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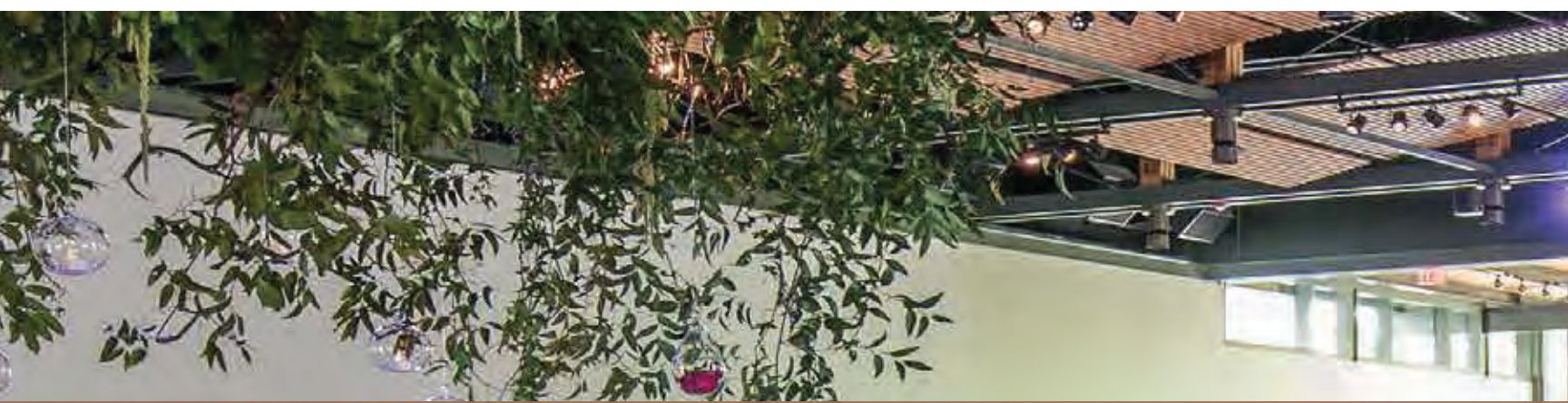
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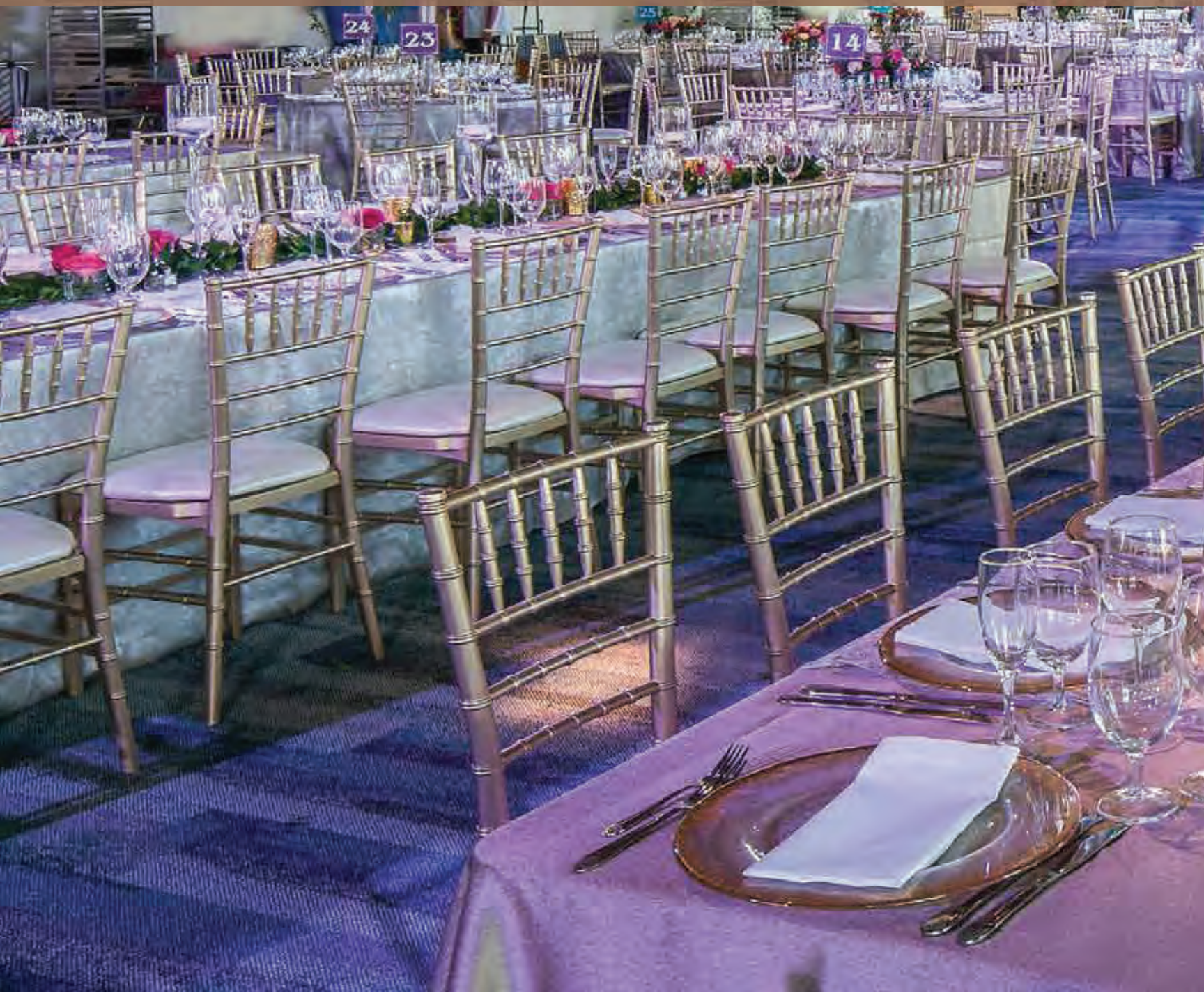
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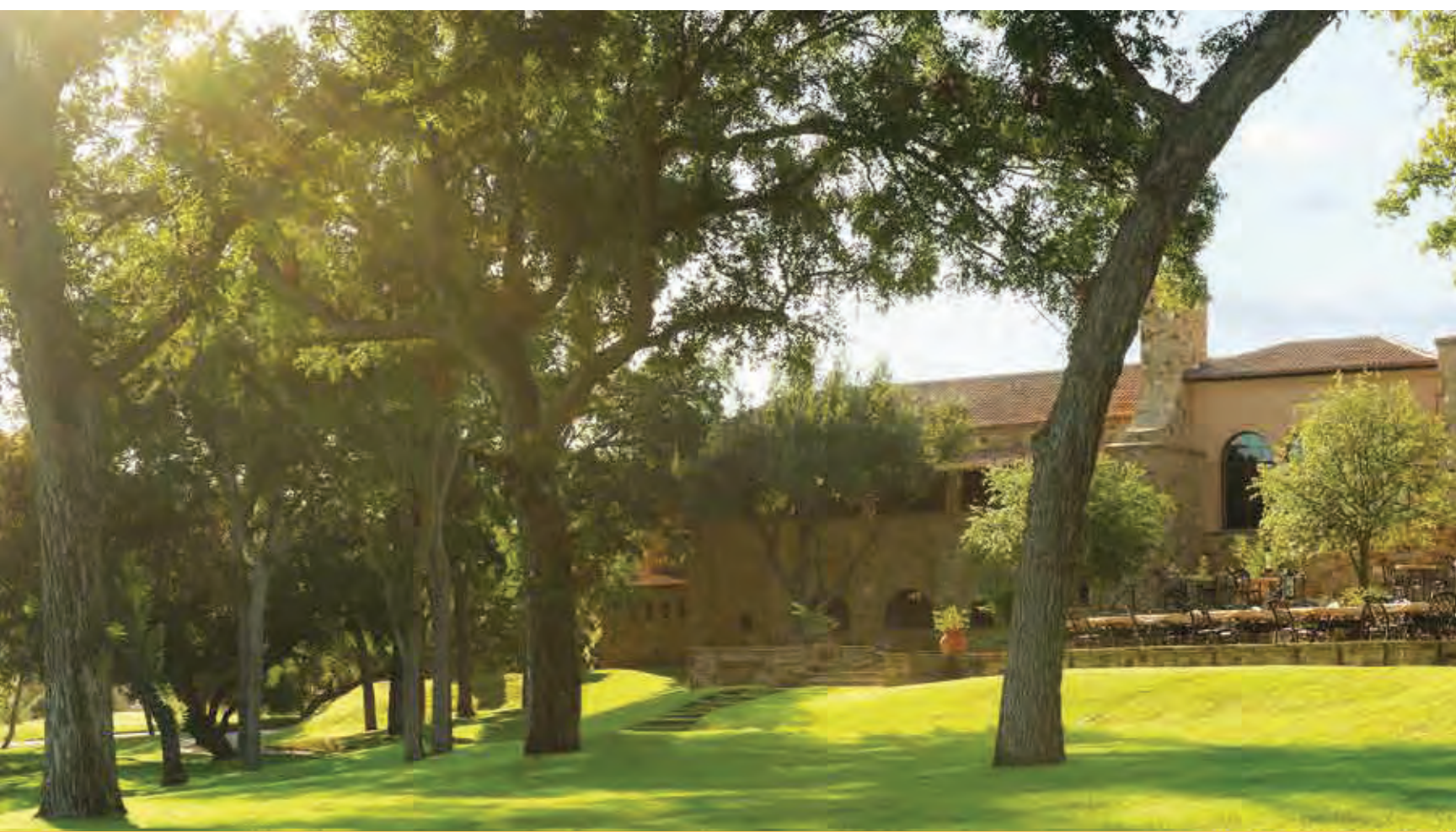
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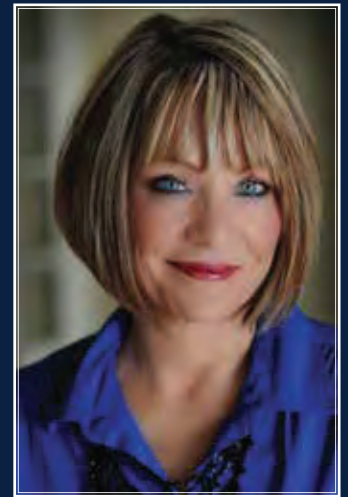
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100. Burkley and John Fitzsimons



108. Jaclyn and Conley Covert



116. Dan and Ellie Morrison



112. Luisa and José Sierra

84. OLD, NEW, BOLD & BLUE

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By Natalie Bond and Jonathan Spindel

88. ROMANCING THE STONE

Paris, the City of Love, comes alive every day for lovers. The Chaumet Museum is an example of where the luxurious gift of love, fine jewelry, is on a fine pedigreed display.

