

JULY • AUGUST 2012

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DIARIES

SAN ANTONIO, AUSTIN & SOUTH TEXAS

SUMMER *BLACKTIE*

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PARTY TIPS

WILD ON
KENYA

FIESTA'S
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WEDDING
FLAIR

TRAVEL MANNERS
MATTER





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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

You're invited, so pull up a chair and grab a glass. As the sun sets, the fun begins for the lucky ones who gathered for cocktails, dinner and music at a hilltop hacienda outside the city. Summer black tie was the theme and the outcome was pure glamour for our times. You'll want to borrow our ideas we have for you...

By Lance Avery Morgan

Photography by Russell Clayton

80

TALL, TAN, YOUNG & LOVELY

She's so Texas: this natural beauty channels Grace Kelly's style with an inimitable Lone Star verve. Jetting to both coasts and onto the Continent, looking sensational is also sophisticated, elegant and provocative, she stays as neat as a pin and always a lady.

Photography by Mark Oberlin

Styling by Natalie Harper Howell

Sittings Editor: Lance Avery Morgan

90

GENTLEMEN'S RETREAT

Home is a soulful place to renew and recharge. Here, two sophisticated San Antonians find that in a century-old home and garden in the King William District. Join us as we hop into the lap of refined luxury, won't you?

By Lance Avery Morgan

Photography By Greg Harrison

96

ADVENTURE IN KENYA

It takes awhile to get there, but it's so worth it when you are in the land that time seems to have forgotten... the wilds of Africa. Join us as we takes a five-star trip that is a once-in-a-lifetime experience... until she returns again for more. Here you'll learn where to stay and what to do while there in this practical guide.

By Rebecca Rooney

Photography By Rebecca Rooney

*Shorts and top by The Hellers,
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full relax electrical mechanism

Dervish cocktail tables
design NRD



Photo: Michel Gheret, Styling: Mikko Bernardi, Report "Tipodes", 2003, TASCHEN, Atlanta.



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10. CONTRIBUTE

It takes a village to create a magazine and its media platform. Here's a look at the dynamos who have made it all happen this month.

12. PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Publisher Eduardo Bravo has been busy in the scene and reflects why in his letter to our readers.

14. EDITOR'S LETTER

Creative Director and Editor-in-Chief Lance Avery Morgan has a few opinions and insights on the state of entertaining today.

16. ACQUIRE

We love a pastel palette, don't you? The tints of soft colors are back this season as the hottest trend in years. Here superstar stylist Erin Busbee shows you how to pair it, match it and wear it like you own it. As it should be.

18. BEHAVE

Oh, behave! Manners are important in a well-lived life these days. Here we learn about the finer points of summer travel etiquette, courtesy of our social magnet Jake Gaines.

20. HOST

Our professional hostess Lara Shriftman knows how to host a memorable party. This month she shows us how to host a soirée for a guest of honor and tennis icon, Venus Williams.

24. ACCOMPLISH

We love a success story with a Southern girl who does good. Tinsley Mortimer moved to the Big Apple and has taken the Society Swells by storm, as well as many red carpets, in her new book Southern Charm, reports Jen Roosth.

26. ADORE

Summer lovin' is something we all want, right? Here Austin-based dating expert and professional matchmaker Julia McCurley offers tips on how to create more genuine love in your life.



36

28. SCOUT

Seeing and hanging out with celebrities can be a fun diversion once in a while. Here, Danielle Kaplan shares the best places to spot one of your own.

30. EVOLVE

Getting too close to an emotional issue can sometimes take stepping back a little and detaching. Here, Austin-based self-improvement expert Mary Schneider adds insight on how to correctly assess your life situations for more emotional growth.

32. THRIVE

Aging parents and grandparents can weigh on our minds unless we take advance steps to ensure their ongoing financial security. Here are some methods to consider for a lifetime of happiness in the golden years.

34. GATHER

First one in! Here are some poolside suits and accessories that will go swimmingly with any day at the beach or club. Colorful, fun and festive, dive in to some of our favorite picks that Danielle Kaplan has found for us.

36. CHRONICLE

It is lunchtime with the Social-Set-Who-Jet before a grand dinner party. In this excerpt from The Society Diplomat book by Lance Avery Morgan, we get an inside look at how a party can be given for the man of the hour and every Socialite's greatest accessory.

43. DISCOVER

The Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation South Texas Heritage Center Opens at the Witte Museum is now open and here we take you to South Texas ranching history.

ENTRANCE

The Best Parties in Austin, San Antonio, and South Texas



72

48. San Antonio A round up of Fiesta, the much-anticipated annual event with floats, balls and badges

54. Austin ZACH Theater's Red Hot & Soul gala

57. Laredo The Keck event showcases the best of South Texas

59. San Antonio The Nature Conservancy gala

61. Austin Links & Lyrics annual gala and golf tournament

66. San Antonio Le Brunch De Chapeaux luncheon

70. Austin Carrie Frugé and Lee Walker's engagement party

72. San Antonio The Bruni-Wetsel wedding

ARRIVAL

102. San Antonio The Eilan hotel opening

106. PROMOTE Highlighting the best of the best

112. ARRANGE

A social calendar from the Austin & San Antonio Social Planner, recommended by social butterflies Kevin Smothers and Laura Villagran Johnson



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Publisher

Eduardo Bravo

Associate Publisher

Rossana Leeper

Editor-in-Chief and Creative Director

Lance Avery Morgan

Art Director

Chris Lindenmayer

Associate Editors

Sydney Fazende, Rob Giardinelli, Danielle Kaplan
Ellie Leeper, Madeline Cummings Noal, Rose Betty Williams

L.A. Lifestyle Editor

Lara Shrifman

Writers

Erin Busbee, Jake Gaines, Rob Giardinelli, Laura Villagran Johnson
Danielle Kaplan, Julia McCurley, Lance Avery Morgan
Rebecca Rooney, Mary Schneider, Lara Shrifman
Kevin Smothers, Camille Styles, Bryan Vargas

Photographers

Clayton Aynesworth, Chris Caselli, Russell Clayton
Kim Coffman, John Conroy, Greg Harrison
Mark Oberlin, Larissa Rogers, Tony Spielberg

International Ambassador

Epitacio Resendez

US Society Ambassadors

Natalie Bond – Los Angeles
Blair Late – Los Angeles
Amber Elliott – New York
John Danielson – New York
Mallory Miller – New York
Leanne Raesener – New York
Paul Bradshaw – San Francisco

Customer Service Manager

Iliana Aburto

National and Regional Advertising Directors

Rossana Leeper – San Antonio/So. Texas / 210.861.3324
Lance Avery Morgan - Austin / 512.554.9893

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Published by

M.M.G. Communications
40 N.E. Loop 410-630
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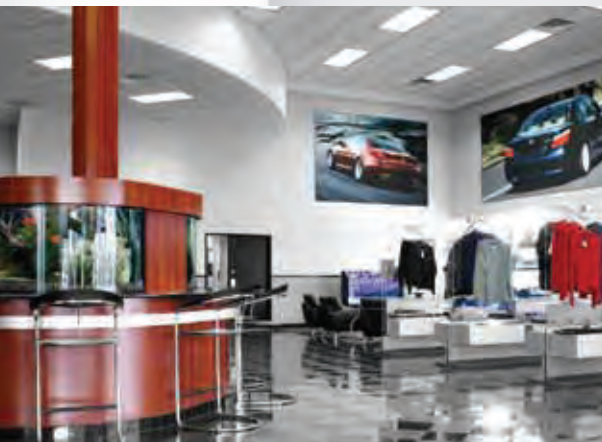
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ERIN BUSBEE

San Antonio style maven Erin Busbee founded her own fashion consulting company, Busbee Style, through which she offers fashion styling, personal shopping and closet organizing. She also serves as the regular style expert for the popular south Texas TV show, *San Antonio Living* and is the on-camera fashion stylist in more than a hundred videos for Tyra Banks' new business venture, TypepadF and she writes her own fashion and beauty blog, Busbusbeestyle.com.



RUSSELL CLAYTON

Published by local and national media since 2006, our entertaining cover story photographer Russell Thomas Clayton is a self-trained free-lance photographer from South Austin. When he's not behind a camera shooting dazzling images, he is an accounting systems professional. With an eye for the often overlooked and a preference for natural beauty; details pop and stories unfold in his imagery that can be seen at a selection of his work at Russellthomasclayton.com.



DANIELLE KAPLAN

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



JULIA McCURLEY

Julia McCurley weighs in this month with her Adore column and a feature on Monte Carlo. She is the founder of Something More (Trysomethingmore.com), a professional matchmaking service. As a dating veteran herself, McCurley understands first-hand how difficult it can be to balance one's career and personal life; combining these two factors that use a best practices approach from the executive recruiting world and applies it to finding ideal partners in love. She lives in Austin, is happily married and a mother of three. Helping people find true love is her passion.



MARK OBERLIN

Our fashion photographer 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 Mark's work can be found at his website at www.markoberlin.com.



REBECCA ROONEY

Based in Austin and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, globetrotter and this month's feature writer on Kenya, Rebecca Rooney is a travel and lifestyle freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Brilliant*, *Austin Monthly*, and *Austin Woman* magazines as well as doing research for *National Geographic* magazine. She's traveled extensively in East and Southern Africa over the past twenty years and currently serves as a Trustee of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International based in Atlanta, Georgia and Kigali, Rwanda.



JEN ROOSTH

Jennifer Roosth has a degree in "People Watching" from Princeton University. Literally. While the academic discipline is officially referred to as Anthropology, Jennifer loves using ethnographic research methodology to understand patterns and meaning in the fascinating social worlds of fashion, art, and society. She conducted this month's interview with Tinsley Mortimer while Tinsley was in her natural habitat, getting highlights at the Oscar Blandi salon in New York. Roosth grew up in Houston and lived in New York, London, Geneva, and Beijing before returning to Texas to people watch. Photo by Kim Coffman



MARY SCHNEIDER

Mary Schneider has been studying alternative healthcare modalities for over 20 years and is certified in Holographic Repatterning and Touch for Health. She has studied homeopathy, the Chinese 5 Element Acupuncture System, The Work of Byron Katie and numerous other modalities. Her practice is the Holographic (Resonance) Repatterning Institute (Repatternit.com) and she happily resides and practices in Austin.



LARA SHRIFTMAN

Our West Coast Lifestyle Editor Lara Shriftman co-founded Harrison & Shriftman in 1995, an agency that specializes in public relations, marketing and events for high-profile luxury brands (www.hs-pr.com). Lara has served as a contributor and editor to Tribune Media's *Distinction* magazine, The Miami Herald's *Home & Design*, *Brilliant*, *Q*, *Departures*, *LA Confidential*, *Quest and Hamptons*, and has been a featured guest on *The TODAY Show*, *E!*, *Extra*, *The Megan Mullally Show*, and *FOX's Friends and Family*.



KEVIN SMOTHERS AND LAURA VILLAGRAN JOHNSON

If there's an event or gala worth attending in our region, 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 28 years background across Texas, New York and Los Angeles. Plans to launch a full-blown *San Antonio Social Planner* are in the works for this year.



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BE YOUR OWN OLYMPIAN

It is Summer and as the old Gershwin song croons, "the living is easy". We like that sort of easy living around *The Society Diaries* offices, yet, as you can see, we've been quite busy creating this new summer issue for your enjoyment. In fact, in keeping with the London Olympics in play these two months, we're operating at Olympian levels before it's back to school for the families of many of our readers.



Part of our year-long mission is attending and supporting worthy galas and bringing them to you. We also have a passion for entertaining... while the charity season takes a warm weather break. As you'll see by our cover story shot in Austin, we like to host a good time for others on and off our pages and with our easy entertaining tips, you, too, can gain insight on how to dazzle your guests. Along with highlighting Spring's best and brightest social magnet philanthropic events, we bring you coverage on who to know and what they are doing to make the world a better place.

Since the Tour de France this time of year is also an important part of our region, because of Austinite Lance Armstrong's fame with it, we're on the road to other adventures, too, like Kenya, Africa. Where the wild things are indeed. Locally, we get up close and personal with a stunning home in San Antonio that is as stylish as our fashion feature that brings sensational summer style directly to you. Plus, so much more.

So, sit back, keep the sand out off your beach towel and join our party. You'll be glad you did. ☺

Eduardo Bravo
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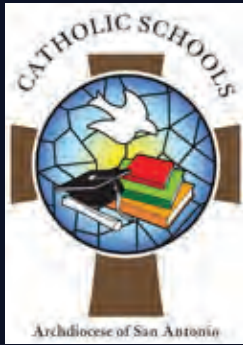
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DID SOMEONE SAY PARTY?




Surely you don't have to ask us twice to have a party. Or, heck, to even attend one. Make no bones about it... it is what we do and part of what we reflect in this magazine – people enjoying life to the fullest. This very busy social season has seen some of the swankiest galas in decades. The causes, all so very worthwhile, have motivated you readers to attend and contribute to them. And...we are proud to continually chronicle that success.

In this issue, we range from highlighting a classic home in the King William district of San Antonio to the scaling the wilds of Kenya, canvassing the globe with our Texas point of view to bring you the finest and most interesting articles on people, places and things that can positively affect you and your life.

Our dynamic entertaining cover story was achieved with a terrific team that took months to plan and execute. From a dreamy hill-top venue, guest list from the spectrum of community involvement, financial and society figures, to the theme of a Masque Ball, we think you'll be inspired as we channeled our inner Old Hollywood.

Summer is our favorite time of year to reflect on where we've been and where we are going. Our fashion, accessories and all things stylish we focus upon are hand-selected to offer you a point of view we feel is succinct with yours. We love being a fly-on-the-champagne glass when it comes to reflecting what you want, yet we want to hear from you more because this is *your* magazine.

So, do let us know what you'd like to see in the magazine that you may not be seeing now. Will you give us a shout, please, or grab us by the arm at the next gala and let us know your thoughts? Remember, this magazine reflects your high performing world.

Until then, enjoy every page and party as you enjoy your Summer of Love. 

*XO Lance Avery Morgan
lance@thesocietydiplomat.com*



Photo By John Conroy



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Want to take a break from all the brights this season? Our San Antonio style guru Erin Busbee recommends you cleanse your color palate with some pale pastel hues by seeking soft, subtle standouts in mint green, creamy butter, powder blue and dreamy lilac to add some sweetness to your summer wardrobe. Yummy.



Commitment phobes can try just a touch of the trendy, sherbet shades by using this Ready to Glow, five hue eye shadow palette by Dior. \$59.00

Available at neimanmarcus.com
Photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus



Add a touch of elegance and femininity to your living space with this pink sherbet and ivory damask wing Chair by Haute House. \$1,259

Available at neimanmarcus.com Photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus



Searching for "It" girl status? This gorgeous aquamarine, ostrich leather tote by Prada is the way to go. \$6,690

Available at neimanmarcus.com
Photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus

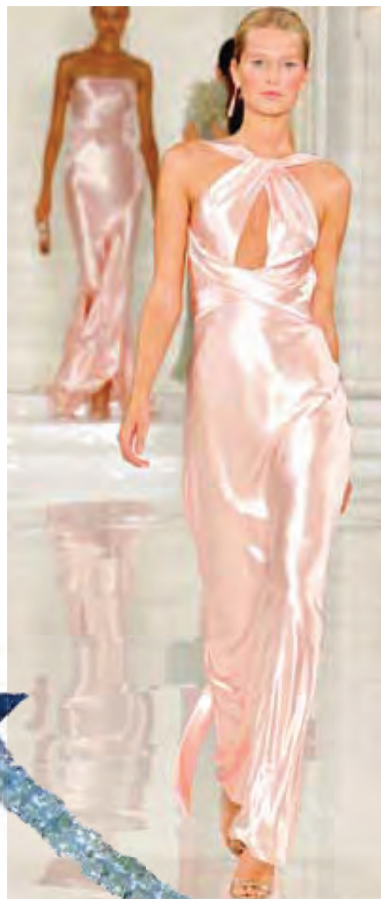
For a sharp, sporty take on pastels, check out Versace's Versus' Spring 2012 collection. The oversized pleats and zippers add an edgy, modern twist to these sky blue separates. \$1,700

Available at www.versus.it
Photo courtesy of Marcus Tondo/ GoRunway.com



The epitome of elegance, this 1930's-inspired, pale pink, silk gown by Ralph Lauren will make jaws drop at your next formal event. \$3,898

Available at RalphLauren.com
Photo courtesy of Feudi/Feudigainem.com



You'll find a sole mate in these coral rose strappy, statement sandals by Burak Uyan. \$1,200 -1,400

Available at Luisaviaroma.com
Photo courtesy of Burak Uyan

Pair JCrew's sequin and silk, sleeveless top with some printed pants for a fresh, fashion-forward look. \$420

Available at Net-A-Porter.co
Photo courtesy of Net-A-Porter



Aquamarine Life. This German hand-carved frosted Aquamarine flower is approximately 30cts., center set with a round brilliant cut 1.42ct. natural Rhodolite Garnet. The necklace is faceted Aquamarine beads and is 18.5 inches in length and ends with a 14kt white gold filigree catch. \$2995.00

Available at Penalozza & Sons Jewelry, San Antonio



This lilac, asymmetric, kidskin, suede jacket from Armani Collezioni is a standout piece for spring/summer and pre-fall must. \$1,850

Available at neimanmarcus.com
Photo courtesy of Neiman Marcus

Set to JET

It's up, up and away to fly the friendly skies this summer to see family, friends and new sights. Let Jake Gaines, our own Mr. Manners, help you navigate the how's and why's of pursuing private travel, out of town guests and perfect packing.



