeas with greenery, and ruched Ivory chair covers.

The ambience of the event was indeed regal. With the fourteen lovely young ladies of her court standing supportively behind her, Natalie Curran, as this year's monarch, reigned majestically over a celebration fit for a queen amongst the 200 guests in attendance. Flower Girl Julia Staffel and Crown Bearer Trueman Peveto attended Royal Princess Savannah Jane Zars who was crowned by her father, Brian Zars, after she completed her full-court bow. Attended by Flower Girl Coco Kleberg and Crown Bearer Rowan Simpson, Curran then concluded the ceremony with her full-court bow, and the crowning by her father, Edmund Curran. The VIP Choir from Saint Mary's Hall entertained the guests after the ceremony and the court and guests danced into the night with music from Lumen Events.



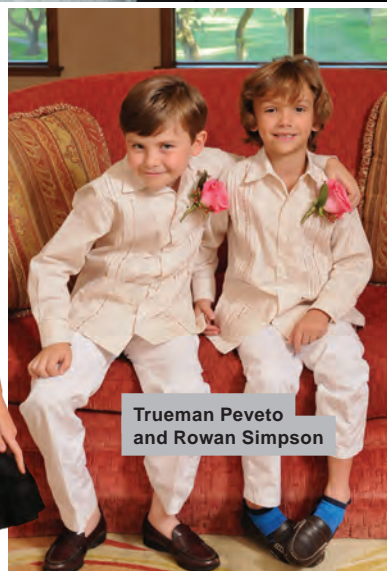
Colby Williams, Hayes Ulm and Tano Kleberg



Ally Adelman and Vincent Lopez



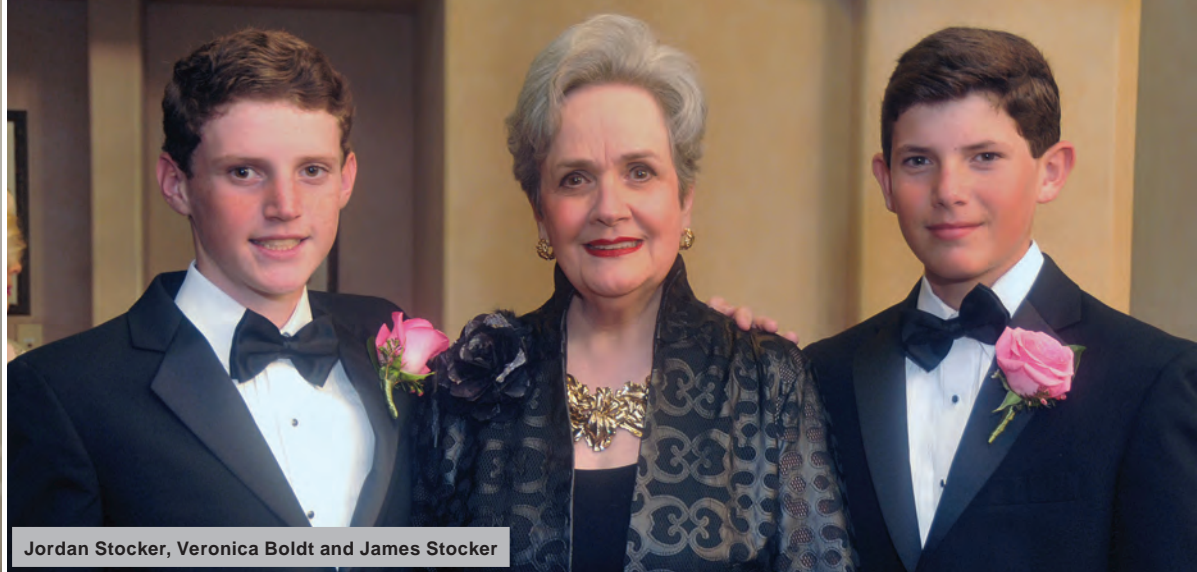
Sarah Mako, Annie Volpe, Mary Smith and Sofia Gutierrez



Trueman Peveto and Rowan Simpson



DeeAnn and Carlton "Skinner" Simpson, Britt Kleberg, Rowan Simpson and Coco Kleberg



Jordan Stocker, Veronica Boldt and James Stocker

THE CAUSE:

The coronation chair was DeeAnn Simpson and the president of the Gardenia Club is Veronica Boldt. Siobhain Anders Buckley, the rising 2016 President of the club served as Mistress of Ceremonies, reading the interests and accomplishments of each court member as they glided down the catwalk. The primary mission of the San Antonio Gardenia and Musical Club is to further interest in the fine arts, presenting scholarships to fine art students and to promote genuine friendship among members.