By Ashley Dobson Photography courtesy of Ashley Dobson, Archival

92. WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

The Wedding of Natalie Jones And Sam Strasser In Austin

By Rob Giardinelli Photography by Stephen Karlisch

96. DESTINATION: LOVE

Nicola Bathie Weds Michael McLaughlin In England

By Alison Elberger Photography by Andrew Coulter

100. ALL THIS LOVE

Burkley Wombwell Weds Jonny Fitzsimons In Houston

By Alison Elberger Photography by Chris Bailey

104. GOLDEN GLOW

Sterling Stensrud And Rob Evans Marry In Dallas

By Jake Gaines Photography by Stephen Karlisch

108. BEST OF MY LOVE

The Elegant Austin Nuptials of Jaclyn Joseph And Conley Covert

By Kelsey Goldberg Photography by Debra Gulbas Photography

112. THE POWER OF LOVE

Luisa Bravo And José Serra Marry In Mexico

By Jonathan Spindel Photography by Arturo González

116. I LOVE YOU FOR SENTIMENTAL REASONS

Ellie Leeper And Dan Morrison Wed In San Antonio

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography by David Sixt

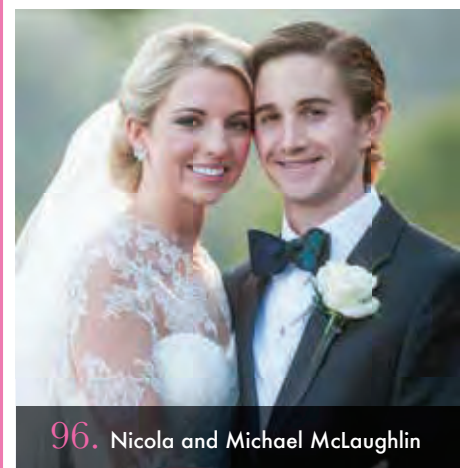
120. IT WAS LOVE FROM THE START

Kelsey Hughes And Grant Wilson Tie The Knot In Austin

By Kelsey Goldberg Photography by Ashley Garmon



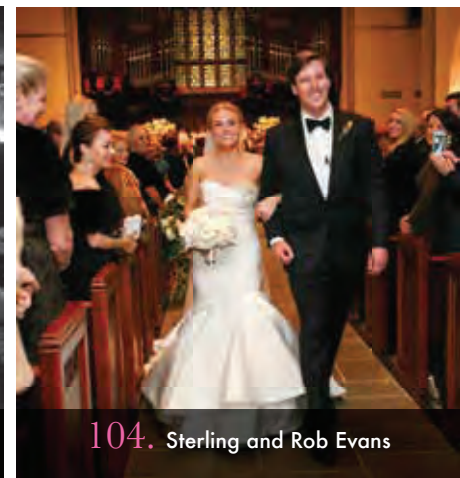
120. Kelsey and Grant Wilson



96. Nicola and Michael McLaughlin



92. Sam and Natalie Strasser



104. Sterling and Rob Evans

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Natalie Bond Bloomingdale

44

Photo by Nick Raeford



Untitled Film Still #54. © Cindy Sherman

52

28. CONTRIBUTE

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

32. EDIT

Editor-in-Chief and Creative Director Lance Avery Morgan is more than ready for pursuing a Slim Aarons-worthy summer.

34. CURATE

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

38. BEHAVE

Our Ms. Modern Manners Sharon Schweitzer, JD is at the rescue for all your good behavior conundrums during the wedding season.

40. PORTRAY

Dallas-bred Scoot McNairy returns as the protagonist in *Halt And Catch Fire*, the AMC hit about the Texas tech years in the robust era of the early 1980s.



Scoot McNairy

22

42



48



51

THE SOCIETY DIARIES.COM

42. REVEAL

Vernon, Texas native-turned-Los Angeleno and former *The Society Diaries* featured bride Natalie Bond Bloomingdale shares here favorite summer must-haves.

44. DISCOVER

Dallas, dazzling as ever, is bursting with hip happenings, style and people as our style setter Cynthia Smoot reports on the best of it.

46. RAISE

Dr. Miranda Fernande Walichowski, our family expert, weighs in on how the art of a successful wedding can one of shared family feelings.

48. EMERGE

Meditation expert Paige Davis weighs in on being a mindful bride where every moment spent being in the moment is so valued.

50. REVIVE

If you knew of a way to turn back the hands of time, wouldn't you pursue it right away? As Lance Avery Morgan learns, that is exactly what's happening in Austin at the new Evolve Wellness venue.

52. SEEK

Around the world there are so many action-packed happenings and we want to see them this season. Our globe-trotting Lance Avery Morgan is on the scene to select the most dazzling ones for you.

54. PROMOTE

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

60. HOST

Becca and John Thrash host a spectacular soirée for the opening of the new Van Cleef & Arpels store in Houston.

62. GIVE

The high stakes word of fund-raising is see at the 4th annual Mack, Jack and McConaughey gala.

136. ENTERTAIN

Be your own best guest at those special weddings this summer.



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74. SAN ANTONIO The Court of Grecian Glory with Scott Christy, Coronation Chairman, Carrie Green, Mistress of the Robes, Rick Cavender, Lord High Chamberlain and Brandon Clementson, President of the Order of the Alamo

THE VERY BEST EVENTS ACROSS TEXAS & BEYOND

SPECTATE

64. SAN ANTONIO
The Fiesta events

ENTRANCE

68. DALLAS
The Mad Hatters luncheon

70. HOUSTON
The Memorial Hermann Hospital gala

72. SAN ANTONIO
The San Antonio Museum of Art gala

76. AUSTIN
The Helping Hand ball

78. DALLAS
The FGI awards

80. AUSTIN
The Austin Fashion Week events

ARRIVAL

124. SAN ANTONIO
The Art Pace gala

128. AUSTIN
The Elizabeth Ann Seton Board events

130. HOUSTON
The River Oaks Garden Club events

132. SAN ANTONIO
The Villa Finale gala



130. HOUSTON
Cathy Frank and Rosanna Blalock



Photo by Sara Essex Bradley

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Ashley Dobson, who chronicles a chic Parisian jewelry museum in this issue, is a freelance writer currently living her European dreams with her husband and West Highland terrier in Germany. A proud native Texan, Dobson is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and has worked at a number of newspapers and websites across the South and in Washington, D.C. As an avid traveler (and travel writer), she believes the greatest souvenir from a new place is an experience. She also collects karaoke songs and has performed on the karaoke stage in 18 different countries so far.

PAIGE DAVIS

Our ongoing contributor Paige Davis is an entrepreneur, *Huffington Post* blogger and certified meditation teacher with the McLean Meditation Institute. She created Soul Sparks as a destination to inspire and empower anyone looking to live a more meaningful life through meditation and mindfulness programs. More on her can be found at SoulSparks.com



ALISON ELBERGER & KELSEY GOLDBERG

We love our dynamic editorial assistants who share their talents in every issue. Alison Elberger is a Houston native living in Austin. She loves spending time with friends at Austin's hip spots, as well as finding the newest yoga studios and exploring all that Austin has to offer. Kelsey Goldberg is a native Dallas writer who resides in Austin, where she loves to investigate the newest style trends. She enjoys the Austin outdoors, discovering new fashion, and exploring the best events in the area.



ROB GIARDINELLI

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

JENNIFER ROOSTH

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



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MARY SCHNEIDER

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

SHARON SCHWEITZER

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



CYNTHIA SMOOT

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

JONATHAN SPINDEL

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



MIRANDA F. WALICHOWSKI

Miranda F. Walichowski, PhD is a docent at Texas A&M University in the Department of Educational Psychology and contributes to our new parenting column, *Raise*. She is also the owner and founder of MiraNous.com where she works with women who want to manage multiple roles as wives, mothers, and professionals, with excellence and peace. Since successful women can find themselves overly committed, tend to feel disheartened, depleted, and dispirited, Dr. Walichowski helps these women gain control and prioritization in their lives and by doing so, live their heart's desire of being wholehearted, integrated, and peacefully productive in their one precious life.



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BETWEEN SLIM & NONE

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS, DEEP IN THE heart of summer, my thoughts turn all things warm yet, cool. Which leads me to Slim Aarons, whose sleek warmth and ultra-coolness are legendary in certain circles, as featured on this page. Aarons, the legendary high society photographer who channeled his inner socialite to create a gorgeous, juicy slice of Americana in the 1950s-1980s helps us channel our inner socialite to give you the most robust and complete look at this era's high performance Texans.

Back in the heyday of Sir Slim, the sultan of society, the future always shone with a bright, shiny veneer. We think it does today, too. When Aarons shot for magazines like *Life*, *Holiday*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Town & Country*, and *Travel & Leisure*, lifestyle photography wasn't as revered then as it is today. Popping into such resorts and enclaves as Capri, Newport and Palm Beach, Acapulco, Gstaad, Palm Springs, and the like, the guy knew how to capture a moment in time. "I knew everyone," he said in an interview with *The (London) Independent* in 2002 before his death in 2006. "They would invite me to one of their parties because they knew I wouldn't hurt them. I was one of them."

He *was* one of them and he knew their habits, haunts, likes and dislikes. Whether the subjects clasped cocktails, skis, racquets, backgammon tables, cars, or each other, and were clad in tennis togs, skiwear, swimsuits, or black tie, they were obviously doing something interesting at the time that many others were not. Perhaps that was their appeal. In today's all-too-heavy celebrity culture, his subjects were real people, albeit very rich and beautiful real people. Nancy Holmes, now deceased, of San Antonio, stinted with Aarons in their editorial career at *Town & Country*. "He was divine...utterly *divine*. A real prince and a pro," she mused to me years ago about their working relationship.

He was a royal consort indeed. From the junior set to the senior set of the Jet-Set, Aaron's chic, effortless grace always prevailed. In fact, the man himself was so fascinating and revered in real life, that Alfred Hitchcock patterned James Stewart's photographer character in *Rear Window* after him. Often imitated and never duplicated, Aarons

was a storyteller, bringing to life what outsiders might think of as a rather one-dimensional group of Mid-century icons. As we all know, everyone has a story, and the more checkered a past, the better... for storytelling purposes, that is.

Well-liked and chronicling the people, places and things that he found interesting, he landed in society's pantheon of fame as the go-to storyteller. To perpetuate the escapism his photography connoted, the titles of his images had a whiff of whimsy: *Après Ski*, *Christmas Swim*, *Arriving in Style*, *Between Sea and Sky*, to name a few. His photographic tomes that illustrate that world even sound like high-flying fairy tales: *A Wonderful Time*, *A Place in the Sun*, *La Dolce Vita*, and more.