Dear Mr. Manners,

I love to travel, yet hate to pack. My husband manages to fit everything into his carry-on, while I end up bringing along half my closet. What pieces should I pack that will allow me to streamline yet still look chic at my destination? And, do you recommend FedEx'ing luggage ahead like the celebrities do these days?

- Travelin' Light in Austin

also hold those. Remember to take things that are cotton and drip-dry should you need to wash something out overnight. That's really all there is to it. Along with your iPad or slim laptop or a couple of paperbacks and this magazine, you are ready to hit the beach when you land.

Dear Mr. Manners,

My in-laws are staying with us while in town for the family reunion. How do we best prepare and do you have any tips for me to make it go as smoothly as possible.

- Home Host-With-The-Most In Training in Laredo

Dear Border Host,

It was once said that guest, like fish, tend to stink after three days. We love our in-laws, yet a three-day weekend visit is perfectly long enough for anyone to be a houseguest in my opinion. While you're happy to share your home with friends and relatives, the stress of hosting sometimes gets in the way of enjoying the visit itself. Here are the basics.

First, the guest room. Make sure all the amenities of a hotel you might want to stay in can be found in the guest suite you prepare. You needn't have monogrammed stationery for them, yet make it as cozy as possible. An "extras" toiletries kit for anything that might have been forgotten is always nice to have in the bathroom cabinet along with a selection of fresh towels. Buy the best bedding you can, as well as the best mattress. There is nothing better than a guest who is well rested and feels like one of the family treated to nice linens. For late afternoon or midnight snacks, keep the fridge stocked with kid – and adult – friendly foods. From yogurt and granola bars to good champagne and fresh bread for the sandwich-on-the-go, a fed guest is a delighted guest.

Then, plan the itinerary with them in mind. If they love culture, there's likely a good concert or band playing nearby. If they love nature, set up a walk in a scenic area or arrange a historical walking tour of your city's downtown. No matter who the guest, advance preparation is the key to a festive weekend for both guests and hosts. As you know, good manners make the best house-guests of all. 🍷

Dear Mr. Manners,

A couple, who are great friends, asked us to join them on their jet for a weekend at their second home. What sort of host gift should we bring to thank them for their amazing generosity?

- Wheels Up in San Antonio

Dear Wheeler Dealer,

We should all have such conundrums. Lucky you. Flying privately is one of the greatest gifts that can be bestowed between friends. We love that sort of invitation and any sort of gift we have chosen has always been well received. Besides buying a dinner and meal here and there, upon your return (for a trip never take a host gift with you – it's too cumbersome for the recipient to deal with on the trip) immediately send the gift. You likely have a good florist you use, so send two orchids, not one but two, so that the guests really see your appreciation with the rare three feet tall flowers. Different colors, of course. If your hosts like spirits, a case of Patron' tequila or Cinco vodka is an impactful gesture. Then, there is the really over-the-top gift of sending them for an evening away, complete with dinner and breakfast, at their favorite hotel in town. That, dear friend, should show them how much you love flyin' high.

Dear Lovely Capital City Traveler,

Whether a man or woman, it's easy to pack into a carry on. First, get the best and largest carry on piece of luggage possible. Carry-ons can be deceiving. They can look big, yet not be too big. They can look the right size and be too small. Beyond the actual vessel that will carry your wardrobe, what goes in it – and how, are very important. Of course, the weather has a bearing and winter clothes are, of course, thicker and more wieldy. Let's project we are packing for a perfect weekend get away to Turks & Caicos. Sound simple? It is.

The greatest thing about planning a vacation is planning ahead so you are not caught without something you need. If you have four days away, that's easy. For women, pack two skirts or shorts, three tops, two swimsuits and two breezy dresses. Plus, three pairs of flats. For men, pack two shorts and swimsuits, one pair of pants, three shirts and two T-shirts, along with two pairs of shoes and/or flip flops. Plus, the usual assortment of underwear and socks. This will be enough for beachwear, nice dinners and lying around the pool as uniformed servers serve you cocktails.

Rolling the clothes as you would a bath towel, aligning all the clothes in the middle, works best. Your shoes and toiletries kit should flank the outside perimeter. The outside pockets can



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GRAND SLAM *Glamour*

Tennis mega-star Venus Williams launches her new *EleVen* by Venus Williams line of sportswear with the presentation of a capsule collection at a trio of classic garden tennis parties in Miami Beach, New York and The Hamptons and we were there with **Lara Shriftman**, our hostess with the mostest West Coast Lifestyle editor.



Composed of eleven core pieces, Venus drew inspiration for the initial capsule collection from the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament that was launched at this party. The line is made in the USA and is reminiscent of classic tennis styles with an unexpected twist in the form of bold geometric patterns, which were conceived by Venus herself. The formally trained designer has upcoming collections in the works inspired by the French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open, which will set the stage for a lifestyle line in Summer and Fall of 2013.

The line, called *EleVen* because it represents being better than the best is evocative of the spirit of triumph over adversity and the name is a reminder not to impose limits," Williams tells us. She has broken records as the first African-American to become the number-one ranked tennis player in the world and as the holder of more Olympic Gold Medals than any other woman tennis player, as we all know.

The collection speaks to Venus' love of ready-to-wear fashion, her love of art and watercolor and her deep appreciation of her supporters. In response to this demand, the collection will soon

launch with a menswear line, too. Another Venus touch can be found in the hidden handwritten messages she incorporates in each piece of the collection, offering motivational words and personal philosophies, such as "You Got 'Em," which I love.

For the parties I produced to successfully launch this brand to the market, even the invitations to the party demonstrated Venus' attention to detail and thoughtfulness with each guest receiving a personalized letter from her in the mail. Guests were asked to dress dressed in their 'tennis best' and the staff and servers at the party were attired in pieces from the collection, that cohesively continued the theme.

Held on beautifully appointed tennis courts, guests at the events had the opportunity to hit balls with the winner of seven Grand Slam singles titles. It was an opportunity of a lifetime for any tennis fan of any ability.

The décor of the party was stunning in an all-white color palette with details such white Wilson tennis balls, racquets and ball hoppers. The black, white and tennis-ball yellow printables by design

duo, Anders Ruff, punctuated the design with bespoke details. The pair, who specialize in custom party invitations and accessories created custom water bottle labels, straws, toothpick flags, and tray liners and cupcake toppers, "aced" it for these events.

Guests came with an appetite as vegan hors d'ouvres including Seitan burgers and delicious sweet corn pancakes were served on trays lined with the printed signature design for the party... in a nod the plant-based diet Venus has adopted since her diagnosis with autoimmune disease, Sjogren's. It was a natural fit I loved incorporating.

For dessert, mini sorbet cones and vegan mini cupcakes, along with Chocolate Coconut and Peanut Butter Good Greens Bars, tantalized. Completely vegan, these Good Greens Bars contain 100% of the daily recommended fruit and vegetable intake as well as 40 antioxidants. The bars are said to improve digestion and cognitive performance but taste like a candy bar, merging the best of both worlds. Nuts were also offered in bowls for guests lacking a sweet tooth. What's not to "love" about that?



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SAN ANTONIO. AUSTIN. MAUI.

I also dialed in leading healthy lifestyle brand, Jamba Juice, serving Berry UpBEET™ smoothies to guests, a favorite of Williams. Known for their better-for-you beverages, Jamba Juice has grown to over 750 locations in 26 states by providing conscientious consumers a range of branded products that inspire and simplify healthy living, so it was another “hit” for the parties.

Talbot Teas, an all-natural loose leaf tea, were poured into refreshing glasses with their organic Blissful Blueberry™ tea, an artful blend of blueberries, apples, rosehips, hibiscus, black currant tea leaves and cornflower petals, said to be “steeped in style.” Then, water bottles wrapped with Venus’ secret messages that were handwritten on the inside of her clothes were also offered to guest to help keep them hydrated on the courts.

Grey Goose, which I think is the world’s best-tasting vodka, dispatched trained mixologists to the events to prepare a signature drink to toast the tennis star. Called The Honey Deuce Cocktail, the refreshing concoction was adorned with honeydew melon balls.

In the perfect ending to a perfect event, Venus Williams gifted each of her guests with EleVen t-shirts and autographed white Wilson tennis balls. The chic sporting events on gorgeous days, with a healthy twist, will long be remembered by Williams and our guests. 🍷



Ugo Capasso, Serena Williams and Davide Tomassoni at the Launch of the Venus Williams EleVen Capsule Collection at The Bath Club, Miami Beach



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Southern COMFORT

Southern Charm, just released, is super socialite Tinsley Mortimer's salacious debut novel about "Minty Davenport", a Southern girl who transitions from Charleston debutante to *Page Six* "It" Girl. If that story sounds all too familiar, then pull up a chair, because most of the novel is a thinly veiled 'fictional' story is based on both Mortimer's real life and composites of people and characters she has met along the way. **Our girl-on-the-go Jennifer Roosth** caught up with this charismatic blonde to ask a few questions and get the low down on the high life...

Photography Courtesy of JSquared Photography



This Southern girl is not afraid to stand out, though and Tinsley-as-author concept was originally born out of the idea for a style guide to Mortimer's girly-girlish pink and poufy skirt, lip-glossing, curly blonde ways (which once made her feel like a fish out of water among the minimalist NYC crowd who wore mostly black). "I feel like what you wear affects how you feel, so I dress in what makes me feel most comfortable, most like myself," she said in our exclusive interview with the author.

However, as tabloid and society column history has it, Manhattan press and photographers decide that this pink fish with the unusual first name would be a star. In fact, in the book, Mortimer traces "Minty's" moniker to a childhood nickname explaining that she loved starlight mints. It turns out there is a similar story behind Mortimer's first name.

"Tinsley is my great grandmother's last name," confides Mortimer. "In my family and in South, there is a habit of using family names, both because of family pride and wanting to preserve heritage and tradition, and also because girls often lose their last names in marriage and this gives the name a way to stick around. In school, I was

the only Tinsley in my class, and I loved being different. For the book, it was actually a friend from Dior who gave me the idea for "Minty." It was her grandmother's governess's daughter. I felt it was unique, Southern, fresh and fun."

We meet "Tripp DuPont", the dashing and well-bred New York insider who falls head over heels for Minty (Topper Mortimer is Tinsley's real life soon to be ex-husband. He is from New York's Upper East Side and attended Lawrenceville boarding school with Tinsley); "Richard Fitzsimmons", a well-known society photographer with an eye for the next "it girl" (what would NYC society be without Patrick McMullan!); and "Farrah Hammer," the *Page Six* reporter who immediately begins writing about Minty, the "sassy southern deb" (columnist Paula Froelich wrote about Tinsley and her crowd during Froelich's tenure at the *New York Post*).


"With a novel, I had the freedom to create characters who could do - and say - whatever they wanted. And, New York is a city I know so well, which makes it a great backdrop for a project like this," enthuses Mortimer.

Soon after moving to NYC from Richmond Virginia, Tinsley was quickly involved in the

frantic and glamorous world of high society. "When writing this book, I realized that so much of who I was, was connected to my having grown up in the south," she says. "Being from the South, I was used to being open and warm with people. Also, getting involved in charities that I was passionate about seemed natural to me since my mom and grandmother had always done that sort of thing. I worked at *Vogue* and Harrison & Shriftman, and I think that public relations is a great way for young, Southern girls to find an entrance to the city, because many of the same personality traits that are common in the South (being friendly, social skills one might practice in a sorority) are helpful in P.R."

We wanted to know what her style inspirations are these days. Mortimer confidently reveals there are many. "Everything inspires me," she says. "It can be a shoe or a color or even the city itself. I only wear my own handbags, so I basically design for what I would want in my own wardrobe. I like girly styles and colors and bows, but I also like a little edge. So some of my bags are very structural, some have 80s studs, and then some are comfortable with fringe." She goes on to say, "Confidence will be your best accessory. You will feel friendlier and more like yourself, which in turn, will make your night better."

Constantly attending events like she does, we couldn't resist knowing her favorite cocktail and late night snack. "White wine," she admits. I started drinking white wine because at weddings and debutante balls, they only served white (red stains clothes, furniture and teeth), and then it just became habit. I love Hypnotiq liquor with champagne to give it some color. And late, I go for sweets, cupcakes or Krispy Kreme donuts."

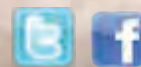
Real or fiction, *Southern Charm* gives readers exactly what they want-- an insider's tour of the exclusive New York high society social scene, ripe with all the fashion, drama, and comic missteps that come with it; Tinsley (and Minty's) life is a fashionable modern fairy tale, a combination of *Cinderella* and *Gossip Girl*, with a sweet, Southern twist. 

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SUMMER LOVIN': FACT OR FICTION?

Just like the song says, summer lovin' can be a blast. But, just how do you find love during the summer at the deep level you might desire? Here, Austinite relationship expert and Austin-based professional matchmaker Julia McCurley explains how and why this might be your best summer of love ever.

Perhaps you are single and you don't want to be. Could it be that you just ended a relationship with someone and this is your first summer flying solo? Maybe you're not sporting those chiseled abs and biceps you'd fantasized about and compare yourself disappointingly to those who do possess these attributes? Or, perhaps your life isn't where you'd like it to be with unattained goals and wavering motivation getting you down.

With all the hoopla that the summer season touts, these types of scenarios and many others can contribute to the "blah" feelings that may signify the "Single Summertime Blues". Those afflicted with this condition can even feel depressed sometimes, harboring loads of negativity and defeat.

Remember that song "Summertime Blues?" It can certainly feel that there's no cure for it at times, but good news abounds for all those out there with an aversion for the summer season's hope for love. There is an escape from the depths of despair. Just embrace the following recommendations and you'll be well on your way toward becoming a summer worshipper now and always. These strategies, however, are not for the faint of heart. They will require initiative, courage, and risk-taking on your part to bring about any positive movement as this is a prerequisite for any kind of positive growth. You must choose it and be proactive!

5 Tips For Becoming A Successful Summertime Single

1. Nourish your mind, body, soul, and physicality

We all need to take care of ourselves, but especially when you're stricken with the "blues", it's even more critical to engage in regular self-soothing and promote your own personal growth. Learn something new. Take a class. Visit a bookstore. Get a personal trainer and get on an exercise regimen. Eat nutritiously. Do something



that affirms your identity. Meditate and practice relaxation techniques. Keep a journal. Pursue a hobby. Get lost in music. While this seems like common sense, it can be very easy to take these simple self-nurturing necessities for granted and neglect ourselves when we need them the most to rejuvenate at difficult times.

2. Plan ahead for love and for your future

For optimal success, it's important to develop a vision (a blueprint or vivid picture of what you want) for your future, for a mate, and for a relationship. This will give you a path to measure where you're going and how you're doing along the way. It's important to identify your values and the things that would be most important for you in all those areas as this will define your mission. Then you can make conscious choices to make sure you're living with integrity, a key component of living a life with healthy self-esteem.

3. Become available and ready for Mr. or Ms. Right

This means making the most of being single by taking this time to resolve any unfinished business from the past to bring about closure, grieve any necessary losses, build confidence and a positive self-concept, and defeat negative thinking with more affirming, optimistic mindsets. Embrace your singlehood and stop measuring your self-worth on your dating status; see this as a valuable


time to get things in order so no baggage carries over when "The One" arrives in your life.

4. Develop a dating action plan and skills toolbox.

Make a list of your non-negotiable needs that you have for a partner and relationship. What are things that you absolutely must have and absolutely cannot have in order to be in relationship with someone? This becomes your guidepost to screen dating prospects for potential compatibility and will help you save time and frustration along the way. Additionally, start building your repertoire of skills in communication, assertiveness, flirting, boundary-setting, screening, etc. to boost your sophistication and confidence in negotiating the dating jungle.

5. Get out of your head

When you've got the "blues", there's a tendency to become self-absorbed with your negative thoughts. Get out of your head and channel that energy into something more productive. Nothing works better than helping others. Volunteer for a worthy cause. Live your life fully and do something that will give you more of a sense of meaning and passion. Take stock of all the strengths and positives that you have. You're a good person so share the gifts that you have and you'll reap the benefits twofold. Summer Love's Lost & Found

So there you have it...this is just a starting point for the cure for the "summertime blues." The important thing is to start viewing your single status as an opportunity. Your life is what you make of it, as the old saying goes, and you have the power within yourself to make this the best summer of your life if you choose. You can convert the "summertime blues" into "summertime bliss" so maybe you can get started now? 