Chandler Simpson, Chelsea Simpson and Rowan Simpson



Amy Brandt, Ashton McDaniel and Chris Brandt



Katherine Altmeyer and Elizabeth Altmeyer



Savannah Zars and Natalie Curran



Natalie Curran and Alexandra Touliatos

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AUSTIN

September 2
Ben Willie Darrell
4th & Goal gala
dkrfund.org

September 9
The BIG Give
I Live Here, I Give Here
ilivehereigivehere.org

September 16
Imaginarium 2016
Thinkery
thinkeryaustin.org

September 16
Authentic Mexico
Gourmet Gala
authenticmexico.org

September 17
Fete & Fetish 2016
Ballet Austin
balletaustin.org

September 21
Food for Thought Signature
Tasting Event
Communities In Schools
501auctions.com/fft

September 22
Give Hope
Dell Children's Medical
Center
dellchildrens.net

September 23,24
Women's Symphony League
Luncheon and Fashion Show
wslaustin.org

September 29
Words of Hope Dinner
Caritas of Austin
caritasofaustin.org

October 6
Celebration Luncheon
SafePlace
safeaustin.org

October 12
Austin City Limits Hall of
Fame
KLRU, Austin's PBS
acltv.com/hall-of-fame

October 13-16
Pop Austin International Art
Show
popaustin.com

October 15-16
Camp Contemporary
The Contemporary Austin
thecontemporaryaustin.org

October 20
ZACH Backstage
ZACH Theater
zachtheatre.org/backstage

October 21
Beauty of Life
Hospice Austin
hospiceaustin.org

October 22
Catrina Ball
Mexic-Arte Museum
mexic-artemuseum.org

DALLAS

September 8-10
Fashion X Dallas
fashionxdallas.com

September 9
The Lunch
Goodwill Industries of
Dallas
goodwilldallas.org

September 24
Fur Ball 2016
SPCA of Texas
spca.org

September 30
Dallas YMCA 13th Annual
Key Leaders Lunch
ymcadallas.org

October 1
25th Annual Zoo To Do
Dallas Zoo
dallaszoo.com

October 7
Girl Scouts of Northeast
Texas Women of Distinction
Luncheon
gsnetx.org

October 14
Dallas On the Move
Luncheon
National Multiple Sclerosis
Society
nmss.org

October 15
Cattle Barons Ball
American Cancer Society
cancer.org

October 20
Celebrating Women
Luncheon
Baylor Scott & White Health
BaylorHealth.edu

October 20
Prelude Lights Celebrating
Prelude to Aurora 2017
preludelights.com

October 22
PTWO x TWO for AIDS
and Art Black Tie Gala and
Auction
twoxtwo.org/events/gala

October 26
Hope for Humanity
Dallas Holocaust Museum
DallasHolocaustMuseum.org

October 28
2016 Big Black Tie Ball
Big Brothers Big Sisters
bbbstx.org/bigblacktieball

HOUSTON

September 8
Great Futures Dinner
Boys & Girls Clubs of
Greater Houston
bgclubs-houston.org

September 8
Opening Style Show
Junior League of Houston
jlh.org

September 16
Hearts of Gold Gala
The Health Museum
thehealthmuseum.org/
heartsofgold

September 17
Houston Symphony
Opening Night Concert and
Gala
houstonSymphony.org

September 20
Houston's Taste of the
Nation
No Kid Hungry
ce.strength.org/Houston

September 23
Big Black Tie Ball
Big Brothers Big Sisters
bbbstx.org/houstonball

September 24
30th Anniversary
Celebration Gala
Houston Intercontinental
Chamber of Commerce
houstonicc.org

September 28
Best Cellars Dinner Houston
TJ. Martell Foundation
tjmartell.org

October 6
Razzle Dazzle Pink!
Memorial Hermann
memorialhermann.org

October 7
The Grand Gala Ball
Museum of Fine Arts
Houston
mfah.org

October 7
Celebration of Champions
Texas Children's Hospital
texaschildrens.org

October 13-15
Fashion X Houston
fashionxhouston.com

October 15
Mad Hatters Ball
Children's Museum of
Houston
cmhouston.org

October 20
Concert Against Hate
Anti-Defamation League
Houston
adl.org

October 20
2016 Feed Your Wild Life
Conservation Gala
Houston Zoo
houstonzoo.org

October 21
Jones Hall 50th Ball: A Mad
Mid-Century Celebration
joneshall50th.org

SAN ANTONIO

September 9
Red Carpet Centennial Gala
American Red Cross
redcross.org

September 13
Inspiring the Winds of
Change Gala
Clarity Child Guidance
Center
claritycgc.org

September 17
Jazz'SAlive
San Antonio Parks
Foundation
jazzsa.org

September 23
Outside the Lunchbox
Luncheon
The DoSeum
thedoseum.org/OLL

October 3
San Antonio Sports Charity
Golf Challenge
sanantoniiosports.org

October 6
Legacy of Hope
The Ecumenical Center
ecrh.org

October 8
Cattle Baron's Gala
American Cancer Society
cancer.org

October 15
The Red and White
The Blood & Tissue Center
Foundation
bloodntissuefoundation.org

October 22
Go Rodeo Ball
San Antonio Stock Show &
Rodeo Scholarship Fund
sarodeo.com

By Laura Villagran-Johnson and Kevin Smothers

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