Like the old Blackglama fur ads used to inquire: *What Becomes A Legend Most?*, the answer is still simple: Stay relevant. The legendary photographer will stay germane and firmly embedded in our psyche with the latest collection of his portraits in the September release of *Slim Aarons: Women* (Abrams) about the females and femme fatales he captured on film. So, talent is as talent does and we know Slim will continue to inspire us to inspire you, so be with us as we chronicle the many people, places and things ahead in our special bridal issue here, and beyond. **S**

XO Lance Avery Morgan
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Photography by Megan Kyle Benneff

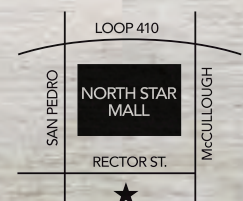


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With the summer social circuit winding down, take the chance to see some captivating culture. *Our ardent art appreciator Jonathan Spindel shares his selections*

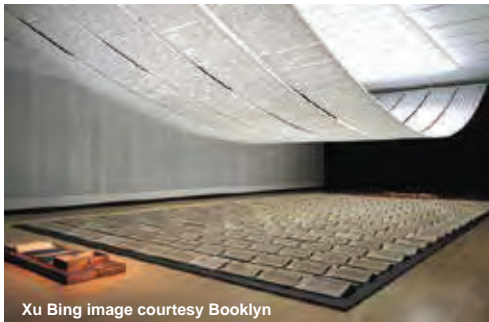
AUSTIN



Paramount Citizen Kane

SILVER SCREEN

See your favorite classic films in the beautiful, historic Paramount Theatre. Themed selections represent myriad styles and time periods. Until September 4. See the full schedule at AustinTheatre.org



Xu Bing image courtesy Booklyn

BOOK FROM THE SKY

Xu Bing's seminal masterpiece of modern Chinese art comes to the Blanton Museum of Art for its first full-scale installation in state history. Immerse yourself in the powerful, meditative temple of contemplation. June 19 until January 2017. At BlantonMuseum.org

SEASON AFTER SEASON

The original Jersey Boys, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons continue touring to sing for millions of fans around the world. Catch them when they stop in Austin. August 11.

At TexasPerformingArts.org



Frankie Valli

DALLAS/FORT WORTH



Joel Shapiro

ZERO-G GEOMETRY

Joel Shapiro's colorful, geometric abstractions playfully float in space, while making deeply

emotional dynamic metaphors. This installation was specially made for these galleries, designed by the famous architect Renzo Piano. Until August 21. At NasherSculptureCenter.org

OFF THE WALL

One of the most prolific midcentury artists, Frank Stella continues to prompt viewers to reconsider everything we thought about painting. His striking, playful masterpieces will alter how you



Frank Stella

think about space, color and dimensionality. Until September 18. At TheModern.org

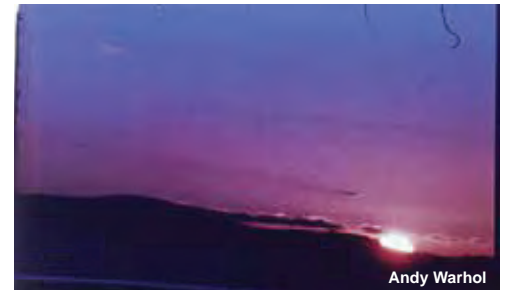


Issey Miyake by Irving Penn

BEYOND BEAUTY

Irving Penn's stunning portraits of iconic personalities pay tribute to the creative dynamos of the modern era. Don't miss this collection of his work, including his iconic photographs as well as some never-yet-seen pieces. Until August 14. At DMA.org

HOUSTON



Andy Warhol

MOVING PICTURES

See a rare, unfinished film by Andy Warhol, specially commissioned in 1964 by the founders of the Menil Collection. A beautiful, colorful meditation on beauty, phenomena, and temporarily. August 18 to January 8, 2017. At Menil.org



Lyle Lovett by Michael Wilson

LIVING LEGEND

Texas-based singer, composer and actor Lyle Lovett has broadened American music over a long career, while breaking down

musical barriers to create new traditions with his timeless talent. See him perform with his group The Large Band. August 24. At TheHobbyCenter.org



Yayoi Kusama

INTERACTIVE INFINITY

Step into Yayoi Kusama's immersive multimedia installations, where you'll experience an abstract exploration of color, sound, poetry, infinity, and love. Until September 18. At MFAH.org

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MESMERIZING MOVEMENT

New York dance group Parsons Dance brings extraordinary performances to audiences across the world. The first of many world-class dance companies performing this season at the Tobin, you'll surely want to come back for more. September 25. At TobinCenter.org

ICONIC IMAGERY

Shepard Fairey is one of the country's most famous and influential artists, whose impactful work adorns murals, streets and galleries alike. See a series of prints by the prolific artists on display at the McNay for the first time. Until September 11. At McNayArt.org



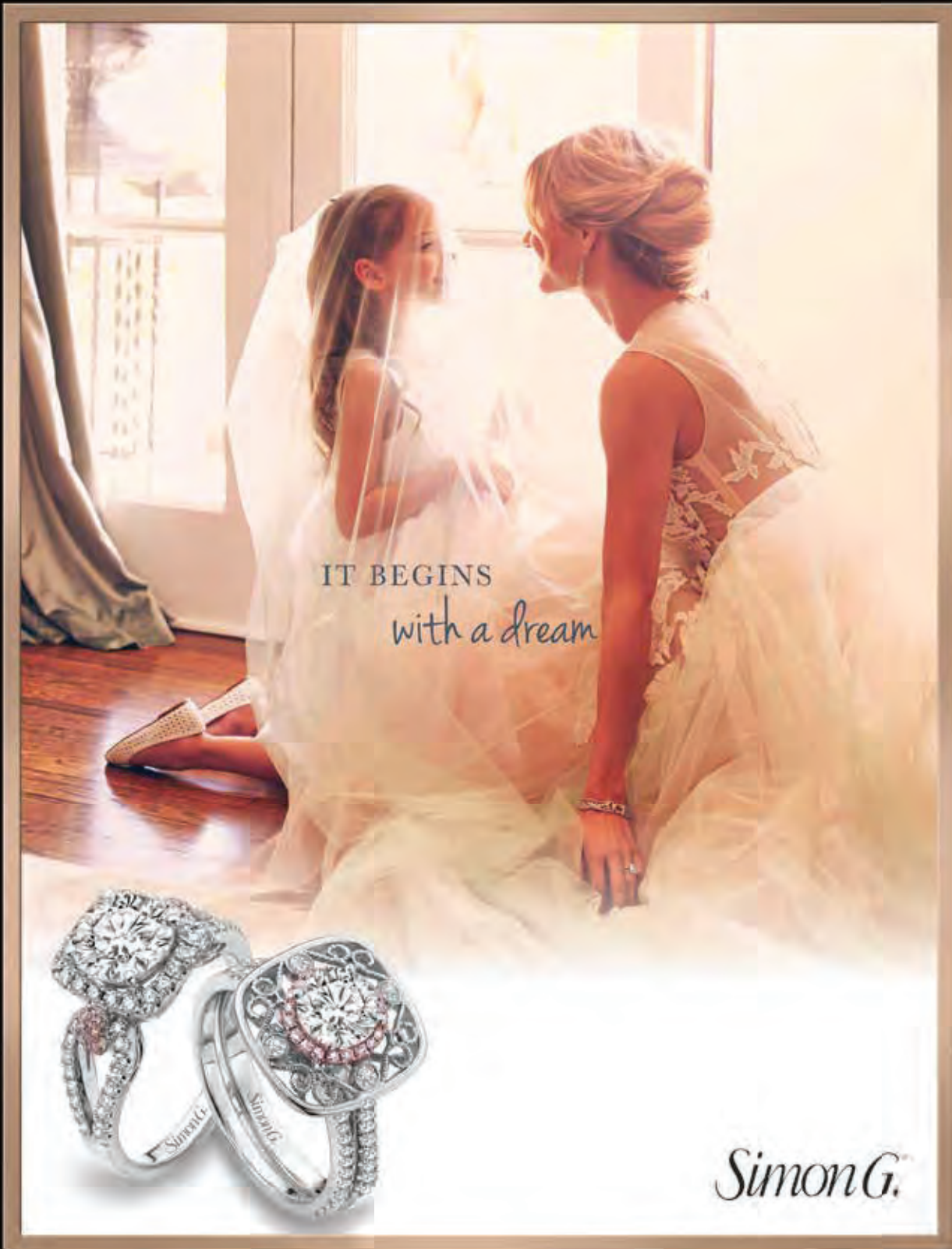
Shepard Fairey



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WAYS & MEANS

Our Ms. Modern Manners etiquette expert Sharon Schweitzer, JD, is on the scene with her insight on the world of evolving etiquette for the summer wedding season and beyond

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

As an attendant in my former college roommate's wedding, I've been invited to more than one shower. Must I bring a gift to each one?

Shower Power

Dear Shower That Power,

Aren't you blessed with several choices? Yes, you may purchase a series of small gifts (check her registry) and give one at each shower. You may also select one large gift to present to at her first (or most meaningful) shower. As an attendant dedicating your time, energy and finances, the bride will be appreciative of your decision. Demonstrating genuine happiness for the bride is the best gift of all.

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

My husband and I were recently married and were thrilled to celebrate with our family and friends. What is the appropriate timeframe to send our thank you notes, even with a busy social season?

Noted & Appreciative

Dear Noteworthy,

Best wishes to you both. Although some think that there is a one year grace period for thank you notes, sending notes within three months is highly advised. Gracious guests understand the hustle and bustle of newlywed life, are forgiving of a slight delay and will be excited to read your thanks for the wedding gift they lovingly selected. It is never too late to send a thank you note.

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

Can you settle an argument between me and my spouse? I say that when I excuse myself to leave a dinner table in public, like at a dinner party, I should leave my napkin on the table. She says place it on the chair. Who wins?

Setting the Table

Dear Tableaux Tally,

This is an age old debate between etiquette enthusiasts so you'll have to settle this argument yourselves. Respected leaders in the field train from both perspectives.

Some etiquette experts advise that when leaving the table for a few moments, napkins are placed on the chair, soiled side folded in. It is a silent service signal in the diplomatic world that you are returning to the table. When a host or hostess places their loosely folded napkin to the left of the place setting, it's another silent service signal to guests and servers indicating the end of the meal.

The second school of thought advises to put the napkin on the table to the left of your place setting. This may prevent soiled napkins from staining fine upholstery. However, in light of the silent service code, hosts should be aware of that to sophisticated guests, the host has just signaled the dinner has concluded. Furthermore, if two or more guests simultaneously depart, soiled linen is not pleasant table decor. When in doubt, leave your napkin in your lap, or use it to



blot your lips until dinner is concluded. As you are departing, leave it on the left side of your place setting.

Dear Ms. Modern Manners,

Should we ever put "and Guest" on invitations addressed to our single friends?

Inviting & Inquisitive

Dear Invitation Only,

Several gracious avenues exist for inviting a guest to bring a date or partner. When mailing a formal invitation, never write 'and Guest' on the outer envelope. It is appropriate to write 'Ms. Sabrina Goodfriend and Guest' on the inside envelope.