For more information on Julia McCurley and her Something More professional matchmaking services, visit Somethingmore.com

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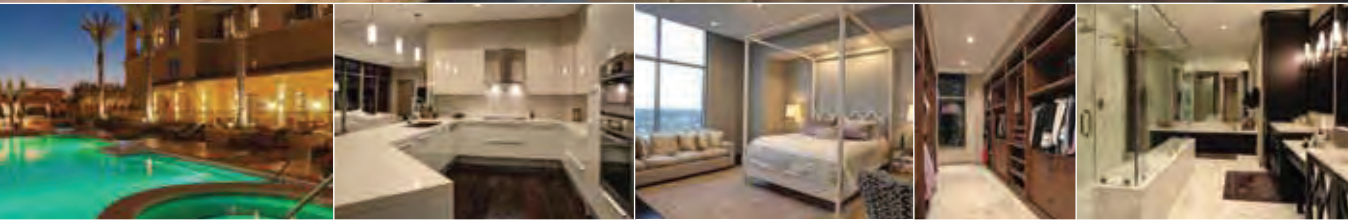
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STAR SEARCH

Not floating in Anguilla with Beyoncé' and Jay this summer after all? Think you'll pass on the ride to Aspen? Then, let Austin's Danielle Kaplan present some of our A-listers' diversions of the 10 best places to star-search worldwide year 'round. They are everywhere and in less obvious places too, if you know where to look. Here are some glitterati-flavored locales that will have you seeing stars in no time.

1. One & Only Palmilla Los Cabos, Mexico

Make Jennifer Aniston's favorite resort yours, too. Secluded and positioned in the middle of the desert on the Sea of Cortez, this lush oasis has a traditional yet chic feel. With George Clooney and his girlfriend Stacy Keibler schmoozing at the El Dorado Golf & Beach Club; Ryan and Seacrest and Juliana Hough escaping to Las Ventanas Sofia Vergara getting pampered at the spa; and Dennis Quaid and Randy Jackson relaxing at the Esperanza resort, One & Only Palmilla may top the list for the best star-sightings. Visitloscabos.travel

2. Four Seasons Hualalai, Hawaii

Escape to paradise at this secluded and private oasis that some call a resort and most call paradise. With a celebrity clientele included Leonardo DiCaprio and Courtney Cox, you could find yourself clinking champagne glasses and paddle-boarding with Hollywood-royalty. Known as the secret wedding spot of Megan Fox and Brian Austin Green, and a great hideaway for Santana, this resort may have a bigger A-list following than ever these days. Fourseasons.com/hualalai

3. Esquire Tavern San Antonio

Known as the quintessential downtown bar, as well as the oldest, on the Riverwalk, Esquire boasts a top-tired star mixologist. At this local hotspot, Top Chef judges turned heads when filming Bravo's hit TV show. Emeril Lagasse, Tom Colicchio, Gail Simmons, Tre Wilcox and Padma Lakshmi have joined the ranks of celebrities who have frequented this downtown institution. Esquiretavern-sa.com

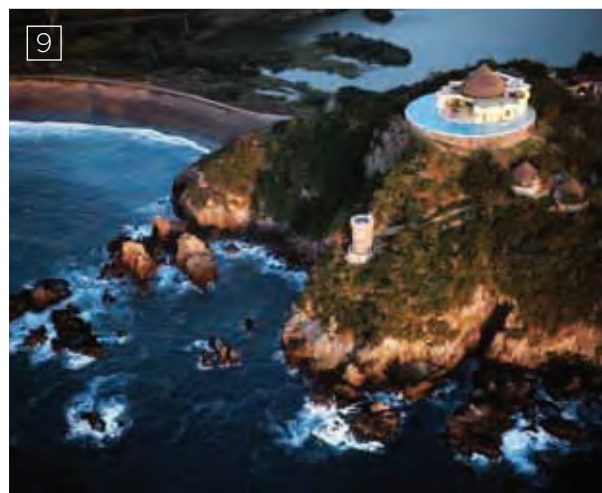
4. Maya's Restaurant St. Barth

With its location right by the water's edge and a killer view of the Gustavia Harbor, Maya's has been the local hot spot for celebrity families. With easy access to the marina, celebs can dock their massive yachts from a day out on the sea before heading in to try a daily-changing menu and a suburb dessert list. Prepare to also see Jay-Z and Beyoncé (hopefully with Blue Ivy in tow) and Ellen and Portia. Turn up the heat during the winter, when the parties are in full swing. Note: The restaurant is open only for dinner. Mayasstbarth.com

5. Runyon Canyon Park Hollywood

Who cares about the brilliant views of the San Monica coastline when you can have views of Hollywood reality starlets like Lauren Conrad and Lo Bosworth? With Hollywood couples taking romantic strolls or men working out shirtless, there is always something to see while you burn off those calories from your trip to Pinkberry. Make sure you get there midday, when the rest of LA is stuck in the office, to have optimal sightings. Runyoncanyon-losangeles.com





6. Sandy Lane

St. James, Barbados

With a top-tier clientele list that could compete with the Oscars, this outrageously expensive hotel is stocked full with celebrities during the holiday season. Home of Tiger Woods wedding in 2004 and Simon Cowell's \$15 million mansion, Rihanna's hometown boasts the latest and greatest. Stroll on the stunning beaches and you may just run into the Beckham posse or Sting. SandyLane.com

7. Top of the Standard New York

Take a trip to the 1970's minus the bellbottoms and join the party scene that Madonna, Lindsay Lohan and John Mayer have all been a part of in New York's meatpacking district. Cozy up by the gold fireplace or dance all night overlooking the Hudson. With floor-to-ceiling windows that reveal breathtaking views of the entire city, you won't know whether to star-search or sight see. Standardhotels.com/new-york-city

8. Uchiko Austin

With Bravo's newly crowned Top Chef, Paul Qui, at the helm of this restaurant, Uchiko is the latest VIP hot spot that nicely complements its brother location, Uchi. With a private room and a delectable menu, celebrities can feel at home, and at ease. With Austin as a hot spot for must-be-seen festivals and movie backdrops, the restaurant's celebrity clientele has ranged from Jessica Alba to the cast of Friday Night Lights, and beyond. Photo by Paul Bardagiy. Uchiaustin.com/uchiko

9. Costa Careyes Mexico

Known among jet-set internationals as a laid-back, word-of-mouth alternative to the major resorts and islands, Careyes is small and little recognized by the real world. Case in point, it seems that hardly anyone knows about the small island that includes only 42 villas, 40 casitas and one hotel. This may be the reason for frequenters that include Giorgio Armani, Uma Thurman, Heidi Klum and Seal, who own a villa here and catch the periodic polo matches. With not even a town in sight, this getaway is for the young and wealthy up-and-comers of the world, which is why villas run for up to \$6,000 a night. Careyes.com

10. Sundance Film Festival

Park City, Utah

There is a plethora of silver screen icons during this high-profile gathering that you're just bound to run into. Bump into Liv Tyler on Main Street or Ashton Kutcher walking out of Silver restaurant, or even surround yourself with celebrities at screenings and panels throughout the festival. You can even hit the slopes with Hilary Swank at the most luxurious ski resorts like the St. Regis Deer Valley and the Montage Deer Valley. Park-cityinfo.com

ATTACHMENT TO YOUR OUTCOME

Our own self-improvement expert, Mary Schneider of The Holographic Repatterning Institute at Austin, weighs in on the issue of attachment to people, places and things that might just hinder your healthy emotional life...



Whether we feel attached or detached to certain situations has a profound influence on how other facets of our lives gel together in a cohesive manner. Many years ago I was visiting a spiritual retreat center in upstate New York and the teacher had everyone engaged in an activity I thought very strange at the time. The teacher gave the students a directive to “build a mountain.” Everything necessary to build that mountain was provided –massive piles of dirt, rocks and wheel barrows. Within a couple of days the mountain was built. The teacher was very pleased with the students and made them feel very proud of their accomplishment.

Then, to everyone’s dismay, the teacher told them to “take it down.” Bit by bit, the mountain that had everyone feeling so proud and accomplished was disassembled. As you might have guessed, the people were experiencing every negative emotion available to the human condition. Anger, frustration, resentment, confusion, and disbelief were all present.

What is the lesson in this form of wasted effort, resources and time? People in that retreat center had a very difficult time trying to understand the

purpose of such a bazaar exercise. What was the point? The teacher explained that in any human endeavor, to live a life of freedom and bliss, one needed to let go of attachment to the outcome. Attachment to the outcome was the result of “doership.” What is doership? It is a highly spiritual concept that says that we cannot really take credit for anything that we do. Our ego’s engage in doership and are attached to taking credit for what we do, especially if the outcome is positive. In reality we don’t actually do anything. Universe does it and provides accordingly. Not being attached to the outcome is actually another way to let go and let Universe

proceed in any way it deems necessary.

Attachment to the outcome can actually get us into all kinds of trouble. How? It is the cornerstone of co-dependent behavior. It keeps us locked in the cycle of being co-dependent. A co-dependent usually wants to help in any situation. Being helpful is seen as good neighborly behavior and is highly regarded in our society. In many cases as a result, people take care of others instead of themselves.

The best way to be helpful to others is to look at the situation at hand first - and decide if there is anything we can do. After, we decide what it is we can actually do and how much - offer it. Then, do just that and then let it go. If you are attached to the outcome, there is a good possibility that the help you originally offered will be perceived as not enough - by you and/or the recipient. As is usually the case, one never knows what the outcome will be. Things work out the way Universe wants them to work. That can cause difficulty in our controlling society. If the outcome is not what we anticipated then anger, frustration, resentment, confusion, and disbelief can again result.

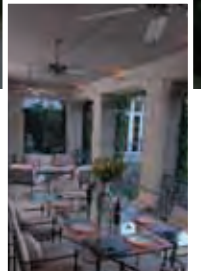
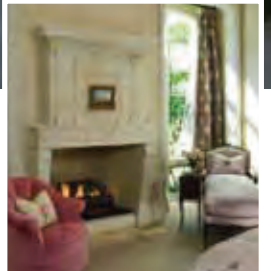
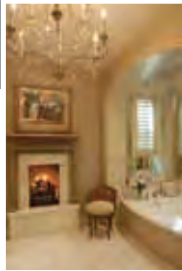
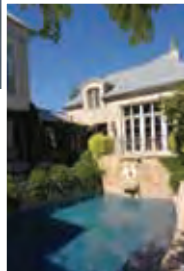
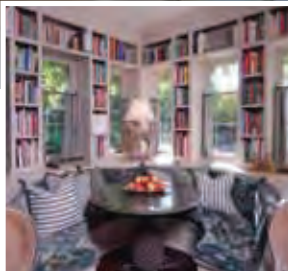
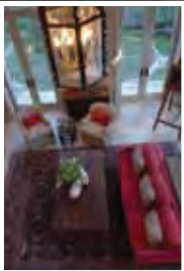
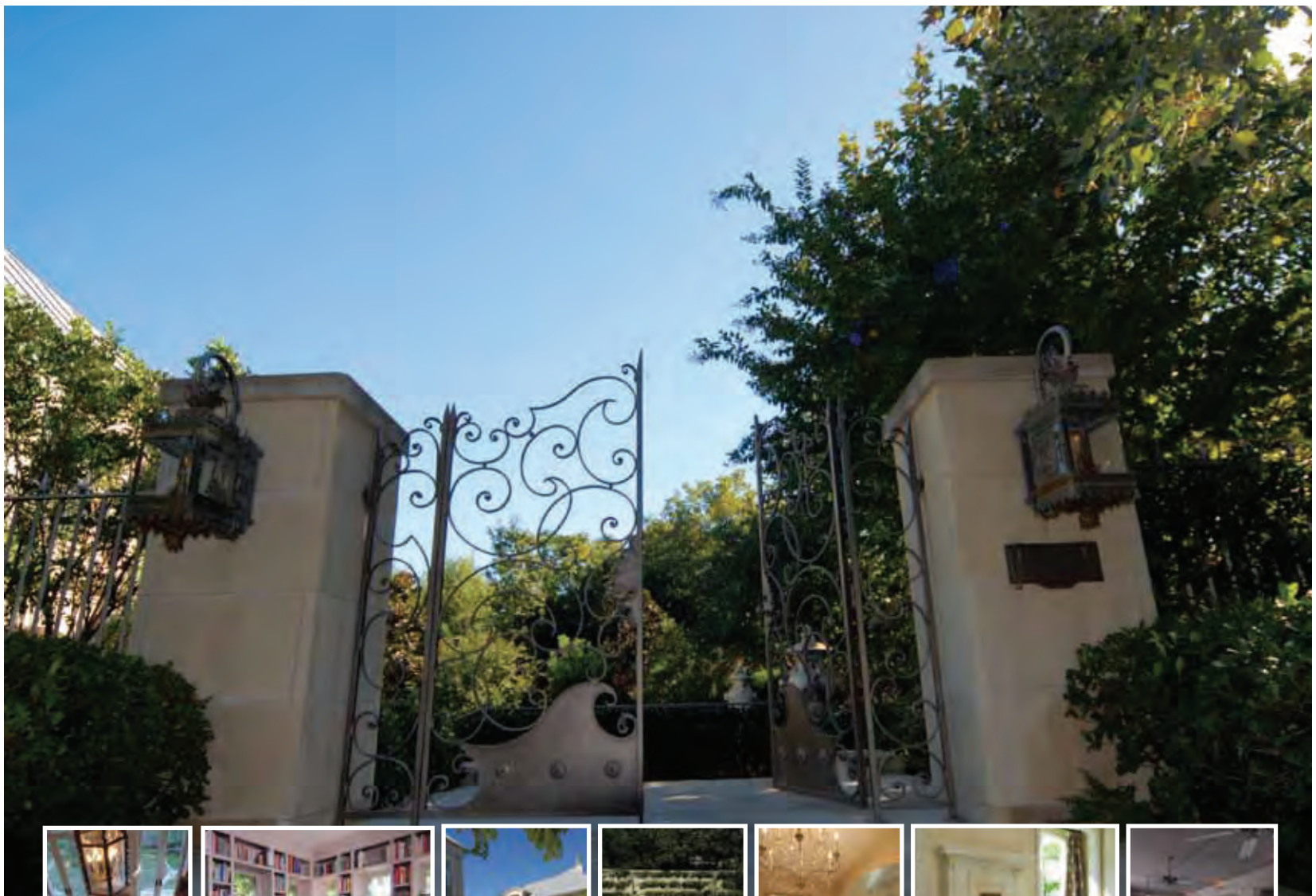
In the beginning of a relationship, if one is attached to the outcome, one really never has an opportunity to allow things to unfold in a natural, organic way. Instead, we constantly throw ourselves out into the future anticipating the next thing that happens and miss the bliss we could experience in each moment. Many times, parents are attached to the outcomes of their children’s activities such as in academics or sports. In this way, the expectation communicated to the child takes the fun and spontaneity out of it and makes it more like a task for both parents and children. It’s much more fun and rewarding to just show up, do that which is in front of you to do and allow things to unfold in their own natural progression.

In our work, too, frequently, we are really attached to the outcomes we create. If again, we show up and do whatever is in front of us to do and let it go, work is much less stressful and a whole lot more fun. If you’re not attached to a specific outcome, life can be very full of surprises.

One of the most troubling aspects of attachment to the outcome is the person attached to that particular outcome is taking themselves out of the present moment. Attachment to the outcome requires that we throw ourselves out into the future to make sure we can control any eventuality. If our focus is way out into the future, we are not present. Not being present is a disempowering situation and makes it difficult or impossible to deal with what occurs in our daily lives in a calm and rational manner - simply because we are not here.

How does it look when we are not attached to the outcome? You just let go and let good. Presence. Trust. Doership requires that credit be given where credit is due with the sentiment of “I did this; I did that”. It is the ego and the ego’s need for recognition. So, you then feel like you to have to do more and also, you have to be acknowledged for more. And, you live in the future and miss the bliss of the present moment. Letting go of attachment to the outcome creates the space for A richer experience of this moment and life becomes much more peaceful. And, that is a wonderful way to live.

For more information on Mary Schneider and the Holographic Repatterning Institute at Austin, visit repatternit.com



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HELPING CARE For Aging Parents

Many baby boomers are finding that their aging parents are in need of health care assistance. Luckily, there are many options available today to help your parents grow old gracefully, either in their own home or in a facility, and several ways that you can finance the costs of the care.

Research Your Options
If your parents are healthy seniors who can look after themselves, they generally are eligible to enter a continuing-care retirement community that allows them to buy or rent an apartment and ensures them lifetime nursing care when it is necessary. Another option for healthy seniors is private long-term care insurance, which can help cover nursing-home costs or the cost of an in-home aide.



enable you to take up to \$3,000 off the cost of in-home care or day care. Another option is the flexible spending account (FSA), which lets you pay for a certain amount of care each year with pre-tax dollars.

If sending your parent to a nursing home is inevitable, make sure you research each home extensively. Reservations at the home selected should be made at least a year ahead of the time that you expect your parent will need it, as waiting lists are typically long at well-respected facilities. Keep in mind, too, that the government offers limited financial help for those families paying for nursing home care. Medicare will

There are a wide range of services and options available if your parent needs more substantial assistance and is not eligible for the above-mentioned services. Many families opt for moving an aging parent into their own home. If you are able to peacefully coexist with your parent, this may be a good idea because the arrangement frees you from worry about the upkeep of a second home, and you and your children can have valuable time to spend with your loved one.

Maintaining Their Own Home

When living together is not a workable plan, maintaining your parent in his or her own home is also an option. There are, however, several fairly expensive things that may be required to make a home environment safe and suitable for an aging person. Various safety features may be necessary, including first-floor bathrooms, grab bars in hallways and bathrooms, and a personal emergency response system in case your parent needs assistance while alone. If your parent is in need of daily assistance with meals or chores, he or she can apply for several services such as Meals on Wheels, which may be free for anyone over 60. If your parent needs more personal assistance, you may want to look into hiring an in-home aide at a skill level appropriate for the amount of help needed.

Medicare will only pay the full cost of professional help if a physician certifies that your parent requires nursing care and if these services are provided by a Medicare-certified home health care agency. Adult day care is also an option and a good way to get your parent to socialize with other adults. Prices for day care can cost up to \$100 a day or more, depending on the amount of attention and activities provided, and reduced rates may be offered for those who can't afford the full charge. Call your local senior services groups and agencies to find one of the thousands of nationwide day centers that may match your needs.

Financing Long-Term Care

One of the biggest worries of those caring for an aging parent is how to pay for the care needed. If you provide more than half of a parent's support and his or her gross income is less than \$3,650, you can claim your parent as your dependent, giving you a tax exemption for each parent so cared for and allowing you to write off much of the medical expenses. (Note: The dependent exemption phases out at higher income levels. Check with your tax advisor.) You may also be able to claim a federal tax credit that will

only pay for care on a short-term basis, and Medicaid only offers benefits to low income individuals with limited assets. And, with the average nursing home stay costing upwards of \$6,900 per month, financial planning has become even more crucial to the economic well-being of adult children responsible for the care of their elderly parents.¹ Don't wait until the last minute - start planning now to ensure the future care of your parents.

Points to Remember

1. As the population ages, many baby boomers may be called upon to care for an aging parent.
2. There are a range of options available to senior citizens, depending on their circumstances and the degree of care they require, including continuing-care retirement communities, moving a parent into the child's home, or modifying a parent's home to make it safe.
3. Certain tax breaks may be available if you can claim your parent as a dependent.
4. Research all your options, and consult the various resources available for the elderly.

For More Information. If you'd like to learn more, please contact: Carol Mani Johnston at 210-271-6111 or carol.manijohnston@mssb.com

Courtesy of: Carol Mani Johnston, Senior Vice President-Wealth Management, Senior Portfolio Manager, Senior Investment Management Specialist, Financial Planning Specialist

Branch Name: Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Downtown San Antonio
Phone Number: 210.271.6111 Web Address: <http://fa.smithbarney.com/carolmanijohnston/>

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Article written by McGraw Hill and provided courtesy of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Financial Advisor Carol Mani Johnston
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A native of San Antonio, Carol Mani Johnston has been a very active member of her community for many years. Her involvement includes Battle of Flowers, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, the McNay Art Museum, Ronald McDonald Charities, Probate Court Special Commissioner and more.

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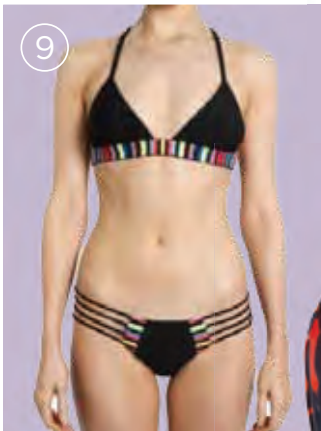
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SENIOR PORTFOLIO MANAGER
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT - WEALTH MANAGEMENT
SENIOR INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
FINANCIAL PLANNING SPECIALIST
FINANCIAL ADVISOR
MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY
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SHORE THING

Summer is about making a fashionable splash while still keeping your cool. Here, our style chronicler **Danielle Kaplan** of San Antonio counts down the best beach bags, jewelry, cover-ups and swimsuits for the season with our countdown of the summer's 10 best essentials.



1. Persol 714

Known as one of the iconic Persols, this pair of sunglasses is designed for comfort, convenience and style. As one of the most popular and fashionable sunglasses on the market, the 714's have been worn by Angelina Jolie and Kate Hudson, to name a few. With a collapsible option, these sunglasses are perfect for protecting your eyes and making a statement. \$256 at Saks Fifth Avenue.

2. Diane Von Furstenberg Carsandra Beach Cover Up Dress

This floral silk DVF original is the epitome of summer fresh. With a soft green color and floral print that will highlight your tan and an asymmetrical hemline that's all the rage this summer, this silk cover up will look perfect with a straw hat and a pair of oversized shades while you sit poolside at the country club. \$375 at Saks Fifth Avenue

3. Tory Burch Print Silk Long Caftan

What's more perfect for a beach than a cover-up that can be dressed up and dressed down. Inspired by vintage glamour, this silk long caftan is perfect for a night out on Rainey Street in Austin or perfect for strolling the beaches in St. Tropez. With a bohemian vibe and a free-flowing material, this cover-up offers the best of all worlds. \$350 at Neiman Marcus

4. Missoni Large Tote

Perfect for the sandy beach of Barbados or the Amalfi Coast, Missoni channels summer in this perfect bag. With soft shades of turquoise blue and light brown, this bag beckons to hold your Hermes towel and Tory Burch sandals while you frolic in the sun. The best part is that this bag lacks the zig-zag pattern, which makes it all the more luxurious. \$350 at Yoox.com

5. Kendra Scott Danielle Earrings

Known as the coolest jewelry designer to come out of Texas in awhile, Kendra Scott has been worn by almost every girl in the state. Try out these classic Danielle Earrings in Yellow for a big splash of sunshine on your ears that will brighten even the drabest of looks. \$60 at Kendra Scott Austin

6. Stella & Dot Zahara Bib Necklace

Based in San Antonio, Stella & Dot is the ultimate party jewelry line. Founded by Christina Welch, this jewelry collection has been shared in the homes of San Antonio's elites. This summer, the Zahara Bib Necklace is the ultimate in poolside accessories. With multiple strands of semi-precious, glass, acrylic and oversized gold beads cascading from a bar and chain with accents of turquoise, the Zahara Bib Necklace is sure to steal the show. \$258 at stelladot.com

7. Vix Betsey BIA Bikini

This two-tone bikini is the ultimate in simplistic design for the sophisticated woman. By contrasting neutrals, Vix follows the color-blocking trend seen on so many runways these past seasons. With a logo-embossed gold bead on each of the halter straps and an easy tie behind the neck and at back, Vix makes swimwear look easy and breezy. \$172 at Nordstrom

8. Marc by Marc Jacobs Tou Can Do It Bikini

Who would ever think that a toucan print on a bikini would look good rather than tacky other than Marc Jacobs? With splashes of pink and navy as well as beige, this bikini features the tropical bird in its natural environment – the sun. With beautiful button details on the top and bottom, as well as ruching at the triangle cups, this bikini will make you stand out from the flock. \$147 at Nordstrom

9. Mara Hoffman Black Embroidered 4-Strap Bikini

Perfect for that Mediterranean cruise or jetting off to Cancun for the weekend, this bikini screams for attention. With colorful embroidered trim at the bands, ruching on the triangle top and multiple straps holding it all together, this bikini is sure to get any girl noticed. Just make sure that your personal trainer is on speed-dial for a month leading up to your vacation. \$242 at MaraHoffman.com

10. Milly Acapulco Maillot

Work your luminous look to the extreme with this one-piece complete with a plunging front and low-cut back reminiscent of the current traveler trend. Perfect in a colorful dip-dye and bead-embellishment, this super alluring printed swimsuit will have everyone wondering who you are and from where you came. Dive in. \$165 at Nordstrom



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PEOPLE WILL TALK

*In the latest chapter of **The Society Diplomat** by Lance Avery Morgan, there has been a murder of everyone's favorite socialite. Every woman has a past, and the more checkered, the better, as we say here in Texas. But how will her closest friends react? Exactly as one might suspect...*

When life is too easy for us, we must beware - or we may not be ready to meet the blows which sooner or later come to everyone, rich or poor.

Eleanor Roosevelt

The sun shone and the bluebirds were singing as the Courier News landed on driveways, in dull thumps across the city, the morning after Sabrina's end. There it was: front page, above the fold. *Sabrina Goodfriend: Socialite Shocker Rocks City* in 40-point type across the page, much like a juicy headline from the scandal-laden *New York Post*.

She had routinely appeared in the social sections of the *Post*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Courier* as a deb, at her wedding, and all the parties in between... and following her marriages, affairs and divorces along the way. Chu Chu Sloan, Houston's very own Hedda Hopper at the *Courier* had even christened her Glamour Girl #1 in the beginning. Sabrina's grand dame grandmother's belief that one appeared in print only three times on this earth; birth, marriage and death, went directly out the window by the time Sabrina's sixteenth birthday celebration made the local news.

In her adult years, Sabrina became pragmatic and methodical about her press. In fact, she lived for it. Beyond the yellowing scrapbooks, she kept scrupulous track of clothes that filled four closets and dozens of rolling racks in storage. There were index cards filed in her dressing table drawer, eventually, and in recent years converted to an Excel spreadsheet. It was accessible on her iPhone, detailing what she wore every single day for decades, with whom she was seated, and notes on which magazine or newspaper shot the outfit and when it appeared. Her wardrobe, the one that gave her a life to which she was known as an international fashion leader, with numerous trips to Paris, Rome and London to acquire couture, contained the irony that was not lost on reporters: that she was killed by a piece of extremely expensive fabric, that favorite Hermes scarf.

It's now High Noon on Friday. A guy's gotta eat. Lunch, center table, stage left at the tony Le Antoine restaurant in Houston, and the joint is jumping with the talk of La Goodfriend's death when I arrive. The caricature sketches of society



notables over the years are framed and hanging, always within eyesight, over the claret-covered leather booths. There is Alexandra Medford's artful portrait is the most artful since it was shot in her earlier, better modeling years, when the restaurant first opened. Then oil man Knowles Applebaum's image is hung above heiress Cecilia Fortnight's, right by model mogul Deal Gamble, and close by, socialite Catherina del Lago, who all dine at the fabled eatery. It's like a poor man's Sardi's (which isn't even a rich man's Sardi's anymore). I catch a whiff of freshly arranged magnolia table centerpieces smelling like the sweet opportunities that waft in every day at lunch.

It's not hush-hush that recreational drugs have made a big comeback in Texas. In the morning, it's Hello, Mr. Blue Pill, to make you feel right throughout the day. By cocktails, voila', it's bonsoir, Miss Pink Pill for those who want to feel large. Larger than life.

Much like Norma Desmond might descend her *Sunset Boulevard* staircase, my longtime friend Alexandra Medford, a colossally popular social fixture, makes a sweeping entrance saying hellos to the mayor, two congressmen and her astrologer, all at separate tables, before being seated and placing her crisp white napkin in her lap. A fresh



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blue pill is in her system while the pink one is still hanging on from last night.

"I am so terribly sorry for running late," gushes Alexandra. "I know, I know, I should have texted you from Quitan's. He took so long to do my hair for our little shindig tonight."

"Oh not to worry, gorgeous. You look very Catherine Deneuve today," I say, reflecting my many years in and around the Hollywood scene. "Not now in her decrepitude, of course, but in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. "Thank you again for hosting this wonderful event tonight. I'm deeply honored."



The terminally hip server arrives, a little sweaty and forever perky. It must be all that Space City humidity that makes everyone feel flushed, but it is widely acknowledged that the

favorite platitudes. "And, what about all those shindigs on the continent this spring and summer, and Sabrina Goodfriend's planned ball... can you believe, at the Eiffel Tower?"

"Jake, stop!"

"Oh I'm sorry, that was tacky. I forgot for a second. You know what I mean."

"I loved Sabrina and I am sorry she's gone," Alexandra said, sotto voce, although nobody was around to hear but the servants. "I am absolutely shocked, really. Oh Jake, I know it's awful to speak ill of the dead, but I do feel that she had 'borrowed' too many of my party ideas. It's my own form of creativity and I'll admit to being a little resentful. That party? She took that from my gala in Dubai, as if nobody would notice! Don't get me started on our sorority rush days."

Bitter, Party of One, your table is always ready.

Alexandra was hardly alone. Yes, Sabrina stepped on many a head on her way up, and I can count on both hands the people I know who could be brought in for a police line-up. They could have killed her and they all would have had just cause. The paradox is, no jury would convict them.



Oh Alexandra, I thought. I don't think you had your lacquered hand in this, but I wouldn't blame you if you did wish her harm. You do have a talent for showmanship, and I suppose it takes a controlling and intense person to pull off your magnificent parties. Birds of a feather, weren't you?

"Oh, I loved your Friends of the St. Francis Cathedral gala. It was astonishing, woman. That Christian Lacroix fashion show with the Plexiglas catwalk over the interior Olympic-sized pool? *Fantastic*. And, my party? I can't think of anyone who could do it better."

Who really knows, though, what lurks in the hearts of social competitors? This is a state where a mother went postal over cheerleading. Some of these wealthy women weren't so different, really. They just planned their perfectly deadly deeds quietly, and in five-inch designer heels.

ladies wrinkle much later than those a similar age and social standing in the drier climate in Dallas. Pity the poor plastic surgeons of both regions.

"Seriously, I'm glad you are back in town, Alexandra. Texas always feels livelier when you're in it," I said, and meant it. "When we last spoke you had just left the Galliano couture show in Paris, and were completely overwhelmed. Did you find anything for them to run up for you?"

"Darling, everything was pure Heaven. I bought too many things even though I have no idea where to wear them. Maybe nowhere. My art collection hangs mostly in my closet, or at least the art that I care about, clothes. You know how theatrical and grand Galliano was."

"Yes, there will never be another like him. And, you know my theory about that. Buy the dress and the event will present itself," I said, uttering one of my



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BIG HAT, MANY CATTLE

*Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation South Texas Heritage Center
Opens at the Witte to Preserve Ranching Past*

By: Jennifer Pucci Starr

Photography by: Greg Harrison. Other photography courtesy of Witte Museum

The compelling history of South Texas has finally found a new home, as San Antonio's Witte Museum opens the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation South Texas Heritage Center. Pioneers of the King Ranch family, the Klebergs, provide the lead gift for the Center, which recently opened Memorial Day weekend. Serving as the repository to highlight the Witte's vast and remarkable collection of nearly 300,000 South Texas historical artifacts, the opening marks the first time this rich heritage and history of South Texas has been readily accessible in a permanent public collection.

In 2006, the Witte's ground-breaking exhibition, *A Wild & Vivid Land: Stories of South Texas*, attracted over 100,000 visitors, so the need for the new center was apparent. It was a display of real-life stories of South Texans in a new and compelling way and the large crowds proved that present-day visitors want to understand the past. This new space at the Witte lets visitors experience more the 150 years of rapid change and growth in San Antonio and South Texas. "Telling the stories of the men, women and children who lived here is the best way to tell the story of South Texas," says the Center's curator, Bruce Shackelford.

It is a story which includes the birth of both ranching empires and the American cowboy and it is fitting that this important King Ranch family plays a leading role in its telling. You likely know that Richard King first arrived in Texas in 1847 to take part in the U.S.-Mexican War. After the war, he founded steamboat companies on the Rio Grande River and eventually used the profits to buy land and establish his cattle camp in Southeast Texas. Over time he accrued more and more acreage and ran a full-scale cattle ranching operation. By 1925, King Ranch had grown from 500,000 acres to 1,173,000 acres and became the largest ranch in Texas. Today, King Ranch is still proudly active in large-scale ranching and farming operations and other industries, including energy.





Portrait of Sam Houston
By William G. M. Samuel



West Side Main Plaza By William Samuel



On the Trail By Theodore Gentilz

While his grandfather, Richard King, founded the famed ranch, Robert J. Kleberg is credited with creating the ranch culture as it is known today, and for ushering in the modern era of Texas ranching. He served as President and CEO of King Ranch for 50 years. His wife, Helen, an accomplished horsewoman from Kansas, was also instrumental in ranch operations. Both were hands-on owners, capable of all the skills they expected of the ranch workers.

Ranching evolved as a way of life here in the 1700's when Spanish missionaries and soldiers brought cattle, sheep, goats, horse and the ranching skills needed to care for the animals. Other immigrants later brought their own stock-raising traditions to the region, creating the Texas ranches of today and San Antonio served as an exchange point for products from surrounding ranches and farms.

As the largest city in Texas for more than 100 years, San Antonio had an international appeal, drawing

people from around the world, which is emphasized at the Heritage Center. Interactive displays such as the recreated Main Plaza of San Antonio in the mid-1800s allows visitors to experience life as it was during those times, with traveling narratives of Tejano Freighters and the historical narratives of merchants, Texas Rangers, Spanish settlers, trail drivers, ranchers and farmers.

A life-size figure of a Comanche tribesman astride his horse and wearing an authentic headdress stands in the center of one exhibit hall since the Comanche tribe was the most powerful culture in Texas before 1870. Other artifacts on display from the 1800's to the 1950's include the guest register from the Menger Hotel, a sash worn by Sam Houston, Davy Crockett's fiddle and a Mud Wagon from the King Ranch, among so much more.