For informal invitations, do write 'and guest' on the envelope. It is correct to handwrite 'Rob, please bring a guest or date' on the invitation itself. With a small wedding or event, many singles are not invited to bring escorts, with the possible exception of serious significant others. If there is room to include 'and Guest,' write this on the inside envelope. However modern manners and etiquette guidelines state that the recipient should know that without 'and Guest' or another name written on the inside envelope, the invitation is for one person. **S**

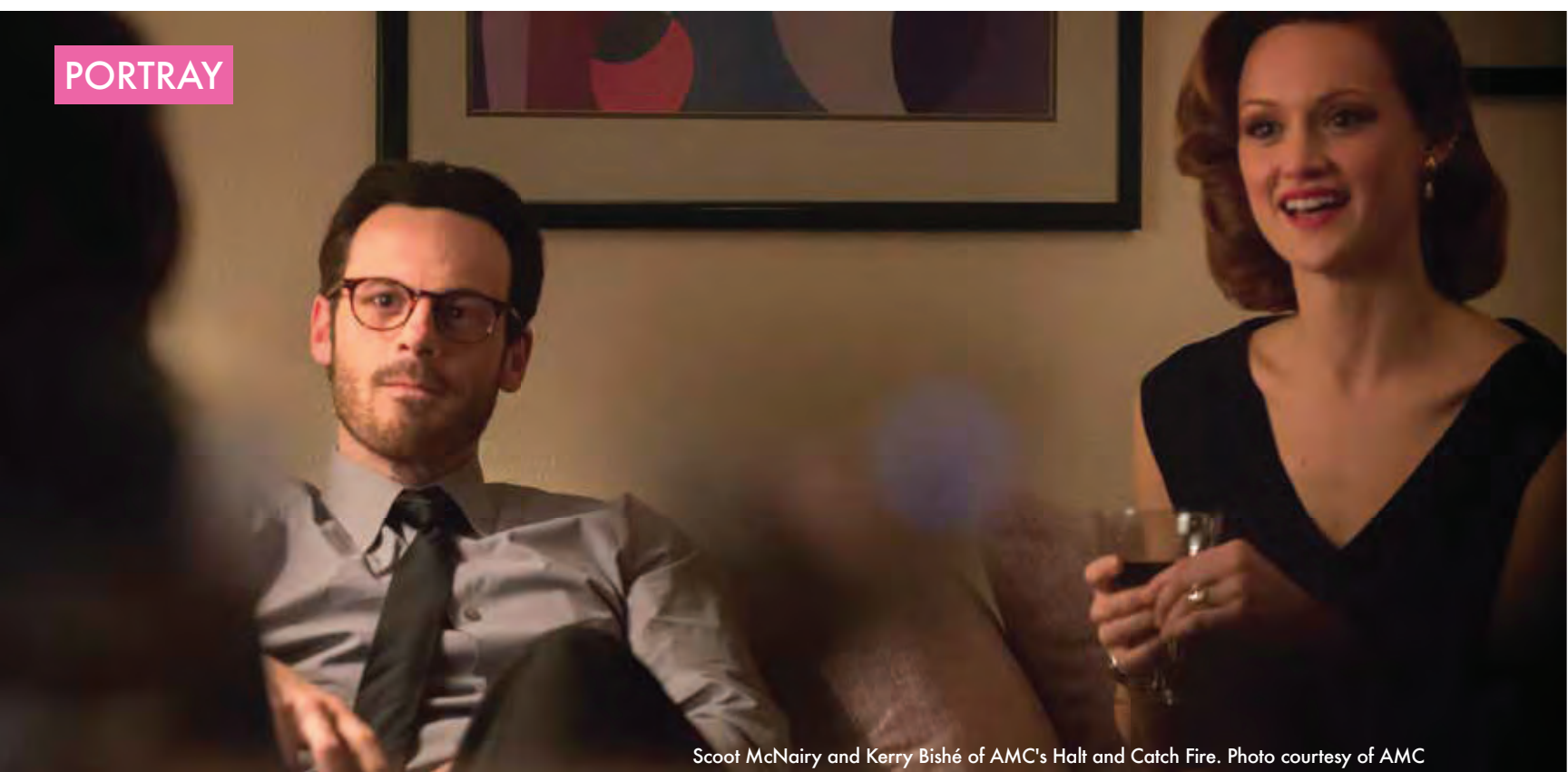


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Scoot McNairy and Kerry Bishé of AMC's *Halt and Catch Fire*. Photo courtesy of AMC

REVENGE OF THE NERDS

AMC's hit show, *Halt and Catch Fire*, is loosely based on familiar Texas tech tycoon types. Set in the go-go early 1980s, Dallas native Scoot McNairy, who makes his home in Texas when not in the Hollywood scene, drives the show according to *our media insider Lance Avery Morgan*

JOHN STEINBECK SAID THAT TEXAS is a state of mind and those minds are in rare form in today's current technology boom. So, in a world where companies who produce no inventory are valued in the tens of billions, its roots lay in the Texas-area successes like Texas Instruments, EDS, Dell and dozens more; the story possibilities, are, er, rich in drama.

Halt and Catch Fire, starting its successful third season this summer, tells the story of late-ish 20th century personal computing technology, and the lives that swirl within it. But its breakout star, Scoot McNairy, who with Houston-bred actor Lee Pace, leads the pack of the show's quirky characters in their T.V. world that seems almost quaint now, the early 1980s Texas technology scene of how a start-up ignites to become an overnight colossal success.

Like technology industry itself, the show is mired in prevalent personal and professional drama, with burning questions that are timeless in today's market. Will Big Brother be the company to best be acquired by? Should the characters mortgage their homes to fund another month of on-the-verge success that may or may not happen due to the ego-driven execs and techno-geeks who are sprinkled lavishly across



Scoot McNairy. Courtesy of AMC

the show? Is there happiness and true financial success to be garnered after much internal corporate struggle and backstabbing? Does our technology of the past affect our technology's future? The answer, as in most TV dramas, will always be often a resounding *yes*, as it often is in the everyday world.

McNairy, who usually eschews the public eye, is perfectly cast as the nerdy exec with the heart of gold feels who isolated in the sea of technocracy. A technological purist, he wants to create products that revolutionize, much like Jobs and other upwardly execs of his era. He plays his role with the same gusto of Oscar-winner projects *Argo* and *Twelve Years A Slave*, as well as the recent *Batman v Superman*.

The Texan, however, is most comfortable in a more rural environment, free of technology at his farm about a hundred miles east of Austin, where he lives with his Houston-bred wife Whitney Able. But to be sure, the world is going to be seeing a lot more of everyman star Scoot McNairy as his roles prove to irresistible to the public in yet another Texas-boy-done-good real life story. **S**

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MODERN APPROACH

Our featured bride from 2014, Vernon-born Natalie Bond Bloomingdale, knows her own style. Now she's living the stylish life in Los Angeles, as *professional globe-hopping Lance Avery Morgan* catches up with her to learn her season's must-haves

- 1 The last item I added to my wardrobe is... **a vintage Patek Philippe watch**
- 2 The best gift I have received recently is... **a custom boot puller with our ranch brand, handmade by my brother's company, CustomBootJacks.com**
- 3 On my bedside table is always... **a magazine – *Town & Country*, *Vanity Fair*, and *The Society Diaries***
- 4 My favorite room is... **the one I'm in now. It's important to me to be present with the company I keep.**
- 5 The thing I am eyeing next is... **another Shaffer LA tote – they are indestructible.**
- 6 An unforgettable hotel I've visited that I'd love to live in is... **Post Ranch Inn**
- 7 The last thing I bought and loved is... **a Vladimir Kagan sofa**
- 8 An artist whose work I appreciate is... **I am constantly falling for new works and discovering new talent. At the moment, I am scoping a piece by Channing Hansen**
- 9 I read... **a devotional my mother gave me because.... it gives me pause**
- 10 In my fridge you will always find... **Dr. Pepper and Capri Sun**
- 11 My favorite cocktail is... **the Eastern Standard at Soho House**
- 12 My gotta-have piece for this summer is... **Rebecca de Ravenel's les bonbons earrings**
- 13 My most treasured possession is... **my precious dog, a Braque Francais named Cecile**
- 14 My dream lunch date would be with... **one with my grandparents**
- 15 My favorite time of day is... **any time I'm in Texas** 



Natalie Bond Bloomingdale





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BEST IN SHOW

This summer the heat is on, especially in Dallas as our *girl-on-the-go* Cynthia Smoot shares the best fashion, cuisine and events in the city



Biergarten

CHEERS TO YOU

Located steps from the downtown Dallas Convention Center, Biergarten is the not only the perfect place to relax, roll up your sleeves and do business, but it's also a great destination for Dallas residents and professionals looking to enjoy a casual outing. The stylish German bar and restaurant outside the Omni Dallas Hotel features a wrap-around patio facing Dallas' thriving downtown. An authentic German atmosphere greets every guest, and the menu beckons with such signature fare as pastrami, baked pretzels, bratwurst and knockwurst. The ivy-covered outside patio beckons with a warm, casual setting. For more information, visit BiergartenOnLamar.com



Tori Gonzales



Tori Gonzales jewelry

STAMP YOUR STORY

America was introduced to the feisty Tori Gonzales on the 2013 Bravo television reality show, *Courtney Loves Dallas*. She appeared as Courtney Kerr's ride or die bestie who preferred country music and beer to stilettos and fashion shows. Gonzales used the exposure to launch a jewelry line, All The Wire, with her sister, Desiree, and the company specializes in affordable pieces that allow customers to "stamp their story" and personalize their selections with names, dates or words of inspiration. The recently launched a line of stitched bandanas, and upcoming make-up bags, Marfa-inspired pieces (mixed metals of gold and silver), and a denim collaboration are sure to be a success. For more information, AllTheWire.com and ToriGonzales.com



Emmitt Smith cycling at Gran Fondo

CYCLE CIRCLE

Emmitt Smith's love of sports isn't limited to football. The former Dallas Cowboys running back turned his love of golf into the annual Emmitt Smith Celebrity Invitational which raised \$1.2 million dollars this past May. Now, Smith is focused on creating a new fundraising event and the cycling enthusiast will debut the Emmitt Smith Gran Fondo to be held in Frisco on September 17. The multi-course cycling event will include a timed race with a cash purse for the professional rider as well as a route for the more casual cyclist. Attendees will enjoy a beer garden, live entertainment and an awards ceremony. Proceeds will benefit Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities which creates and funds unique educational experiences and enrichment opportunities for underserved children and youth. For more information, visit EmmittSmithGranFondo.com **S**

ment and an awards ceremony. Proceeds will benefit Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities which creates and funds unique educational experiences and enrichment opportunities for underserved children and youth. For more information, visit EmmittSmithGranFondo.com **S**

Art Auction Benefiting Veterans Dealing With PTS



Location: Steiner Ranch Steakhouse overlooking beautiful Lake Travis in Austin (steinersteakhouse.com)
Date: Sunday, September 11, 2016
Time: 2:30 (Brunch available from 10 AM – 2 PM)
Artist: Philip Barousse, his original art work has layers of texture, light and bright colors
Contact: Rita Barousse, Business Manager, 512-298-6163, visit our website at WWW.philipbarousse.com for more information or follow us on Facebook at philipbarousseartist



I THEN WED

The most exciting time in a couple's life, their wedding, is full of planning. Here, *our dynamic parenting and relationship expert, Dr. Miranda Fernande Walichowski* shares how to streamline the process for more joy on the big day

"I love you without knowing how, or when, or from where. I love you simply, without problems or pride: I love you in this way because I do not know any other way of loving but this, in which there is no I or you, so intimate that your hand upon my chest is my hand, so intimate then when I fall asleep your eyes close."