The discovery of oil and gas deposits accelerated the growth of the area when demand for oil pipelines and workers to build them brought many

Mexican laborers to South Texas, and led to communities burgeoning along the border with Mexico. Oil would eventually change the lives of all Texans and would provide the means for many to preserve the Texas ranch lifestyle that is still prevalent today. The Center is housed in the historic 1930's-era Pioneer Hall. With a grand two-story entry hall and an outdoor amphitheater architectural firm Ford, Powell & Carson, combine old with new as they expand the 11,000-square-foot Pioneer Hall with a 9,000-square-foot addition. The design concept integrates the existing river frontage using pedestrian walkways through zones of native Texas plants embracing the South Texas landscape and how it shaped the lives of the people here. The site also offers classroom space for educational programs for students.

For more information on the South Texas Heritage Center located at the Witte Museum, visit wittemuseum.org.

TRULY TEXAS

Celebrating South Texas in Style

By Jennifer Pucci Starr

Photography by Greg Harrison and Paul Overstreet Photography



John and Claire Alexander & Don and Lou Celia Frost

To prove just how bright the stars of South Texas are, the Witte Museum hosted a fabulous evening under the stars for the opening of the Robert J. and Helen C. Kleberg South Texas Heritage Center. Celebrating major donors to the \$10.5 million building, a Who's Who of South Texas ranching were in attendance for the Center gives a permanent home to the vast collection of interactive exhibits, art, artifacts, and performances that depict the unique history of South Texas.



Jim and Leighton Donnell



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Richard and Leslie Bennett



Olive Anne and Tres Kleberg

As the Palomino Patrol holding Texas flags greeted the more than 350 guests, they made their way into the Center's new Ewing Halsell Hall for cocktails and hor d' oeuvres. The evening progressed outside to the Jessica and Henry Catto Memorial Gardens, where guests dined al-fresco on cuisine by the RK Group and kicked up their heels to the Cactus Country band in the Will Smith Amphitheater...followed by a grand finale of fireworks over the San Antonio River.



Ryan Berg and Paula Shaver



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Fiesta's

ROYAL GRANDEUER

SAN ANTONIO'S 121ST CELEBRATION IS FULL OF PAGEENTRY

By Jake Gaines
Photography by Greg Harrison



Caroline Peacock, Princess of Iconic Landmarks, Nikki Swift, 2011 Princess of the Bold American Spirit, Sallie Lewis, 2011 Queen of The Court of Timeless Treasures and Kahler Biedenbarn, Queen of The Court of The Wondrous Metropolis

This year's Fiesta promised to be a show-stopper and everyone agrees it was the annual celebration's best year ever. Fiesta always supports so many philanthropies and scholarships and adds much to the city's economy. There are parties and pageantry that lasts for several days and nights, including the infamous Battle of the Flowers parade through downtown, directed by the Battle of Flowers Association, founded in 1891 where Fiesta began, with business tycoon Ed Whitacre as the Grand Marshal.

The theme this year? It was The Order of the Alamo honors the Court of The Wondrous Metropolis, A Celebration of Cities that provided the regal touch

to the festivities. According to this year's Fiesta experts, the theme is derived from the ancient magnificence of Persepolis and Pompeii and the oriental allure of Bangkok and Kyoto to the vivid richness of Taxco and Paris, this year's Wondrous Metropolis theme is a royal tribute to great cities; ancient, legendary and contemporary.

Fiesta's gowns are legendary and this year was no different. The dazzling gowns and crowns and grand trains adorned with opulent jewels, beads, and sequins emphasized the grand festivities that unfolded at the regal Majestic Theatre downtown. The themes for the heavily bejeweled gowns ranged from

*Top Pick
of the
Royals*



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Steve and Sarah Pitt



Clayton Erikson, Carolyn Biedenham, Beverly Gruy-Abbey, and Lisa Brandt



Texas Cavaliers



Ila Steen Gaunt, John Steen and William Gaunt



Virginia Beeler and Mary Wilde



King Antonio XC, Thomas Green

**HAND CRAFTED IN TEXAS.
ONE STITCH AT A TIME.**



- VEGAS BAG -
Chocolate/Chocolate



- DOP KIT -
Chocolate/Chocolate



- IPAD SLEEVE -
Chocolate/Chocolate



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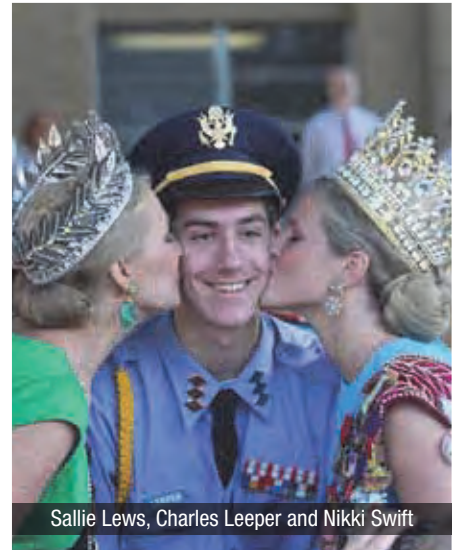
Aubrey Meyer, Leah Wilson, Carey Pritchard, Raul Andres Saldana, Kate Cavender, Mason Thompson and Torrey Vaughan
Photo Courtesy of Gary Stanko of Billo Smith Photography



Allegra Pitt, Duchess of Exotic Enchantments

a spectrum of nature, music, dance, art and architecture... all depicted on the one-of-a-kind garments that provided the landscape telling the story of metropolises from the edges of oceans to the banks of a river.

Directed by Mistress of the Robes, Susannah McAllister, the always-extravagant pageant featured Queen Kahler Elizabeth Biedenham and Princess Ryla Caroline Peacock, with their court of 21 duchesses, including 10 from out of town and 11 San Antonioians. It was, to say the least, a week filled with beautiful women and their handsome escorts performing their regal duties. The Lord High Chamberlain, Robert Reed Bentley, was integral to this year's festivities. To preside at the Coronation of the Queen, His Excellency, Stanton Paul Bell, Jr., President of The Order of The Alamo was on-hand every step of the way, too.



Sallie Lews, Charles Leeper and Nikki Swift



Edward and Nancy Steves



Mimi Zoch and Minnie Baird



Jake Francis and Sarita Pitt



Stella and Ceci McMurrey, Tricia and Elizabeth Smith



Shelby Ames Steed, Sara and John Ames and Claire Ames Shaw



Josefina Longoria and Julie Crosswell



Duchess Elizabeth Rasmussen and escort Milam Miller



Charlie Biedenbarn



San Antonio Academy Cadets

Photo Courtesy of Mary Candee of Dulce Design Photography



John Dougherty, Kit and Angie Goldsbury, Vesta Frommer and Haillie Kuntz



Ray Feo, Richard Ojeda and King Antonio XC, Tommy Green



Mae and Belinda Nixon



Sydney and Steve Wood



Bill and BeBe Browning



Joe and Julie Straus



Berton Biedenham and Mattie Dutton



Lance and Gretchen Lahourcade and Cecelia and George Hager



Carey Elizabeth Pritchard Duchess of Whimsical Imagination



Hayley Vaughan, Jenny Hancock, Torrey Vaughan, and Emily Burke



Ina and Mary Bell Browning



Hellie Hamilton, Luke Campbell and Annie Daugherty



Mike and Mary Benedum



Sarah Spickelmeir, Carmen Knapp, Robin Womball, Laurie Liedtke, Nancy Abendshein, Kit Detering, and Patricia Griffith



DA Hughes, Annlyn, Ada, Billy and Bonnie Osborne



The 2012 Coronation Chairman was Shawn Gulley and all the work that went into the festivities, almost a year into the making, was worth the impact the events had on privileged San Antonio.

Doing good deeds like it does with every Fiesta, The Texas Cavaliers' Charitable Foundation, distributed over \$200,000 to local children's charities this year bringing the total given by the Foundation, since its inception to over \$2,400,000.

Other presiding royalty who steward the celebrations so effectively were 2012's King Antonio XC, Thomas M. Green and Rey Feo, The People's King, Richard Ojeda. Plans are already well into the works for 2013's grand celebration and we look forward to being a part of that, too.



Lila and Dwight Chumbley



Sarah Michler and Christopher Razook



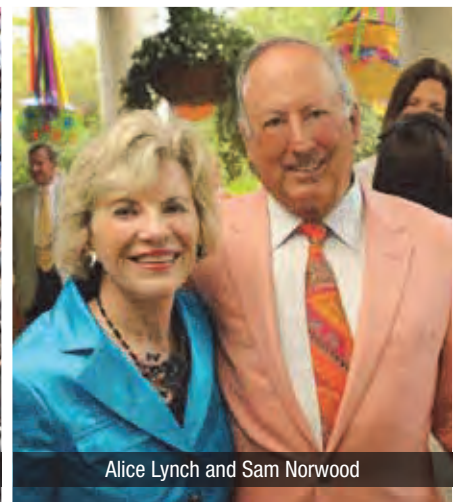
Burton and Margaret Barnes



Paul and Charlotte Tripplehorn



Texas A&M Marching Band



Alice Lynch and Sam Norwood

RED HOT & Xanadu

AUSTIN'S ZACH THEATRE'S RED, HOT & SOUL BRINGS THE 80'S CULT CLASSIC MOVIE TO LIFE

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Tony Spielberg



With the launch of its latest production, *Xanadu*, over 700 of Austin's hip, chic and fabulous gathered for Red Hot & Soul, always one of Austin's most anticipated annual galas. The *Xanadu* theme paid homage to the 1980 campy movie starring Olivia Newton John and the era-attired guests did not disappoint, donning such ensembles as bold-colored dresses, spangled sequin shirts and of course, roller skates.



James & Patty Huffines and Mort & Bobbi Topfer



Jim Pitts and Doug Pogemiller



Performer from Starlight Express



Arianna Zambrano, Armando Zambrano and Deanna Serra



Maria Groten and Dave Steakley

Chaired by two of Austin's most prolific fundraisers, Bobbi Topfer and Larry Connelly, Red, Hot & Soul 2012 broke every fundraising record ZACH had ever set. The excitement in the community as ZACH heads into the new state-of-the-art Bobbi & Mort Topfer Theater in palpable at the Hilton hotel ballroom, and is a preview of the exciting things to come for the organization. The group's producing artistic director Dave Steakley and managing director Elisbeth Challenor spoke to raise excitement of the crowd and further explain the theater's mission to the audience.

This year's event began with a VIP cocktail hour, courtesy of Twin Liquors, where guests arrived showing off their camptabulous threads while mingling and with friends. Attend-



Kia Dawn Fulton performs as Diana Ross



Steven Dietz and Allison Gregory



Dennis Karbach, Mary & Rusty Tally, Robert Brown and Christine Cox



Bob Emerson and James Armstrong



Veterans of the Zach Stage



Julia & Dave McCurley

ees then proceeded to dinner where the tables were donned with roller skate centerpieces, set in candy Red Hot's of course, designed by local floral czar David Kurio, while event producer Victoria Hentrich created her gala magic.

During dinner, the fun continued as the audience treated to both a arm-waving set of performances by ZACH's current and veteran performers, which included a sneak peak of Xanadu and a mystical roller disco. With music by DJ Manny, along with a live auction featuring items such as a 100-point wine pairing dinner, a luxury weekend in Beverly Hills and a private concert with Anton Neal, the night was a huge success. Once the performances and live auction concluded guests danced the night away to classic disco tunes, capping off a perfect evening of fun, fantasy and fashion. 5



Larry Connelly



Richard Hartgrove and Anita Price-Ashton



SOUTH TEXAS' HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Project Restoration of Downtown Cotulla Launched

By Bryan Vargas
Photography By Rodolfo Guzman



Recently, Ceci and John Keck hosted a reception in their Laredo home for Paula Coates and Bill Buntin, who introduced the start of their new project to revitalize Cotulla's historic downtown to a group of 60 South Texas ranchers and friends. The couple has purchased the Gallman/Kerr building located on Front Street and they are planning a historic restoration and rehabilitation in order to create a sports bar in the full basement and a quality full-service restaurant on the first floor. We love the history behind this. Built in 1883, the Gallman/Kerr building was the first masonry brick two-story commercial building constructed in Cotulla. It previously was a dry goods and mercantile store and served as the offices for Cotulla State Bank, chartered in 1907.

The building has retained many historic features that include its stamped-tin ceilings and the bank's walk-in vault. Coates and Buntin have engaged architect Jack Rice Turner who will work with the City of Cotulla, it's Main Street Board, and the Texas Historical Commission to preserve and restore this community's historic building and they estimate the work should be completed and open for business in six months.



John H. Keck, Ceci Keck, Paula Coates, and Bill Buntin



Val Leyendecker and Lilia Bruni Wetsel



Pravina Mulchand, Ceci Keck, Kathleen Dawson



John H. Keck Jr., and Larry Friedman

Seen in the crowd were Bill Cotulla, former Mayor of Cotulla and Chamber of Commerce President; Jim Gates, Vice President of Jourdan-ton State Bank and his wife Shanna; South Texas ranchers Linda and Buddy Bruni, Alice and Steve Whitworth, Larry Friedman and Kathleen Dawson, Fernando Zuniga, Evelyn and Caroll Summers, Patsy Leigh, Executive Director of Cotulla Main Street and Jorge Kurzcyn, who will craft the furniture for the bar and restaurant.



Bill Buntin, Evelyn Summers, Fernando Zuniga



Buddy Bruni, Larry Friedman, and Steve Whitworth



Tanya Rose, Leo Flores, Patsy Flores, Valerie Leyendecker, and Cristina Alvarez



Patsy Leigh, Shanna Gates, Jim Gates, Bill Cotulla and Valda Gates

Call of the Wild

NATURE CONSERVANCY LUNCHEONS WITH CORWIN

By Ellie Leeper
Photography By Greg Harrison

A private event, hosted in the home of Mark and Ana Paula Watson kicked off the fundraising efforts for The Nature Conservancy of San Antonio, as guests arrived to the sounds of beating drums on the upper balcony of the couple's home. A lavish seated dinner was presented by Chef Damien Watel of Bistro Vatel Restaurant as attendees were enthralled by Corwin's stories of animal derring do.

Then, the next day, the charity took a walk on the wild side at this year's annual luncheon, as guests dined at the Pearl Stable with world-renowned adventurer and Animal Planet host Jeff Corwin. "Not Your Average luncheon" aimed to inspire attending Texans to be bold, decisive, and brave about saving Texas' vast natural resources and landscapes. Laura Huffman, Texas state director of The Nature Conservancy, couldn't imagine a better person to inspire bold action among supporters than one of the world's leading environmental conservationists and daredevils—Jeff Corwin.

Corwin has been an advocate for the environment and conservation since he was a child. The Emmy Award-winner first gained fame for his many Animal Planet shows including the Jeff Corwin Experience and Corwin's Quest, and has since moved on to ventures such as CNN's Planet in Peril, as well as Extreme Cuisine with Jeff Corwin. With his new "100 Heartbeats" project, a critically-acclaimed book and popular NBC documentary, Corwin takes on the world's extinction crisis and helps audiences understand what they can do to make a difference in the world.





Katalina, Marguerite, and Marco Watson with Jeff Corwin



Chris Hill and Donny Thomas



The festivities featured The Nature Conservancy's Texas State Director Laura Huffman, CEO and editor-in-chief of The Texas Tribune; Evan Smith as the M.C; Ted and Katy Flato as the luncheon chairs, and Tim and Karen Hixon as the honorary chairs. This year's luncheon was a huge success, raising funds for the protection of more than 15 million acres in the United States, and more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. The Nature Conservancy of Texas maintains 250,000 acres of wild lands in 30 preserves across Texas and, with partners, has conserved nearly 1 million acres for wildlife habitat across the state. Where the wild things are indeed.



Ana Paula and Mark Watson



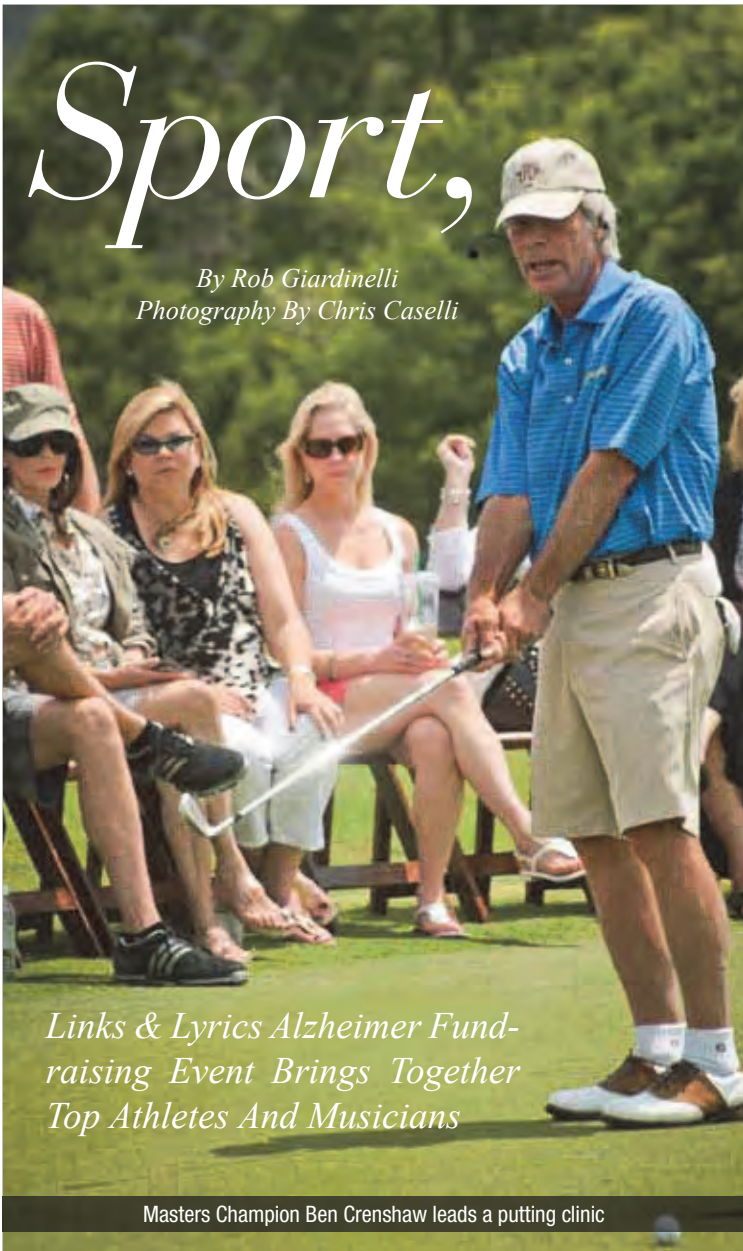
Pete Selig and Karen Hixon



Jeff Corwin and Lara Flynn Boyle

Sport,

By Rob Giardinelli
Photography By Chris Caselli



Links & Lyrics Alzheimer Fund-raising Event Brings Together Top Athletes And Musicians

Masters Champion Ben Crenshaw leads a putting clinic

MEET MUSIC



Paul Overstreet

What happens when you combine a Masters Champion with Grammy Award-winning songwriters? The answer is one of the most fun and unique events in Austin's annual social scene, the Links & Lyrics gala, held at Barton Creek Country Club. Through the gallant efforts of Alzheimer's fund raising non profit AWARE Texas and its members, over \$14.5 million in research dollars has been granted to Baylor College of Medicine, UT Southwestern-Dallas, UT Health Science Center San Antonio, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and North Texas State University Health Sciences Center Ft. Worth.



David Kalish, Ava Late and Robert Cannon



DK Reynolds, Mark Hanna and Margaret Krasovec



Sheri Krause, Shelby Krause and Travis Goff



Edith Royal and Paul Overstreet



Meryl Comer and David Alredge



Lindsey Draper and Arin Gray

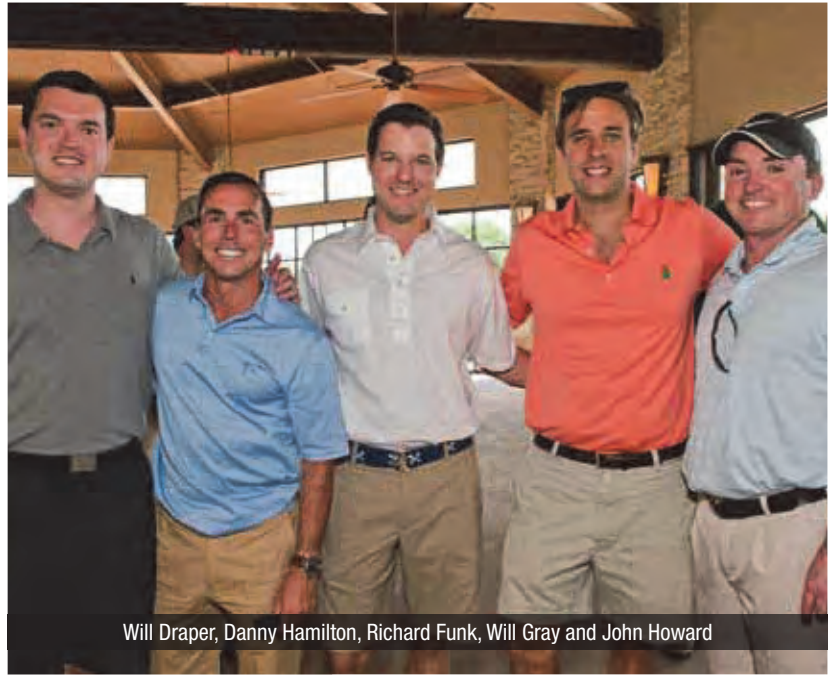


John Lewis, Lorrie & Ken DeAngelis

The all-day affair, led by event co-chairs Ava Late and Senator Buster Brown, gathered a prestigious guest list of philanthropic Texans from across the state to help raise funds for AWARE Texas, to find a cure and offer preventive care for Alzheimer's Disease. The began promptly at 11:30 with a buffet lunch that was served al fresco at the club's Patio Grill and was promptly followed by a putting clinic instructed by Master's winner Ben Crenshaw. Upon completion of the clinic, the real fun began as foursomes made their way to the links for a round of golf.



Suzanne Erickson, Annette Stevenson and Courtney Thedford



Will Draper, Danny Hamilton, Richard Funk, Will Gray and John Howard



Jeffrey Steele and Ben Crenshaw

After the groups played 18 holes, the several hundred guests donned their Nashville Grammy casual duds for a great night of musical entertainment in the Darryl Royal Ballroom. Grammy Award-winning songwriters Paul Overstreet, Mike Reid and Jeffrey Steele, who have written songs for such country legends as Kenny Chesney, The Judds, Allison Kraus, Randy Travis and Tanya Tucker, lit up the stage and sang the night away performing their legendary country tunes – the perfect and relaxing end to a fun day that combined the best of everything Austin has to offer. 5



Julie Crenshaw and David Kasen



Heather & Alex Ladage



Liz & Ras Redwine



Lisa & Brian Young

Terrific Toppers

Ninth Annual Le Brunch des Chapeaux Supports Autism Awareness

By Jennifer Pucci Starr
Photography by Gregory Harrison



Shannon Gunn, Canda Arneson, Kathleen Gunn, Josie Nash, and Fanny Gunn



Jennifer McLiney, Mary Campbell McLiney

The chic chapeau, once a staple in both fashion and etiquette, today is reserved for royal weddings and derby races. Unless it is the ninth annual Le Brunch des Chapeaux, a fundraiser held at historic San Antonio club, The Argyle, which brings San Antonio's most philanthropic ladies adorned in the most beautiful bonnets out in support of the Autism Community Network.

With nary a seat to spare, event chair Jennifer McLiney welcomed guests and introduced the unique group of speakers; three compassionate youngsters, who each have an autistic brother. Fanny Gunn, daughter of honorary chair Shannon Gunn, spoke first. Her twin brother Lennon has autism and her stories of his humor, love and courage were met with both



Anna Shaw and Patricia Davis





Rachel Lauterstein, Jodi Starr, Amanda Bezner, Lizette Feld, and Jessica Berg



Julian Gold Model in Wedding Gown



Marine Ross and Stacy Foerster

Elizabeth Ames Jones



Karen Herrmann, Karin Beckendorf, and Helen Berridge



Fanny Gunn



Julian Gold Model



Julian Gold Model



Dee Ann Simpson




Noah Willoughby



Lisa Ortiz and Rita Feik



laughter and tears from a touched audience. The others who spoke were Josie Nash and Noah Willoughby.

With the threat of rain, this year's event was held under a fabulous tent. However, the clouds parted just in time, and tent or no tent, the event was as enchanting as ever. Following a delicious brunch of The Argyle's signature chicken and tuna salad, all eyes were directed to the center runway, where Julian Gold gave a show of summer-inspired fashions, and yes, it included hats, hats and more hats. These women who attended do so much for so many and looking beautiful came naturally on a luncheon day like this. 



Tonya Cronin



Kimberly Overby



Carolyn French



Julie Johnson

Engaging MARRIAGE

Austinites Carrie Frugé and Lee Walker's Engagement Party To Remember

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Clayton Aynesworth and Larissa Rogers

Guests thought it was going to be a special night when they showed up at the much-loved Fonda San Miguel restaurant for the engagement party of Austin Socials Lee Walker (our May/June polo-playing cover boy) and Harlingen-raised Carrie Frugé [apostrophe here] – after all, it isn't every Saturday night that Fonda San Miguel restaurant is re-created for a private party – what the guests did not know was they were in for a surprise – it was not just a party to toast the upcoming nuptials.

Guests were greeted by the stunning couple inside the atrium of the restaurant to wish the couple a lifetime of happiness and proceeded to chat inside over appetizers along with the best margaritas in the city. Family members re-united, friends reacquainted and every guest felt the kinetic energy of community and love inside the venue. It turns out Lee and Carrie





Wanda Anderson and Bob Hughes



met through the efforts of two close friends (Carrie's spunky roommate and Lee's colleague) who provided three separate opportunities for them rendezvous: Happy Hour, Super Bowl Party and a dinner party. After their third encounter, Carrie begrudgingly agreed to go on an official date. Their first date consisted of a Fashion Show at Mohawk, dinner at Uchiko and a karaoke cab ride singing Journey. Their mutual love for adventure, the outdoors, witty banter and Texas roots made it a perfect match.

Mid-way through the evening, guests were called back into the atrium for a toast, however both the honorees were MIA. As the toast began, guests were asked to part ways for the mariachi band that strolled through the middle of the atrium – and as guests parted ways to make way for the mariachi band, guests were treated to a surprise – Lee and Carrie were in wedding attire. The room erupted with cheers as guests realized they were actually the wedding of Lee and Carrie.



Lee & Carrie Walker



Lee & Carrie Walker enter Fonda San Miguel with the bride's sister



Carrie & Lee Walker



Gail Hughes

Against a backdrop of a beautiful ivy-covered wall, the bride and groom exchanged wedding vows and, along with the guests, proceeded into the dining room for a magnificent Fonda San Miguel feast, first dances and of course, the cutting of the cake, then the night away. The evening culminated as the bride and groom left as guests lit sparklers upon their exit, capping off a magnificent wedding surprise those lucky enough to attend will never forget the event created by Victoria Henrich's Creative Consultants team along with florist David Kurio. ❁



A Wedding TO REMEMBER

*Bruni Wedding at the JW Marriott
San Antonio Hill Country Resort*

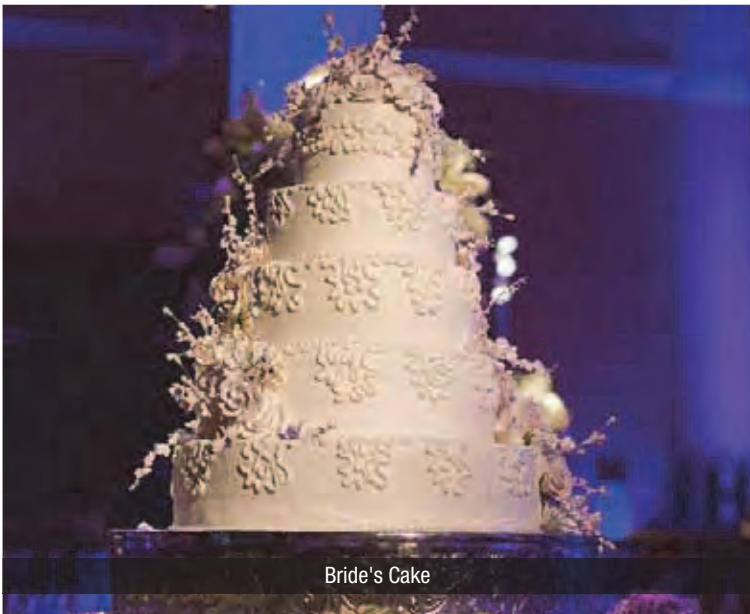
By Bryan Vargas

Photography By: David Sixt and Heather Cadenhead

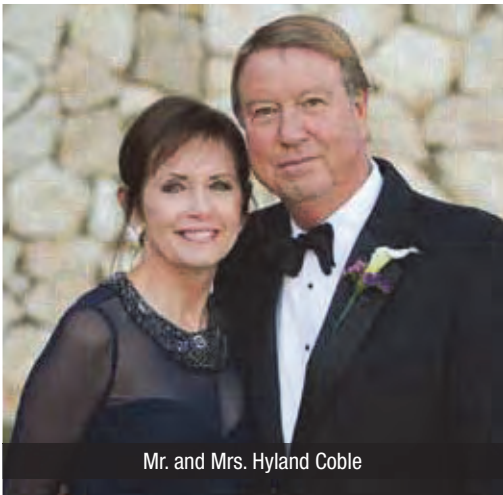
This past January, the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort was the perfect venue for one of the most beautiful weddings, celebrating the marriage of Lilia Bruni and Brandon Wetsel, executed flawlessly by Lisa Newburn Events. The Laredo couple exchanged their vows at Our Lady of Grace Church located in San Antonio's historic Monte Vista, where all their guests were able to be apart of this once in a lifetime memory. Pre ceremony, the wedding party's hair was styled by



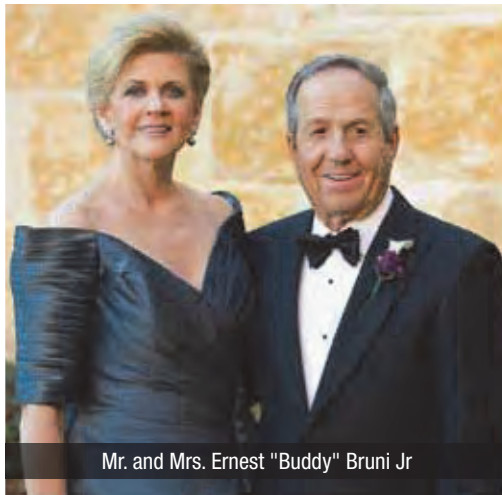
Lilia Bruni and Brandon Wetsel



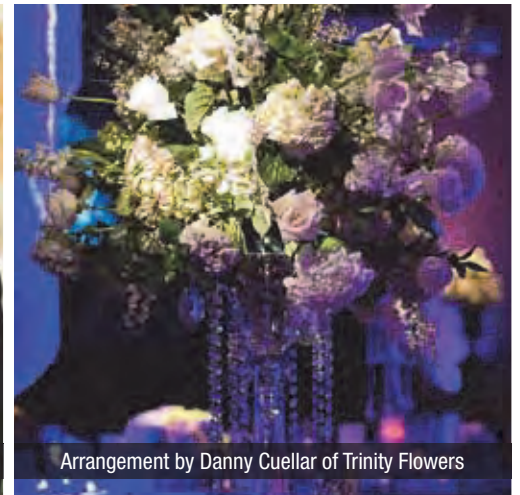
Bride's Cake



Mr. and Mrs. Hyland Coble



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest "Buddy" Bruni Jr



Arrangement by Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers



Mr. and Mrs. Ward Downing & Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mussolini




Bridesmaids with Bride

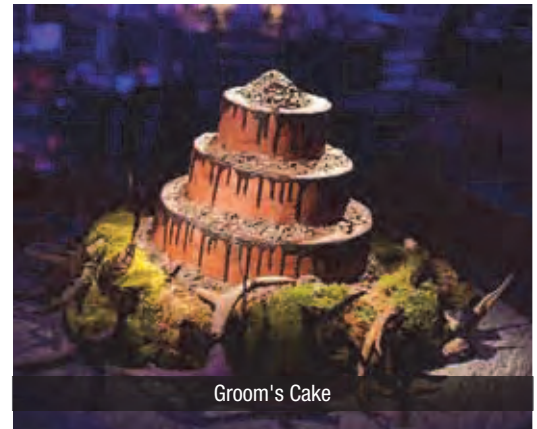


Executed by Lisa Newburn Events

Raul Andres Saldana and their makeup by Josephine Aguirre of Ric Marmolejo Salon in San Antonio.

After the ceremony, the guests were transported by an entourage of buses back to the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort where the night was filled with food, drinks, and dancing. Tables were adorned with lavish white roses arranged in translucent crystal glass vases, while the purple and blue lighting set the atmosphere. The exquisite floral arrangements were created by Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers & Events. The five tiered bride's cake was adorned with edible flowers cascading from top to bottom created by Cakes by Cathy.

The couple and their guests danced away the evening to live music, filled with laughter and joyous moments, as they celebrated the launch of Lilia and Brandon's shared journey. 



Groom's Cake



Brandon Wetsel



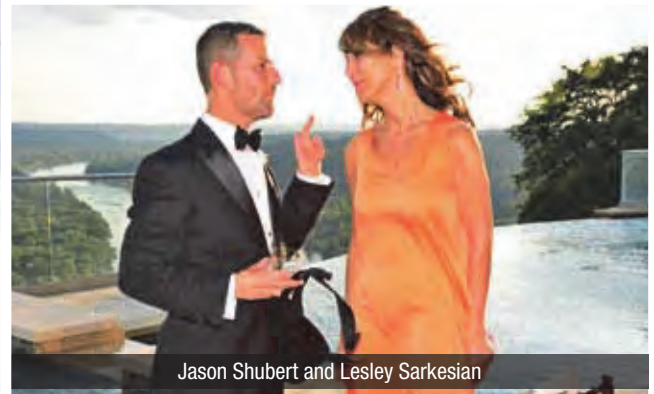


A group of people are seated around a long, rectangular table outdoors, likely on a terrace or balcony. The table is set with white linens, plates of food, glasses, and a large, vibrant centerpiece of pink and orange roses. The people are dressed in semi-formal attire. In the background, a large, cascading waterfall flows over a stone ledge into a pool of water. The scene is set during the day, with bright, natural light. The overall atmosphere is elegant and sophisticated.