— Pablo Neruda, *100 Love Sonnets*

THE BEST IS YET TO BE

AS SOON AS THE WORDS *WILL YOU MARRY ME?* are spoken, the beautiful sentiment of two hearts coming together as one becomes disrupted. All of a sudden two hearts encompass a legion of family, friends, acquaintances. Furthermore, a plethora of complementary and conflicting expectations, values, and customs become part of the tumultuous convergence. This stressful stage is known as wedding planning.

Wedding planning is stressful for two reasons. First, the practical aspects of wedding planning can be challenging. At times, brides may want to recreate a fairytale that they have entertained since they were little girls. They may also feel that as the wedding goes, so will the marriage. There is undue pressure to make things perfect. Every detail

that would have seemed inconsequential in any other context suddenly seems like a pivotal factor in whether the couple has an auspicious start to the married life.

It becomes important for the couple to meet weekly and openly express what they are feeling during the wedding planning process. The couple can learn how to "hold space" for each other to be able to express freely what they are feeling and the concerns they have. It is important that the couple not dismiss the feelings of the other and it is equally important that they do not try to fix the problem that is being articulated. Instead, for effective communication, the couple can practice seeking to understand what the other person is saying. Once an individual feels heard and understood, then they can proceed with finding solutions. This practice begins to establish a pattern for effective communication.

NUPTIAL NECESSITIES

Oftentimes the idea of two hearts as one, leads some enthusiastic individuals to believe that what they pine for must be what their future spouse wholeheartedly desires. An engaged couple does well to articulate the vision for the wedding. Here are some questions that can



be used to gain clarity on expectations and vision:

1. What is an ideal wedding size (number of guests and venue)?
2. What is the wedding budget?
3. What is the feel that we would like for our wedding?
4. What are the non-negotiables, those things that are wholeheartedly desired?
5. What are the things that are not as critical to our wedding vision?
6. What external pressures are present (expectations and wishes of family members and friends)?
7. How can we set boundaries so that the wedding planning is not usurped by well-meaning family members and friends?
8. What memories do we want to create for ourselves during the wedding?
9. What memories do we want to create for our guests?
10. How do we want the wedding planning process to represent our future life together?

LOVE FOR A LIFETIME

Drs. John and Julie Gottman from the Gottman Institute give us good insight into the second reason weddings can be stressful. Drs.

Gottman have studied relationships for a lifetime. They have worked with over 7,000 couples in the research and intervention work that they do. Because of their extensive clinical research, testing of theories, and intervention praxis, they can predict with 93.6 percent accuracy whether a given couple will divorce. The most determining indicator of marital success or failure is how the couple handles high-pressure conflict or contention.

When there is conflict or contention, it is because someone feels that his or her values are not being upheld or considered. Also, feeling a discrepancy between an expectation and what seems to be the current reality contributes to conflict and contention. For most individuals, arguments are more about wanting to feel respected and understood rather than being right or wrong.

About 2.3 million couples wed per year in the US. If all those couples understood that the wedding planning process is a microcosm of married life, marriages would be stronger. Wedding stress channeled towards creating opportunities for open and honest communication is the best thing that any couple can do. A life-long marriage is sustained when the couple seeks to understand the values and expectations of the other and learns to address conflict without contempt.

If you are in the throes of wedding planning, do not fret about the details of the wedding day itself. Learn to manage competing values, interests, expectations, and ideas. The couple who learns to handle conflict well will be the couple that has no “you,” no “I,” but “us.” Moreover, a synergistic relationship will resonate profoundly and manifest itself beautifully during the wedding day, for a beautiful ceremony that will be remembered fondly by all. **S**

THE ULTIMATE MINDFUL BRIDE

Our thought-filled meditation expert, Austin-based Paige Davis, weighs in with mindfulness tips and tools to tap into leading up to your big day

SUMMER OF LOVE

Summer season has arrived and wedding bells are ringing incessantly. While a wedding is an exciting time, it can also be filled with stress and expectations. When it comes to planning, coordinating logistics, and managing dynamics amongst family members – the preciousness of this sacred event can quickly turn into a likely setting for bride and groomzillas to grab control.

While this would not seem the obvious space or time to practice mindfulness, with the right intention and access to the tools that cater to circumstances, you can turn the frenzy of wedding planning into a meaningful new chapter where you are present, connected, and fully embodying the love that a wedding or any celebration can bring.

Mindfulness and meditation become especially relevant during important life milestones and celebrations because it helps us to access the part of our brain that allows us to be more present – which is really all that matters when it comes to the big day. Some other key benefits of meditation that matter during this time include:

- Increased focus and discernment that can come in handy when trying to choose invitations and cake.
- Emotional connectedness so we can feel more connected to ourselves and others.
- The ability to be less reactive and more responsive which can keep our bride/groomzilla at bay.

Below are a few tips that can easily be integrated into your event planning timeline. Whether you are 6 months out or your special day is quickly approaching, tap into these tools to fully treasure the meaning, sacredness, and joining together with your beloved on your wedding day.

WEDDING DAY MINDFULNESS

One to six months out, connect with yourself and your partner: Explore activities that are grounding and nurturing to you and your partner. This is an ideal time to explore new activities that you've been curious about that have been proven to be relaxing and reduce stress including meditation, yoga, walking in nature or taking baths. Really anything that allows you to restore and recharge.

One to three weeks out, invite present-moment practices into your routine: Identify what feeling overwhelmed and stressed out feels like in your body and utilize practices that bring you into the present moment. Some physical and emotional signs of stress include trouble sleeping, unhealthy cravings, impatience, sarcasm, and feeling overwhelmed. By simply being aware that you are feeling stress, you are empowered to circumvent it by practicing some simple present-moment practices.

One easy practice is to take a pause where you are and simply notice your breath. You can then start to consciously breath through your nose. By breathing through the nose, we automatically access the parasympathetic nervous system which naturally calms and relaxes us. You can also silently repeat a calming mantra which can include a word like peace or love,

or a more active phrase such as “all is well” or “I am calm and at peace.” By repeating a few times, you prevent yourself from traveling down the rabbit hole of rumination.

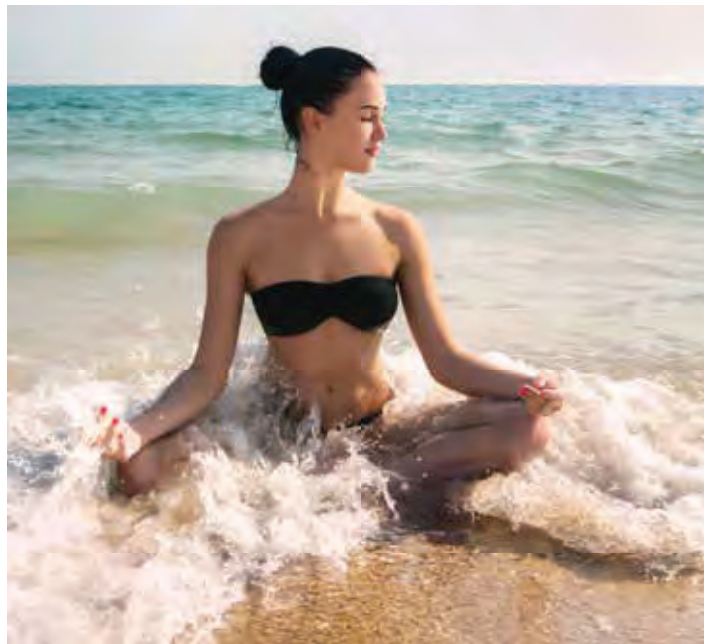
THE BIG DAY: BEING PRESENT

The most important practice on this day is to allow yourself to be present and receive all of the love that is surrounding you. The best way to do this is to eliminate distractions. One way to do this is to unplug from your phone and other technology. I know this seems drastic, but technology is the quickest way to suck us out of present moment awareness. Assign a bridesmaid or family member to be in charge of your phone so that

you remain present in all the joyful moments.

You can articulate beforehand what high priority issues you want to be alerted to and of course can always make room for the pre-wedding selfie, but in general, allow your hands and heart to be free. This is also an ideal time to tap into gratitude. Just acknowledging gratitude for yourself, your soon-to-be spouse, and then many friends and family that are all there to celebrate this important milestone in your life.

Place your hand on your heart throughout the day as both a way to enliven the properties inherent to the heart center such as love and compassion, as well as a symbol of both receiving and giving this precious gift of gratitude. **S**





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TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

Just in time for wedding season and beyond, *Lance Avery Morgan*, our ardent alternative health seeker discovers an intense feeling of wellness and detoxification at the new Evolve Cryo + Wellness in Austin

OLYMPIANS AND PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES ALIKE agree that staying in top shape often comes with a price of post-performance pain. They've enlisted cold therapy for years, believing it reduces inflammation, speeds recovery and prevents muscle soreness in their busy athletic lives. The technique is known as cryotherapy. We've all heard the rumor that Walt Disney, himself a cutting edge pioneer in his day, had his body frozen with a cryogenic treatment so that when he may be revived when the technology is fully developed. Whether that is true or not, the future is now and everyone can benefit from cryotherapy.

So what happens, if we are not necessarily pro sports athletes, when we want to increase our own dynamic physicality with methods the experts use? With whole body cryotherapy, oxygen therapy, compression therapy and the like, we evolve. Or rather, we find Evolve Cryo + Wellness, the new state-of-the-art facility in Austin.

The experts at Evolve believe in taking responsibility for your own health, by taking preventative steps to increase physical health and steps for long-lasting youthfulness. What's not to love about the opportunity to live a better and longer life? "I think we are becoming much more thoughtful about how we take

care of ourselves and our families," shares Shannon Maddalena, founding partner of Evolve Cryo + Wellness. "Taking a pill that could cause negative life-altering side effects is not a desirable option for most people. I think we are more engaged and aware of what is in our food and everyday products, and we're willing to take steps to learn about healthier ways to be well. We only have this one body, and quality of life is paramount."

Overall health is the main focus at Evolve. Maddalena first learned about this new health technology and wanted to bring it to Central Texas. "I had read the research, but wanted to test everything myself. So I purchased equipment early and put it to work," recounts Maddalena.

She and her husband, a chiropractor, had been using oxygen therapy to relieve headaches, and she tasked herself with cryo challenges to test the sports recovery benefits after extreme fitness classes. By using cryotherapy, as well as compression and oxygen, she experienced the results firsthand. "I didn't have any real injuries to speak of, and I don't experience pain," she reports. "I just feel better, am more rested and energetic."

The techniques used at Evolve are an updated approach to the 3 R's: recover,



Compression sleeves

relax and re-energize. They offer cutting edge technology, customized body treatments and unique therapies to relieve those sore and stiff muscles, detox the body and to recharge your wellness. No matter your age, you can experience the new generation of modalities that both treat pain and promote wellness. So, I decided to give it a try myself.