A MID-SUMMER NIGHT'S *Dream*

*By Lance Avery Morgan
Photography by Russell Clayton*

The social season may wane during the dog days of summer, yet the party goes on and the music still fills the air as we create a magical environment of some of the city's most notable swans and swains. You're invited to join us and enjoy an evening of friends, frolic, and a little mystery... courtesy of a masked theme.



Jason Shubert and Lesley Sarkesian



Every chic party begins with an idea so that it can be a memorable event. “I believe that a great event starts with a great theme,” says By MoJo event producer Monica Burcham. “I’ve found that a dynamic theme allows you to create details that will tell a story throughout the evening. From an elaborate mask for the invitations to masks for each honored guest to don, no detail was left unturned with this party.”

Gathering several renowned Austin residents during the height of all the pre-summer parties was no easy feat. And, we asked them to wear a mask. Not only did they do it gladly, but also it helped make for a successfully creative al fresco event.

Just what ingredients are needed to ensure a dynamic evening? The theme, of a masquerade, of course, was the metaphoric centerpiece of this gathering.



Tally greets fellow guests



Patrick Keel, Stephanie Coultriss O’Neal, Jonathan Teiken and Tyler Sieswerda



The venue was crucial, too. We chose a hilltop hideaway that happens to be for sale, offering the best views in the city. The three-story mansion was transformed into a setting on the Italian Riviera for one magical night. “There is a sense of mystery when you show up wearing a mask,” notes guest Gray Hawn, celebrated photographer and TV producer. “It was a creative and romantic evening.”

The perfect setting, offered by Lauri McNevin of Keller Williams Luxury Homes, is a one of their properties that is on the market. The luminous mood, orchestrated by Intelligent

Lighting, set the tone of that night that was pure escapist fantasy as one entered the threshold. Premier Designs created the environment of flowing drapes, stunning tableware and of course, the dining table and chairs that guests enjoyed lingering over for hours. “Walking up to the poolside table was a delight because it was so beautifully appointed and created such a lovely setting, making us feel so special and even more festive,” says fundraiser Mary Talley. “Dining outdoors in Texas is always a treat.” Guest Jason Shubert, a hedge fund CFO, agrees by saying, “The tablescape was magnificent. There was an easy elegance to the whole presentation, the ‘relaxed’ formal.”



Erin Driscoll, foreground, John Thornton and background, Gray Hawn



Just Desserts
**White Chocolate
Mousse**

*Courtesy of Paige Morgan at
Paige's Bakehouse in Round Rock*



This fluffy dessert is ideal for any special occasion, or just a sweet treat for a small dinner party. Try it as a filling in your favorite cake, or fill a tulle bowl and garnish with chocolate curls. It is sure to impress.

2 cups (480 ml) heavy cream
4 tsp. (12 g) gelatin
1/2 cup (120 ml) cold water
2 Tbsp. pectin powder (regular canning pectin) or you can omit the pectin and increase gelatin by 1 tsp. for a total of 5 tsp. of gelatin
4 oz. (115g) granulated sugar
4 egg whites (1/2 cup/120ml)
12 oz. (340g) white chocolate, melted (be sure not to overheat or mousse will be grainy)

In a mixing bowl with a whisk attachment, whip the cream to soft peaks and reserve in refrigerator.

Soften gelatin in the water.

Combine the pectin and sugar, stir in egg whites and heat in a double boiler over simmering water, whisking, until it reaches 140 degrees.

Remove from heat and whip until cool and forms stiff peaks.

Heat gelatin mixture to dissolve.

Stir gelatin mixture into melted chocolate until smooth, then stir chocolate mixture into 1/3 of meringue, folding gently. Add chocolate mixture to remaining meringue, then fold in reserved whipped cream.

Use immediately since it sets quickly.
Makes 6 cups.

The setting did indeed create the stage for the evening. “The natural tones of the hills, water, and stone were perfectly offset with vivid floral arrangements, lighting and table settings that in turn provided the perfectly balanced scene to welcome guests that served as the accessories to bring the two together,” remarks By Mo Jo event producer Jonathan Tieken. “It was almost as if the venue was our gallery and the decor and guests were the artwork.” The stunning floral arrangements of almost every imaginable spring flower in bloom in a bountiful palate of deep pinks, oranges and yellows, were created by the team at Floral Renaissance.

So, how do you guarantee a sparkling party? Assemble energetic personalities to keep the conversation strong. We’ve found that shiny, happy people, like our guest list, bring an ideal energy to the party. Along with their remarkable sense of personal style, amidst a glamorous setting was beyond the expected. The elaborate invitations of hand made masks, set in a gray satin box that looked like it could house a small fur stole, were sent to the guests weeks in advance. The guest list ranged from private equity tycoons to tech honchos to entrepreneurs to fundraisers and just about every other type of profession that makes this region so dynamically powerful. Then we gathered at a table fit for royalty. “The view of Lake Austin and surrounding hill country was spectacular,” stated guest Patrick Keel, an Austin mediator-arbitrator. “The evening was perfect for taking in the panorama.”



Stephanie and Todd O'Neal



Monica Burcham and Gray Hawn



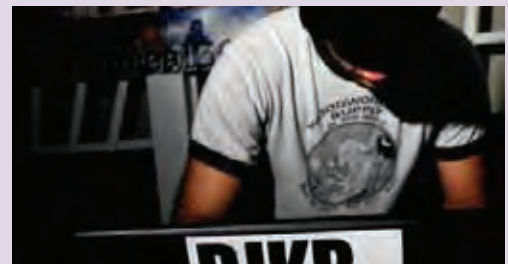
“Convincing us to use silver flatware with a gold finish was not an easy challenge, but it worked, because we were able to offset what was otherwise a monochromatic and natural setting,” adds Tiekem. “What could otherwise feel gaudy and over the top in this setting felt right. Out of the ordinary, yes, but so were our guests.”

“The table was never quiet and conversations abounded throughout the evening. The masks served as a perfect introductory point, and provided easy access to conversation,” confides Tiekem. “The table was truly a sampling of all walks of Austin’s culture, and a little



Let The Music Play

By DJ KB



“DJ KB is a professional all vinyl turntablist with over 12 years experience and recommends the following as his favorite dinner party playlist:

- Quiet Nights – Astrid Gilberto*
- Bondax - Just Us*
- Shelter Point - Forever For Now*
- Shlohm0 - Wen Uuu*
- Amy Winehouse - Stronger Than Me (Alby D Bootleg)*
- Bibio - Lovers' Carvings*
- Lauryn Hill - Doo Wop (Pedestrian & Maribou State Remix)*
- The xx - Crystallised (Dark Sky Remix)*
- Mak & Pasteman - Do the Same (VIP)*
- Bwana - You Never Stop*
- Kastle - Could U Want Me (Blackwax Remix)*
- LDFD - Outtacontrol*
- Bondax - All Inside*
- Michael Jackson – Pretty Young Thing*



Cristina Pesek and Erin Driscoll

disguise immediately placed everyone on the same playing field. This is the beauty of a lightly-themed gathering. It provides guidance to your guests and an easy platform for them to meet others.”

This event stirred in cocktails of all kinds: the wine, champagne and spirits were provided by Glazer’s Distributors. There was also San Antonio-based Cinco Vodka as well as the new CHOAS vodka cocktail, to give any event the social lubricant it might need at the beginning, especially when its poured by With A Twist bartending services.

The delicious dinner, along with starter bites, provided by Suzanne Court Events and her stellar serving team, was a crisp green salad before a roasted chicken on a bed of wild mushroom risotto, which was a hit with all the guests. “The food and wine was 100% perfection,” enthuses Mary Herr. “Suzanne Court can do no wrong because her attention to detail is absolutely meticulous.” The meal was topped off with a dessert of white chocolate mousse set in chocolate cups from Paige’s Bakehouse in nearby Round Rock, owned by Paige Morgan.

Guests were serenaded by DJ KB, who was perched above the table on the terrace of the residence’s second floor. His playlist, always setting the perfect mood, can be found later in the article to get your creative juices flowing, too. To add more flavor to the event, Jeff of Bobalu Cigars was a part of the action hand rolling cigars for the gentlemen guests who chose to light up. To further



Gray Hawn, Lance Avery Morgan, Mary Tally, Rob Giardinelli, Jason Shubert, Erin Driscoll and Cristina Pesek



commemorate the evening, guests were invited into the retro photobooth provided by Loco Motion Photobooth for some mini black and white shots for their scrapbooks. Professional make-up artist John Pearce was nearby to touch up the ladies in the room so that they looked as fresh as a daisy all evening.


The dinner later turned into a larger, masked ball. “The evening was, in a word, amazing, muses Jonathan Tieken. “You know it has gone well when everyone is gathered around the table long after plates have been cleared away and guests are moving from chair to chair to mingle with those they weren't able to while eating. The moment it all came into perspective was when a group gathered on the steps just inside the front door, elegant yet relaxed, ties loosened and hair down, in a way that conveyed that they were comfortable to stay and chat and mingle.”

We agree, as does Monica Burcham who helmed the event with By MoJo. “Transforming ordinary parties into extraordinary events is what they do since our process is simple: listen, anticipate, execute and deliver.” We’re looking forward to our next event where we will expect the unexpected.



Todd O'Neal, Joe Ross and John Thornton





Tall Tan Young & Lovely

...our ingénue goes walking. And, when she walks it's like a samba that swings so cool and sways so gentle.

In this long, hot summer of 60's-infused glam, our sublime brunette escalates her sizzling fashion sense. Here, take a cue from her with the season's prettiest and most vibrantly provocative clothing this side of Paris.

*Photography by Mark Oberlin
Styling by Natalie Harper Howell*

*Hair by
Queen*

*Make Up by
Eric Allen*

*Model:
Denise Schaefer,
LA Models*

*Shot at The
Hollywood Tower,
Los Angeles*

*Sittings Editor
Lance Avery Morgan*

*Kaftan dress by
Mon Atelier,
Los Angeles*



Dress by
Jeri Moore,
Ring by
Candy Ice Jewelry



Dress by Mon Atelier,
Scarf by Pucci
available at Neiman
Marcus, Shoes by
Ralph Lauren,
Jewelry by
Candy Ice Jewelry



Silk top by The Hellers,
Belt is vintage Escada,
Pants by Nicole Miller,
Earrings by Candy Ice Jewelry



Dress by Nicole Miller,
Shoes by Ralph Lauren and
Earrings by Candy Ice Jewelry

Dress by 22 Vintage by Catch
Boutique, Los Angeles,
Ring by Sugar, Gay Isber
Jewelry, Austin





Dress by Lorena Sarbu,
Shoes by Ralph Lauren,
Ring by Candy Ice Jewelry



GENTLEMEN'S

RETREAT

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography By Greg Harrison

The home of Curtis Johnson and Leland Stone, King William District, San Antonio



Hidden home gems are exciting to discover in San Antonio, a city so richly steeped in history for several centuries. Here, you are invited to join us as we uncover a sparkling example of a historic residence, lovingly refurbished to its former grandeur and crafted for entertaining.

The library



The Wine Cellar

Homes that have historic status tend to be a favorite in a city like San Antonio. In fact, when you drive up to one of the region’s most charming homes purchased by Curtis Johnson who resides there with his partner, Leland Stone, you are struck by the Texas historical marker on the house that reads:

“Chabot House. Originally from England, George Stooks Chabot (1821-1902) was a commission merchant dealing in cotton, wool, and hides. He and his wife, Mary (Van Derlip) (1842-1929) built this two-story stone house in 1876. The design includes several galleries with carved bracketing. Chabot’s grandson, Frederick Charles Chabot (1891-1943), was a noted Texas historian who wrote a number of books on local and state topics. The Chabot Family lived here until 1940.”

According to Johnson, “Walter Mathis, who is credited with starting the gentrification of the King William district in the 1970’s, purchased the Chabot house, which at that time, had been divided into eight apartments. He did the initial restoration and modified the house from eight small apartments to three luxury rentals. He also removed a small apartment structure that had been erected in 1917 immediately adjacent to the house, and blocked the street view of the carriage house in the back of the property.”

From the sidewalk, you can feel you are in for a treat. When Johnson and Stone first walked through the home, it was the good bones they loved most. “In the early 1980’s, the prior owners used preservation architect Michael Hilger to turn the Chabot house back into a single family residence. Hilger was the perfect choice as he had done extensive restoration work on similarly aged structures at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio,” recounts Johnson.

The home’s architecture details and floor plan are well suited to modern life even though they were designed for a time when horses dominated the unpaved roads of King William

The living room. Right, the butler's pantry, a saltcellar collection, the home's garden, the library, view of the back lawn.



and candles and oil lamps were de rigueur. The stately living room features unbroken planks of long-leaf yellow pine floors, 12 ½ foot high ceilings, and large windows that are deeply inset into the 18" thick original limestone walls. The tall Victorian mirror above the mantel is one of the few pieces of furniture that is original to the house and belonged to the Chabot family. The dining room's square proportions are perfect for their round table, which is ideal for entertaining up to seven people and keeping the conversation unified, according to Johnson. It also features a detailed parquet wood floor over the original pine floor.

The library has an expandable antique table that is often used for meetings at the house, and can be enlarged for bigger groups of ten to twelve people. The valances over the library doors are original to the house. There is a gilded frame mirror on the library mantel that belonged to the Stone's great-grandmother. Stone found the frame in the basement of her Monte Vista home,





covered in decades of dust, and had a mirror made to fit the frame. He also acquired a full-scale drawing of a soup tureen that was done by famous 18th century English silver smith Paul de Lamerie, which hangs in the library. To complete the home's age-old feel, Johnson purchased the English antique desk and cabinet for the living room from Whit Hanks in Austin.

If a life well-lived is a life well-collected, then it's never been more apparent than in this home. Stone has a collection of pierced sterling saltcellars which are used at dinner parties, often serving both white and black salt. Johnson has a collection of Japanese Netsukes and antique Meissen china from his grandmother, who was born in the King William district in the early 1900's. Johnson keeps an annual date with his mother, a Houstonian, to attend the Houston Antique Dealers Association (HADA) show, and over the years has purchased several items for the household since moving to King William.

If a home is the canvas of one's life, then the art is what may give it character

most. "The paintings in the dining room are 19th century (German and English works) from my great-grandparents," states Johnson. "The vintage flags were purchased from Jeff Bridgman Antiques in Pennsylvania. The small parade flag in the library dates to 1876, the year the house was built." He goes on to say, "The Rembrandt etching in living room was a housewarming gift from my father, and there's a Damien Hirst spot print in the entry hall we purchased from Gallery Maximilian on a trip to Aspen.

The Henry Rayburn pencil drawing of the Chabot house was a Birthday gift from the Stone family to Johnson that was drawn right after the couple moved in. "Henry literally sat across the street each morning with his coffee in one hand, and his sketch pad in the other," muses Johnson. Rayburn died the following year. A man that was loved by many, there was standing room only at the memorial service held for him in the neighborhood, according to the couple.



Opposite; The living room's book collection, the master closet. This page: the guest quarters, bow tie collection, fleet of Mercedes sedans.

When asked which rooms in particular are used the most, Johnson emphatically says, "That's easy: The living, dining room, and library. These rooms are used frequently when we entertain. Generally, we serve cocktails and appetizers in the living room, the salad and entrée in the dining room, and dessert and coffee in the library. Moving from room to room helps keep the evening going."

Dinner parties here tend to be formal. The household staff is counted on to prepare the food and serve guests at the dining table. This is rarely done today, even in homes far grander than the Chabot house. "Because of Leland's background in boutique hotel management from Cornell University, he is willing and able to train the staff on the proper methods of preparing and presenting an elegant meal," says Johnson.

The home's estate also contains classic Mercedes cars that reflect the owners' commitment to style. Beyond that area, the carriage house on the property serves as Stone's office. "The remodeled upstairs apartment is perfect for guests," enthuses Johnson. "It has its own small kitchen area and bathroom (with English fittings from Leland's showroom). Stone's home office and display area is downstairs, and features various high-end lines of plumbing, lighting, and hardware he sells. The lower level also houses what Stone calls a commercial "kitchenette" – professional grade appliances in a very small kitchen, laid out to maximize efficiency so that the staff can churn out a gourmet dinner for six to 60 people."

With a life well-lived in a home well-designed, expect to see it as the center of many gatherings in the future. 6







Ten Days in Kenya

The Ultimate East African Safari

A jewel of East Africa, Kenya is a country steeped in a rich history of culture, flora and fauna. The country's wildlife, topography, climate and people are an experience non-pareil, and a ten-day visit promises to be an adventure of a lifetime.

*By Rebecca Rooney
Photography By Rebecca Rooney*



Over the past decade, travel to Kenya has become popular as more Americans are discovering its natural beauty and ancient spirit, as well as appreciating the country's English-speaking heritage. For optimal game viewing and pleasant climate in equatorial Africa, the dry season from June through October is the best time to plan a safari.