Upon entering the Dior gray facility, an immediate calm sets in. Various options like compression, oxygen therapy and the relaxation room are housed among four inviting chaise lounges and treatment rooms. Compression therapy is popular with pro athletes to target areas for accelerated healing – like arms, hips and legs. The sleeves are placed and the motorized compression, which happens while you are relaxing horizontally, pulsates a soothing current in the targeted region. The tightness, then release, takes some getting used to, yet after only two minutes of the thirty minute cycle, the effect is evident. After the session, a sense of lightness and calmness occurs immediately, as does the absence of any type of pain. Coupled with simultaneous oxygen therapy, it's a refreshing experience that feels like both having run a marathon and achieving the perfect night's sleep.

Then, into the cryo chamber I step. The ten-foot tall, state-of-the-art chamber looks like it belongs in a sci-fi film, yet is equally at home at a five-star wellness venue like this. Full disclosure, I am not a cold weather person and instead, prefer a tropical vacation instead of hitting the slopes any day. When I learned that the chamber is cooled down to between 220 and 264 degrees below zero, I felt like I burned calories just thinking about the extreme cold I was about the endeavor. In fact, a three-minute session in the chamber can burn up to 800 calories. But weight loss isn't the objective for me. It's all-over wellness. It's

a reduction of inflammation, which is the foundation of disease. According to Evolve, after one session, you can expect increased energy and endurance, reduced recovery time post workout, reduction in pain, and improved sleep. With regular use, cryotherapy induces an adaptive change. Studies show, through repeat exposure, users may experience reduced anxiety and depression, increased immune function, reversed psoriasis, and a significant reduction in pain.

Dressed in a swimsuit, a double set of gloves and thermal socks, I step into the machine. The technician, in the room, provides not only entertaining conversation, but a distraction from how cold 264 degrees below zero can really feel. At quarter turn intervals, the three minutes of submersion fly by. After just having played a grueling tennis match, it was the perfect antidote toward feeling fully recovered. "We see people for sports recovery with great success," states Maddalena "Thanks to professional athletes replacing ice baths with cryo, this is a large percentage of our client base."

Additionally, Evolve has been receiving positive results from clients with inflammatory diseases and autoimmune diseases. One client with psoriasis experienced more than 50% improvement after only 10 sessions. Clients with pain are experiencing great results as well, with noticeable change after one session. I can confirm that those statistics were proven accurate with me. After participating in the compression therapy, oxygen therapy and the cryotherapy three days in a row for this story, I felt years younger and pounds lighter after a cumulative three hours of the treatments. Beaming, I exclaimed my experience to Evolve's co-founder Shannon Maddalena, who simply gave me an all-knowing nod and said, "The most rewarding part of my work is getting comments from our clients about how positively it affects their lives." **S**

ENDLESS SUMMER

With warm weather travels at their height, how about jetting to some of these cool global happenings, as curated by *our constant culture chaser Jake Gaines*



Cindy Sherman Film Still, 1978

Imitation Of Life

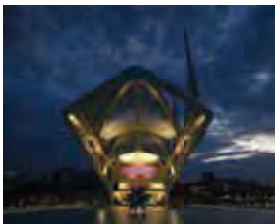
Master self-portraitist and hipster art crowd favorite Cindy Sherman gets a major retrospective with a comprehensive survey of her work in at the new Broad Museum in Los Angeles. As you know, Sherman's media-influenced female subjects have been crowd pleasers since the 80s. At TheBroad.org. Through October 2



1952 Lancia B52 Aurelia at the Frist, Nashville

Que Bella

Bellissima! The Italian Automotive Renaissance, 1945–1975 celebrates the visual dynamism and spirit of innovation characterizing Italian coachbuilt cars, concept cars and motorcycles produced during the post-World War II economic revival. Zoom, zoom, zoom. At the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville. At Fristcenter.org. Through Oct. 9



Games

People Play

While at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, drop into the newly opened,

science-based Museum of Tomorrow in the city's newly revamped port. Just look for the giant, lurching spaceship design. At MuseudoAmanha.org.br



Soundsuit, 2008 by Nick Cave

Mask Me Anything

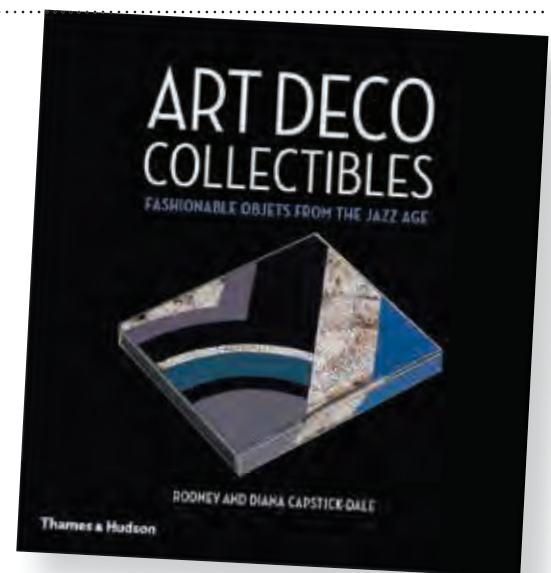
For centuries mankind has worn a mask. In the new exhibit, *Disguise: Masks and Global African Art* 19th and 20th century masks from across the globe are on display with multimedia works by contemporary artists. You may be inspired to don your own mask. At BrooklynMuseum.org. Through September 18



Romeo and Juliet, Santa Fe Opera

Desert Song

In August that means one thing: its opera season in Santa Fe. This 60th year celebration has a range of classic stories including *Romeo et Juliette*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Vanessa*, *Don Giovanni* and *Capriccio*. Be prepared to be dazzled. At SantaFeOpera.org



Le Jazz Haute

We love Jay Gatsby and all he and his time represent. His 1920s era springs to life again in the new summer release of the *Art Deco Collectibles*, a must-have for any coffee table or poolside reading. At ThamesAndHudsonUSA.com. **S**

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Models

GEM DANDIES

Saks Fifth Avenue San Antonio Showcases Jewelry Stars

By *Jake Gaines* Photography by *Greg Harrison*

What a sparkling night it was when Saks Fifth Avenue San Antonio recently welcomed jewelry designers Robert Procop, Liv Ballard and a representative from Etho Maria for a very special jewelry event. This was the first time that these designers have ever been to San Antonio and showcased their glittering collections.

“It is a huge honor to have these talents here in our store,” said Dennis Trammell, General Manager of Saks Fifth Avenue San Antonio. “Their jewelry is breathtaking.”

The beautifully appointed private, seated dinner and fashion showing in the store was the precursor to the lines being showcased the following day.

The design talent in for the events each had a unique story to tell with their jewelry designs. At an early age, Robert Procop found himself captivated by the most mysterious and coveted of all jewels – the diamond – inspiring a lifelong passion which has seen him explore the globe in pursuit of the rarest gemstones from which he has created exquisite pieces of jewelry for the world’s most elite clientele.

Combining one-part Southern charm and one-part soulful wisdom, jewelry designer Liv Ballard has channeled her passion and curiosity to create a stylish yet intellectual collection of fine jewelry. Ballard merges her diverse education with her life experiences to create highly personal jewelry that tells stories about the women and men who wear her pieces.

Twenty years of passion and expertise in gemstones and high jewelry making are behind the label Etho Maria. Launched in 2008, the company specializes in creating prestigious modern pieces with innovative design concepts that are translated into original, but instantly identifiable works. Etho Maria is known for their bold designs and unexpected combinations of colors and materials.

The exquisite exhibition of precious pieces proved to be a memorable and inspiring evening. Looking for unique new jewelry to adorn your latest look? Visit Saks Fifth Avenue to view the collections. [S](#)



Robert Procop, Susan Moller, Liv Ballard & Dennis and Karen Trammell





Mike and Mary Benedum & Dina and Norb Cole



Matt Walker and Dr. Cathy Spadaccini



Walton Gregory and Gail Smith



Dr. Dacia Napier & Ronald and Karen Herrmann



Jolie and David Berndt & Diane Schade



PROMOTE



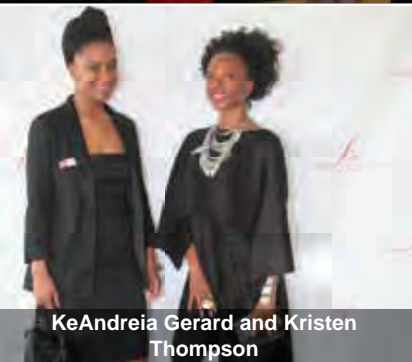
Tori Johnson, Aquila Mendez-Valdez and Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar



Michael Quintanilla, Michael Giordano and Todd Fronberg



Sarah Dressler and Annabel Gomez



KeAndreia Gerard and Kristen Thompson



FASHION, SET, GO

Fashion Group International's Stylish Set Gathers

By Alexandra Del Lago Photography by Greg Harrison

The fashionable set convened in San Antonio for the local chapter of Fashion Group International's event, held at the La Canterra Hill Country Resort. Members and guests connected and mingled before the panel of fashion journalists provided education and entertainment for the evening. Longtime San Antonio style expert Michael Quintanilla, *San Antonio Woman's* Camilla Basse, and *The Society Diaries'* own Associate Editor Ellie Leeper participated in a lively discussion surrounding the past, present and future of print journalism. Moderated by Neiman Marcus Public Relations Manager Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar, the topics ranged from the guests' favorite spreads in their publications' storied histories to the impact of blogging on the sartorial world.

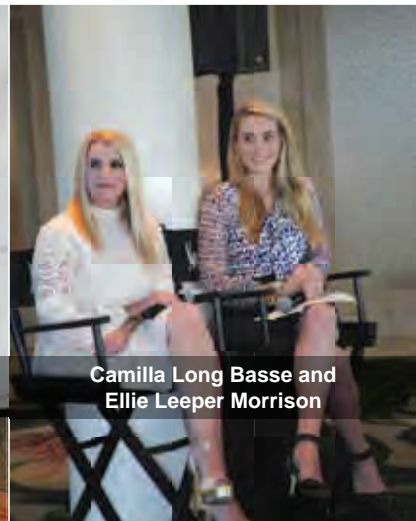
Attendees included stylists, photographers, designers, and many more avid proponents of the industry in San Antonio. As a nonprofit organization, Fashion Group International is committed to helping the burgeoning fashion scene grow in the city, and the group's first major event of the year was an optimistic sign of greater things to come. For more information on FGI San Antonio, including how to become a member, please visit their website at SanAntonio.FGI.org



Jessica Zapatero and Sandy Pastrano



Burgandy Woods, Jeanelly Concepcion, Semon Tam and Stefanie Martinez



Camilla Long Basse and Ellie Leeper Morrison

TAILOR MADE

San Antonio's Angelina Mata Creates Bridal Gown Magic

By *Ellie Leeper Morrison*

For local San Antonio bridal gown expert Angelina Mata, personalized fashion design is a calling. In fact, her life's mission is to develop substantial relationships with her clients in pursuit of the perfect design for each individual. In a fickle fashion industry saturated with mass-manufactured products, Mata loves giving her clients the unique luxury of hand-sewn tailored clothing. To achieve this, she balances both her and her clients' goals, striking a mutual vision which yields the perfect one-of-a-kind gown that make women feel like the belle of the ball.