DAY 1

Experiencing Kenya begins at the Norfolk hotel upon landing in the capital city of Nairobi. Not quite the colonial hub of yesteryear—the pith helmets and wildlife trophies have been replaced by camera equipment and modern décor—the Norfolk is still a must-visit in Nairobi. Its architecture and central location still speak of a bygone era that's assimilated nicely into modern day Kenya. The energy of the lobby feels like an international way station for adventurers, writers, photographers, and heads of state. You never know who you will catch a glimpse of at the Norfolk, but it is always an interesting experience.





DAY 2

Sleep in to recover from jet lag and see the local sights. After breakfast on the veranda at the Norfolk, take a tour of the Karen Blixen museum and the Nairobi national park. Lunch at Karen Blixen's bucolic farm is a delight, and the tour of the home takes one right to the set of *Out of Africa*. After lunch, get acquainted to the experience of game viewing by warming up in the Nairobi National Park. Situated seven miles south of the city's center, this park is home to much game, including a protected population rhinoceros and lions, two critically endangered mammals.

DAY 3

Sojourn north of Nairobi to a part of Kenya known as Nanyuki for a night at the Mount Kenya Safari Club. Founded in 1959, the members' list when the club opened read like an international "Who's Who", and included European royalty and American presidents and movie stars alike. Dressing for dinner is still a custom here, and an elegant evening awaits on the eve of your safari.



DAY 4

After breakfast, your safari begins with a drive a bit farther north to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy on the Laikipia plains to stay at the Sweetwaters Tented Camp. An 110,000-acre conservancy, the Ol Pejeta conservancy is home to a plethora of game including the Big Five: elephant, rhino, lion, cape buffalo, and leopard, and a sanctuary for a group of captive orphaned chimpanzees. The combination of grass plains, wooded grasslands, and evergreen thicket make the habitat in Ol Pejeta a diverse haven for the Big Five.

Dinner in the tented camp at Ol Pejeta is its own adventure: elephants, buffalo, warthogs, and impala might come for a drink in the lighted watering hole outside of the restaurant, with bats and birds swooping in as well. Its quite of the everyday to have a herd of elephant as dining companions.

DAY 5

After breakfast your guide will take you to see the Sweetwaters chimpanzee sanctuary in Ol Pejeta, the only place in Kenya where you can see one of the great ape species. The sanctuary provides a large habitat for this group of chimpanzees to roam and play, and has won conservation awards for its design and work. Curious and friendly, some chimps will visit the fence to see the visitors while others will play in a nearby tree.

DAY 6

After a second night at the tent camp, head back to Nairobi to Wilson airport where you will catch a flight to the Maasai Mara, a.k.a., “the Mara.” This game reserve is on the Kenya side of the famed Serengeti Plain. The Mara is the landscape that comes to mind when thoughts of Kenya arise: tall grassy plains that camouflage both predators and prey, rolling hills peppered with fig and acacia trees, dramatic sunrises and sunsets, and a river running through it.

Upon landing, you will be met by a camp representative who will drive you to your tented camp. Once there, you will be greeted with a cold drink and towel and taken to your luxury tent to have a rest before your afternoon game drive. Enjoy the sound of jumping monkeys, chattering birds, and—if you are lucky—a pod of hippos in front of your tent floating submerged in the river with an occasional snort as they come up for air.



DAYS 7, 8 AND 9

Three full days in the Mara. The landscape of the Mara is so vast that every game drive is a new adventure, a new terrain to explore, with abundant wildlife throughout. At your camp, there is not much of a need for an alarm clock. The birds will awaken you, as will the camp staff who bring you coffee or tea to your tent before your early morning game drive. After a few hours in the bush to enjoy the early morning wildlife you are brought back to camp for a gourmet breakfast and relaxation time.

Lunch is midday followed by a bit of free time to journal, lounge by the pool, or take a rest. About 4 p.m. each day, your guide will meet you at the Land Cruiser to take you to various parts of the Mara where you could see the great migration of wildebeest across the Mara river, a female cheetah with her cubs stalking an unsuspecting Thompson's gazelle, an ostrich fluttering about, impala fleeing the threat of a lion nearby, or a journey of giraffes browsing on trees. Toward the end of the evening game drive, your guide and driver will select a unique spot for a "sundowner," where you and your group will enjoy the serenity of the sunset with a cocktail or beverage of your choice. A simply

delightful way to take in the vast beauty of the evening sky as the veil of twilight falls upon the land.

After dinner and sundown, the chorus of the nocturnal wildlife begins, and the jungle comes alive. In your tent, you could be lulled to sleep by a leopard's soft sawing sound, or the rustling of a bushbaby overhead.

DAY 10

After breakfast, you'll be taken to the airstrip to await your flight back to Nairobi. During the flight, look out the windows for an aerial view of the vast rolling plains of the Maasai Mara, and the people and wildlife who call it home.

Before your evening flight departs, spend a few hours shopping in a few of Kenya's boutiques: the Kazuri beads shop and the African Lily women's leather cooperative. These two businesses provide jobs for women who produce high quality leather products and colorful ceramic beaded necklaces. Such souvenirs make great holiday gifts, and are reminders of the beauty and natural resources of a far away—yet now familiar—land called Kenya.



REFERENCE LIST

For the best safari guide, contact:

Patricia Awori

Director

Pan African Wildlife Conservation Network

P.O. Box 47756

00100 GPO

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OTHER CONTACTS

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NEW ENTERPRISE



Eilan Hotel Resort Spa Opens To Great Fanfare

By Bryan Vegas

Photography by Mbox Communications & Greg Harrison

The opening of the Eilan Hotel Resort & Spa in the Hill Country of San Antonio was without a doubt, one of the most extravagant events to kick off the summer season in San Antonio. Let's face it. It's dazzling. The 120-acre mixed-use development contains high-end residences, retail and commercial space. The resort consists of 165-guestrooms and suites, it is located in one of San Antonio's newest luxurious prime locations nestled between the Shops at La Cantera and The Rim.

Guests have access to a wide array of features including a state of the art fitness center with lap pool and golf simulation room; 24-hour in-room dining; spa facilities with 10 unique treatment rooms; six private lush gardens; solar powered

trolley; outdoor pool; exquisite event and executive meeting facilities; and a signature dining experience by chef Stephan Pyles at his new restaurant, Sustenio, featuring modern southwestern cuisine. How's that for new and cool?

"We are excited to open Eilan Hotel Resort & Spa as a premier destination for both international and domestic travelers, as well as the residents of San Antonio," says the property's General Manager Ellen Seymore. "The arrival of the hotel fills a niche in San Antonio offering guests a new luxury travel and dining experience. The hotel offers a travel option complete with resort facilities, while successfully showcasing sustainable practices without impacting the level of service or quality of product."





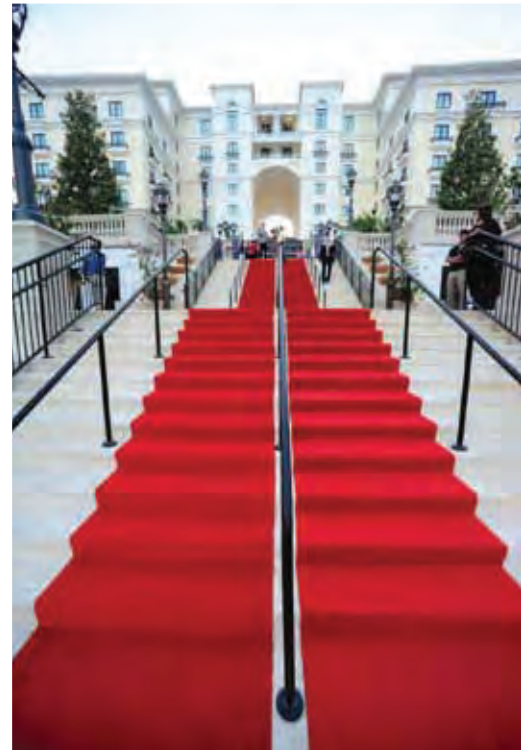
Chef David Gilbert, Carmen Cruz, Chef Stephan Pyles, and Hans Pars



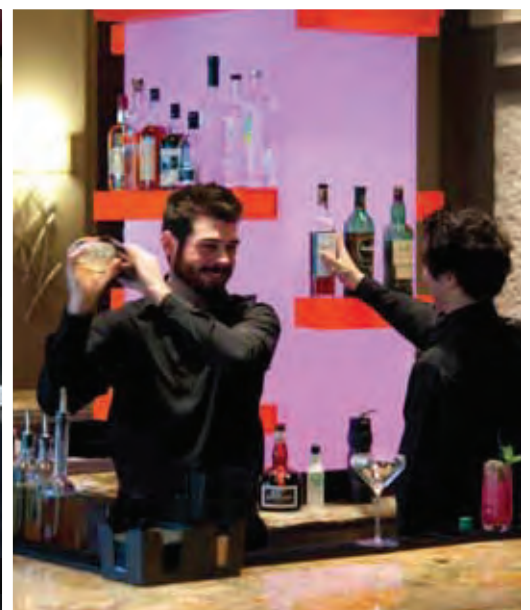
Dave Brett & Julie Poppoon Chandir

The opening night had guests greeted by valet and upon check-in they were given a “Passport” which also doubled as their itinerary and map to discover each fabulous location of the resort. The cuisine and beverage stations highlighted a sampling of signature items from Sustenio and Piatti, a restaurant opening in the Fall. Guests hopped on a trolley that lined the facility where everyone stopped to snap photos while viewing the property, including a beautifully decorated residence model with gorgeous views of the Hill Country.

Then, guests sauntered to the outdoor resort pool which was complete with a live band serenading Sinatra while margaritas flowed freely. The pool area features a full fireplace, wet bar, kiddie pool, hot tub, and



Stephanie Summerall, Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar, Bruce Bowen, Ellen Seymore, and Tom Wensinger





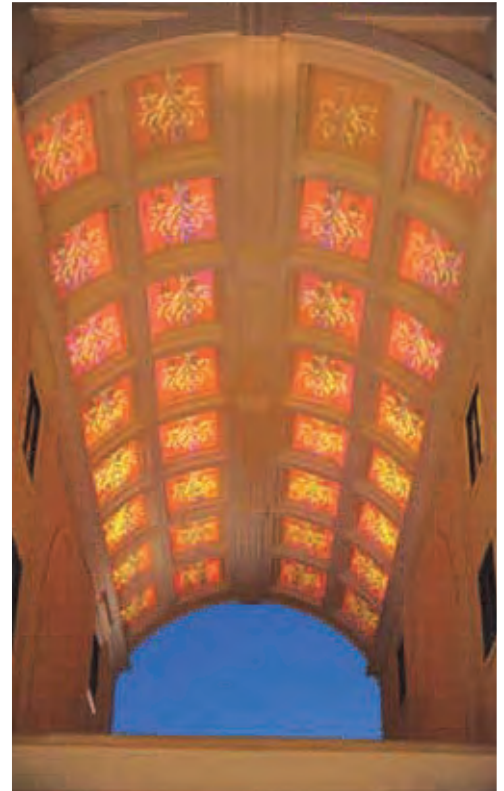
Evie Reichel and Michelle Robertson



Tres Peacock & Rees Doyle

full-size locker rooms. Then it was on to the ballroom where they were serving pasta and pastries from Sustenio. Guests saw a dance performance by Dancing With The Stars' sensational Corky Ballas in the IDanceCity facility. Beyond that was the resident's clubhouse. Event rooms may be reserved including the use of flat screen TV's, a full kitchen and tables, along with a cozy living room with a fireplace and piano. There are balcony views overlooking the property which will take your breath away.

At the end of the evening, guests were gifted with gold tote bags that included a purple embroidered towel with the Eilan logo, specialty baked cookies by Eilan's Executive Pastry Chef, a customized Eilan Hotel pen, and a voucher to a dance class at their IDanceCity facility. We'd say that the opening festivities at Eilan were a huge success and new guests and visitors will be similarly enthralled with their own experience. 6



Jean Lee and Carroll Dorsey Walker

A photograph of a large event space, possibly a restaurant or banquet hall, with a high, vaulted ceiling. The room is filled with round tables set with white tablecloths, white chairs, and floral centerpieces. The lighting is a mix of warm and cool tones, with purple and blue lights visible on the ceiling and walls. A large screen in the background displays a colorful, abstract image. The overall atmosphere is elegant and sophisticated.

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Photo courtesy of Cory Ryan Photography

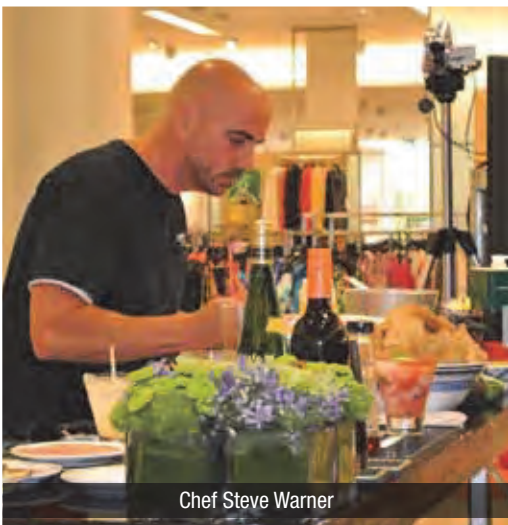
People, places and events in our region

Neiman Marcus San Antonio Hosts

Guest CHEF

Photography by Susi Lopez

Chef Steve Warner recently paid a visit to Neiman Marcus San Antonio to serve up delicious bites of Mexican cuisine complemented by world-class margaritas and sangria to a crowd of chic city slickers. He enthralled the guests with his gastronomic delights usually reserved for his Two Step Restaurant & Cantina that is near the store. Leave it to Neiman Marcus to think beyond the box for their in-store events.



Chef Steve Warner

CELEBRITY HAIRSTYLIST

GIACOMO FORBES *at*



Giacomo Forbes is now a featured stylist at Amar Cosmetics, founded in 2008, in San Antonio. Austinites will recognize him from his salon past in Austin. "I always have felt that you have to be patient and wait for the right opportunity", says salon founder Deborah Amar Schneider when creating her salon focusing in the finest in cosmetics, skincare, and hair.

Enter celeb stylist Forbes in 2011. "We built a hair studio, yet we had not found the right stylist", says Schneider. "So here was this empty studio waiting to be used, and Giacomo walks in and says 'hello.'" By November 2011, Forbes had re-located his family to San Antonio.

Over the years, Forbes has worked with celebrities such as Claudia Schiffer, Emma Thompson, Elizabeth Taylor, Marissa Tomei, Yasmeen Bleeth and others. His stylistic talents and hair care products have been praised in the world's finest magazines including Allure, Vogue, Harpers Bazaar, and he has made television appearances on networks such as MTV, VH-1, and Bravo's Sheer Genius. Eventually he landed in South Texas, bringing a renewed level of hairstyling to the region.

To learn more about Amar Cosmetics and to treat yourself to the highest standards of hairstyling, call 866.318.5845



Photo OPPORTUNITY

San Antonian Travis Capps, incorrectly identified as Travis Bailey in a previous issue, and Libby Tilley enjoy the San Antonio Museum of Art Gala.

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July 4

Austin Symphony July 4th Concert
& Fireworks
austinsymphony.org

July 10

Givers Ball
givingcityaustin.com

July 14

Bastille Day Party
Alliance Française d'Austin
afaustin.org

July 21

Spike Dykes Charity Golf Tournament
spikedykes.com

July 21-22

Old Gruene Market Days
gruenemarketdays.com

August 4

Austin Ice Cream Festival
icecreamfestival.org

August 10

Austin Fashion Week
fashionweekaustin.com

August 10

Austin Summer Musical Gala
summermusical.com

August 16

Eat the Heat
Austin Chapter of NACE
naceaustin.com

August 17

Excellence in Leadership Gala
Concordia University Texas
alumni.concordia.edu

August 24

10th Annual Tour de Vin
Wine and Food Foundation of
Texas
winefoodfoundation.org

August 25

Austin Ice Ball
Big Brothers Big Sisters
austiniceball.org

August 25

¡Qué Maravilla!
Wonders & Worries
wondersandworries.org

August 25

BatFest and Night of the Bat
roadwayevents.com

August 26

10th Annual Brian Jones
Celebrity Golf Classic
Boys and Girls Club of Austin
bgcaustin.org

August 28

Out of Bounds Comedy Festival
outofboundscomedy.com

san antonio social planner

June 29 - July 2

July 4th Arts & Crafts Show
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

July 20

A Night in Old Havana
Hispanic Contractors Association
de San Antonio
hcadesa.org

July 20

Scholarship & Awards Gala
San Antonio Association of His-
panic Journalists
saahj.com

July 26

Cocktails & Culture:
The Witte Uncorked!
WitteMuseum.org

August 4

Ford Canoe Challenge
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

August 11

Rambling Rose
Culinaria
culinariasasa.org

August 18-25

Restaurant Week 2012
culinariasasa.org

August 26

Summer Jazz & Lunch
Year of Jazz
yearofjazz.org

August 31-September 22

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