When a bride-to-be wants to re-purpose a family heirloom wedding gown into her dream dress, Mata is known as the go-to tailor. Recently, drawing inspiration from Princess Kate Middleton's gown, Mata blends classic with contemporary to create the best of both for each garment. "There is a challenge in taking a vintage style and transitioning it into a more contemporary look," says Mata. "You must decide what to leave and what to take away, in order not to damage the integrity of the design. Discard what ages the dress, and keep the design features that make it timeless."

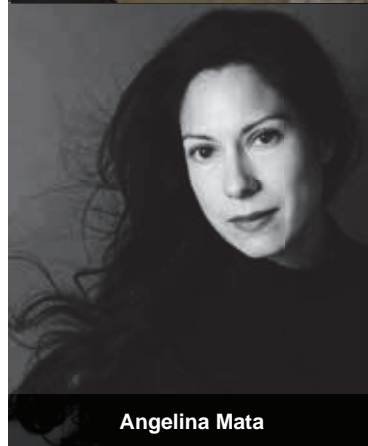
Mata has always had creative interests, but her path to founding an atelier came later in life. She started her style career as a hairstylist first and foremost. She recalls, "I had a retail store in King William inside of the hair salon, yet at 38 I gave up hair to become a fashion designer." With training in the technical aspects of tailoring, her creative vision is entirely self-taught. She never apprenticed, instead jumping right into bringing her own designs to life. Her style has evolved over time as she has incorporates new techniques, finishes and fabrics. In fact, she only works with natural fibers in her atelier, in order to offer the very best quality materials. Due to increase in demand, Mata is now designing seven dresses per month and this lengthy four-to-six month process includes the consultation, sourcing the fabrics, meeting several times to show the client the sourcing, creating a muslin pattern, and the final garment construction.

Recently, Mata designed my own gown for my wedding day. The process involved a laborious restoration in which she brought my grandmother's original dress, made in 1954, back to life. Worn several times by family members since 1954, the initial efforts were focused on cleaning the dress. "There are different techniques used to clean a dress depending on the strength of the fabric and the discoloration," shares Mata. "In the instance of Ellie's dress, the cleaning was all done by hand. The dress was washed by hand and dried in the natural sunlight to help lighten the fibers without using any harsh chemicals." After cleaning the gown, Mata worked on extending its torso for a more comfortable fit. She added boning to the bodice to give it proper support, making the dress more fitted. She then added new lace in place of the original fragile lace sleeves, refreshing the materials while keeping true to the era of the dress. "We had to replace the sleeves and add the bodice by using new lace and creating a higher neckline," recounts Mata. "The original dozens of faced buttons also were replaced with new lace." The final step of the restoration of Ellie's gown was to incorporate the layers of lace and satin, finishing off the revitalized custom piece.

To complement the ensemble, I wore my grandmother's original crown that was made along with the original dress. Over the years, the delicate pieces had been



Original 1954 dress, above and below



Angelina Mata



damaged, so to return the headpiece to its original, royal grandeur, each crystal was secured with metal anchors and each small rhinestone was reattached to the base. Once restored, Mata made a new veil with silk tulle and attached it to the crown for a light and wispy look. So that nothing would happen to my dress while dancing at the reception, Mata handmade me an original contemporary reception dress that completed my traditional-meets-contemporary wedding theme. This entire process took a year from start to finish, but the final product was worth it.

Angelina Mata's work has created quite a buzz, and she is currently in the process of designing two wedding gowns for two different weddings in Europe. To learn more about Mata's ready-to-wear and couture collections, visit AngelinaMata.com. **S**

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SVP

THESE DAYS, WHEN SOMEONE MENTIONS BOOMING GROWTH and development in Texas, one city comes to mind: San Antonio. Yes, there is more to San Antonio than just the Alamo. In recent years, many people have taken notice of this and moved to San Antonio to lay down their roots. From urban development downtown to the cultivation of the arts to the impressive growth of education buildings such as the Witte museum, San Antonio is “a city on the rise.” This is a very exciting time for San Antonio, no doubt.

Another innovation whose roots are sprawling deep in the warm city of San Antonio is *social entrepreneurship*. In case you are wondering, social entrepreneurs are ambitious individuals with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems. Individuals like businessman and philanthropist Paul Brainerd who started the group Social Venture



SVP Partners Michele Walsh, Harriet Marmon Helmle, Justin Pawl, Michele Pawl, Mindi Webb, and Priscilla Hill-Ardoin

Partners or SVP. Paul started SVP in Seattle, Washington, along with a number of his dot-com colleagues and friends in 1997. Now, SVP has over 3500 members worldwide. The novelty and progressiveness of SVP was instantly alluring to the increasingly entrepreneurial and socially conscious city of San Antonio. John Eadie and Justin Pawl, of San Antonio's Covenant (<http://www.CovenantMFO.com>), received the San Antonio charter for SVP this year. John and Justin were eager to name Harriet Marmon Helmle, founder of San Antonio Youth Literacy, as executive director for SVP San Antonio. Since taking on that role, Harriet has been working hard to recruit community investors and business leaders to join SVP San Antonio.

Recently, we spoke with Harriet and other SVP members during one of their meetings. In discussing the growth of the city as well as the issues that need improvement in San Antonio, SVP member Michele Walsh opened by saying, "I think it is important to understand that although a thriving business hoist will lift up an economy, and the masses will benefit from that, it leaves behind that ten percent or more who are disadvantaged. There are some issues that need help developing the kind of money measures that you need for a market. That is where philanthropy comes in, but let's look at philanthropy as a market for love. If we want to make the non-profit sector successful and effective, we cannot play by two different sets of rules when we approach the issues. Look at the economic growth in San Antonio, why is social change not moving at the same rapid pace?"

When asked to expound Ms. Walsh explained, "Since their modern inception, charitable organizations have followed one rule book, while the rest of the economic world has followed another. For instance, in the for profit sector the more value you produce, the more money you earn. But, people do not like to see money being used as an incentive to produce more in the social services field. We really need to sit back and examine this. We as a people have an instinctual negative reaction to the idea of a person being highly compensated for effectively helping other people; interestingly, we do not have a visceral feeling about people making a lot of money not helping other people.... If someone wants to make a lot of money selling music albums, video games, whatever it may be, the attitude is 'Go for it!' and they will be highly compensated and featured on television and magazine covers. But, if someone wants to be compensated well for doing a good job in, let us say, eradicating homelessness, they are looked at as a greedy capitalist. There is a major problem with this. This way of thinking is mistakenly considered a system of ethics, but it puts non-profits at a disadvantage and essentially debilitates them and keeps them from reaching their full potential. We need to be more pragmatic, we need to operate from intellect."

Harriet chimed in, "That is what SVP is all about, social venture capitalism and the utilization of networking in the philanthropic market. We operate as a benevolent business. There are success stories and examples of this working in San Antonio, you only have to take one tour at Haven for Hope, to understand the power of philanthropist Bill Greehey, and the impact he has had on remedying the problem of homelessness in San Antonio. As for



Photography by Karen Orders

Paul Shoemaker

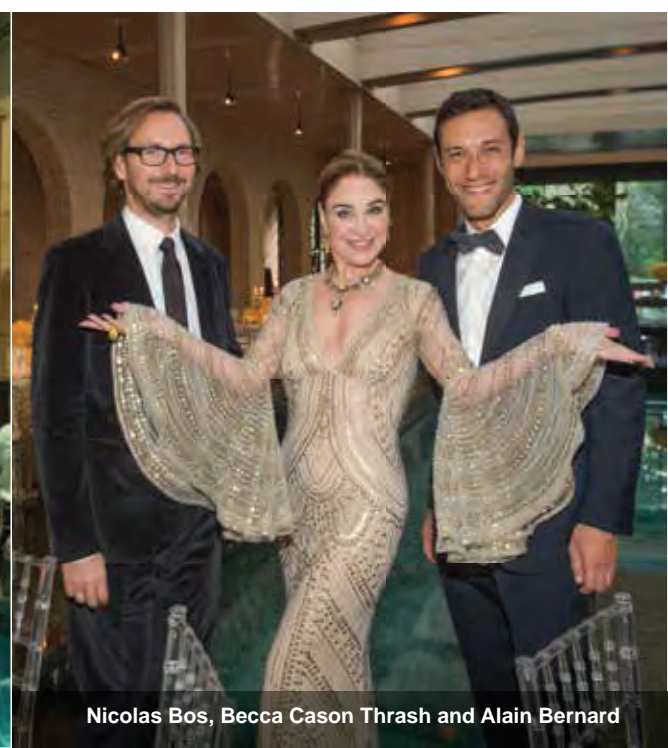
SVP San Antonio, our upcoming projects for the remainder of this year will focus on identifying a sub-component of education that can be scalable enough to make a significant improvement in the education of our future generations. We at SVP remain ambitious and persistent in tackling this major social issue and our model really works- the proof is in our numbers. SVP International has been able to support many nonprofits, with tens of thousands of volunteer hours and almost \$60 million dollars invested, which have yielded value and sustainability."

When asked about what inspired her to become involved with SVP in San Antonio, Harriet said, "The book *Can't Not Do*, by Paul Shoemaker, founding President of SVP. In this book he talks about the importance of being a part of a network for social change. He does a great job at explaining how philanthropic networking can amplify the impact of social change in the world. In *Can't Not Do*, Paul gives countless examples of how ordinary people are transforming the world with the power of philanthropy. It is a good read that is very inspiring."

For information and to learn more about SVP, visit

- **SocialVenturePartners.org/San-Antonio**
SVP San Antonio: **Harriet Marmon Helmle** at **harriet@svpsa.org 210. 403.5355**
- SVP Austin: **Kiki Johnston** at **617. 331.2130**
- SVP Dallas: **Tony Fleo** at **214.855.5520**
- SVP International at **SVPInternational.org**
Paul Shoemaker at **PaulShoemaker.org**





Nicolas Bos, Becca Cason Thrash and Alain Bernard

ALL THAT GLITTERS

Becca & John Thrash's Houston Fundraising Garden Party For Van Cleef & Arpels Delights

By *Lance Avery Morgan* Photography by *Fulton Davenport*



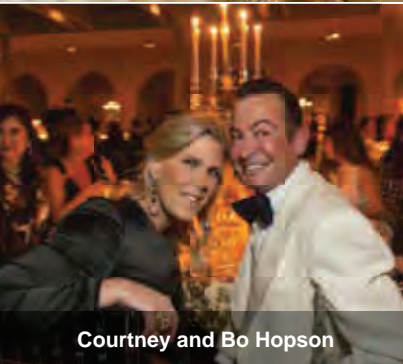
This time a spring garden party was the theme for several hundred guests at the Thrash's home in Houston. The luxe, manicured lawn was the backdrop for guests arriving to celebrate the opening of the Van Cleef & Arpels store in the new River Oaks District.

The must-attend event was sold out weeks before the occasion, so the expectations were high. Like the old song goes, diamonds are a girl's best friend and the attendees were enthralled with the sparkling array of priceless gem selections from the French fine jewelry house.

The attire? Black tie, naturally. Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails were served as guests enjoyed the modeling of the latest Van Cleef jewels. The party then moved inside as a myriad of fresh lemons and bright, yellow floral décor provided the perfect accent amongst the gleaming crystal and tableware. Guests were seated around the indoor swimming pool, dining on the spring cuisine fare of white and green asparagus topped with wild mushrooms and hollandaise, grilled sea bass and swordfish with warm lemon vinaigrette, and the meal was capped by a lemon meringue tarte and pecan balls.

Van Cleef & Arpels' Alain Bernard, CEO of the Americas, and CEO Nicolas Bos were on hand for the festivities as the evening's special guests. Champagne flowed and conversations reached a fever pitch in the grand dining space. The tireless fundraiser, Thrash helmed the heated auction of a luxury trip for two to Paris that included business-class airfare, three nights in a five-star hotel and a visit to the new Foundation Louis Vuitton designed by Frank Gehry. The package sold for \$30,000 to support the event, while the evening's total raised was \$132,000 for the Houston Ballet.

The Van Cleef & Arpels baubles, bangles and beads accentuated Becca's Naem Khan gold stunner she wore while greeting guests; later in the evening, she slipped into an Alexander McQueen number as the party progressed into the wee hours of the morning. Another triumph for La Thrash. . **S**

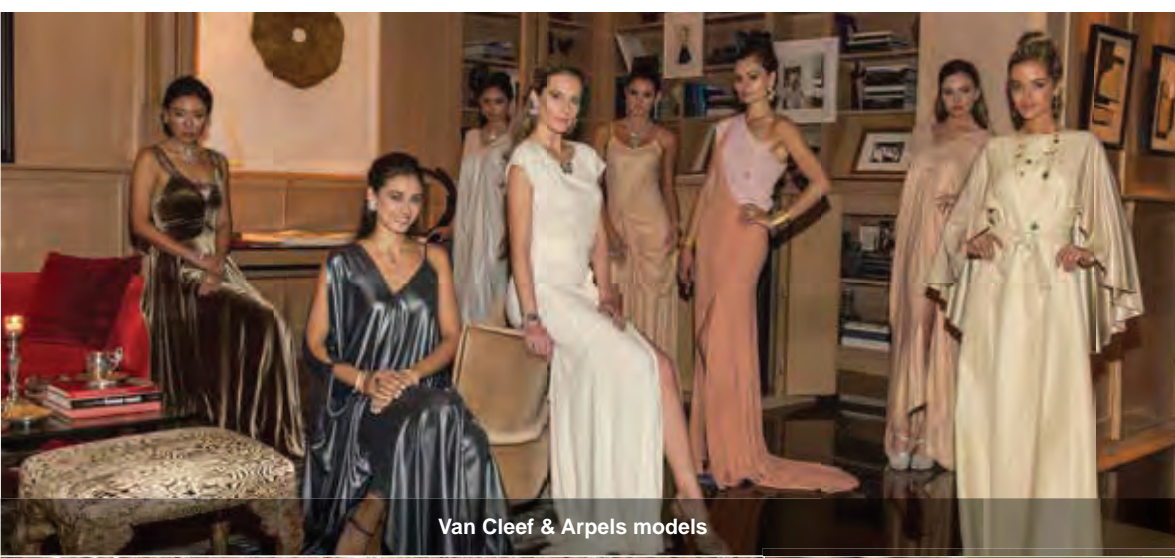


Courtney and Bo Hopson



Raquel Segal and Karen Pulaski





Van Cleef & Arpels models



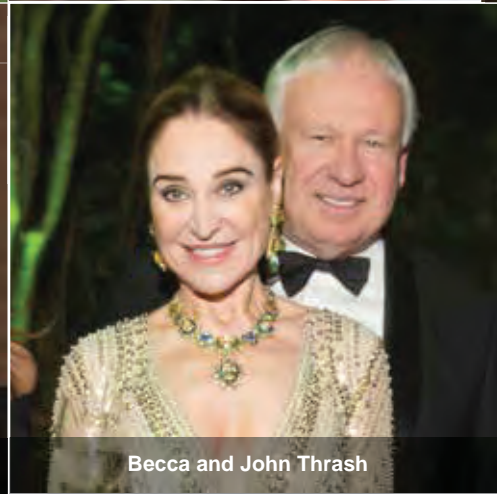
Todd Fiscus, Phoebe Tudor and Jim Nelson



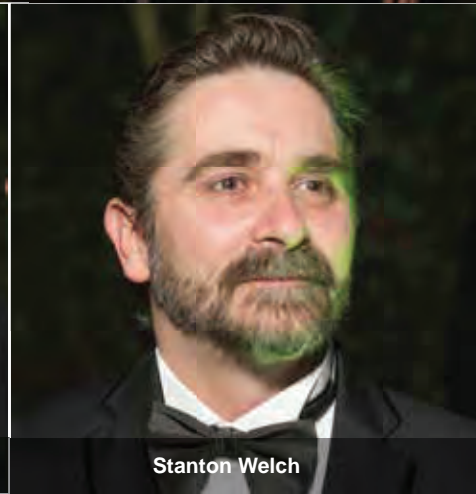
Joyce Echols and Steve Wyatt



Neal Hamil and Melissa Mithoff



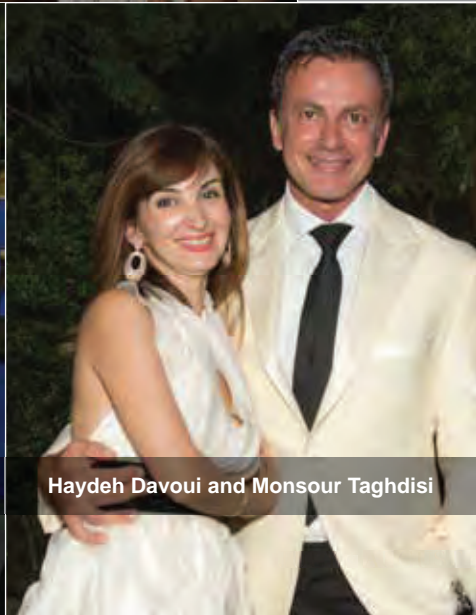
Becca and John Thrash



Stanton Welch



Ceron and Mickey Rosmarin



Haydeh Davoui and Monsour Taghdisi



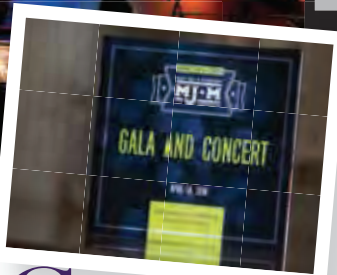
Susanne Byram and Terry Verbecke



Gracie and Bob Caverner



Mack Brown, Jack Ingram and Matthew McConaughey



RAISING THE BAR

Mack, Jack and McConaughey Gala Raises Record Funds For Children's Charities

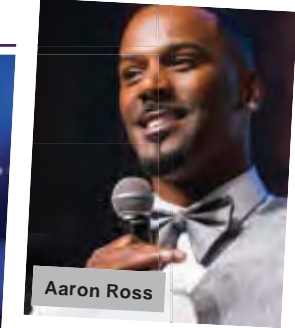
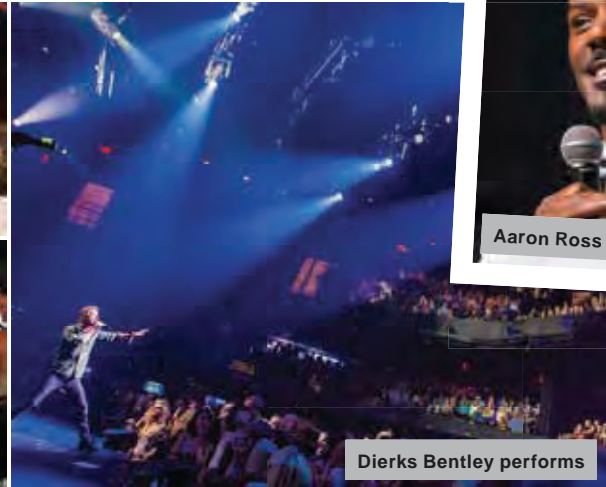
By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Tyler Schmitt

THE SCENE:

Over the course of two eventful days in Austin, hundreds turned out for a non-stop parade of things Austin is most known for: fun, fashion, music and sport. The 4th annual Mack, Jack and McConaughey once again pulled out all the stops for a tour-de-force for those fortunate enough to be a part of this memorable experience.

THE VIBE:

The jammed-packed two days began at Austin's ACL Moody Theatre for a good old fashioned Texas gala that kicked off the two-day soirée, capped off by a show-stopping performance by multi-platinum artist Dierks Bentley and Grammy award-winning musician Kacey Musgraves. The next morning, the action continued inside and out as the men hit the links for a golf tournament at Spanish Oaks Country Club while the women headed to Austin's JW Marriott and were treated to a Veronica Beard fashion show presented by Nordstrom. Guests then returned to the ACL Moody Theatre for a Jack and Friends concert featuring such acts as Eric Church and Jamey Johnson capped off by a Private VIP Jack & Friends After Party presented by Patron at the W Hotel.



Aaron Ross

Dierks Bentley performs



Camila and Matthew McConaughey



Amy Ingram, Veronica Swanson Beard, Camila McConaughey, Eloise DeJoria, Veronica Miele Beard and Sally Brown

THE CAUSE:

The two-day event raised over \$1.7M for various children's charities including three Austin-based non-profits: Dell-Children's Medical Center, HeartGift and The Rise School for Children.

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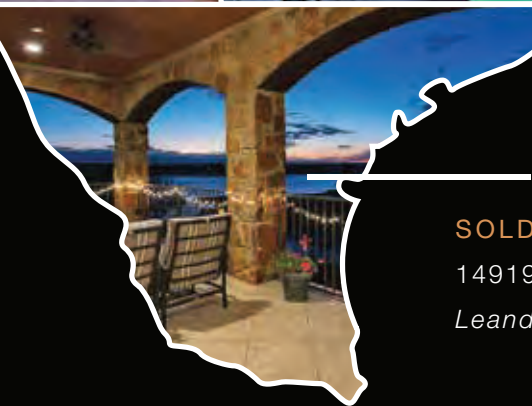
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SPECTATE GRECIAN SPLENDOR

Fiesta's Order Of The Alamo Court Of Grecian Glory

By *Jake Gaines* | Photography by *Greg Harrison* | Portrait Photography by *Gary Stanko of Billo Smith Studios*



The Court of Grecian Glory with Scott Christy the Coronation Chairman, Carrie Green the Mistress of the Robes, Rick Cavender the Lord High Chamberlain and Brandon Clementson the President of the Order of the Alamo



Albert McClelland, Morgan Anne McClelland, Princess of Hellenic Grandeur, Caroline Cage Carrington, Queen of the Court of Grecian Glory and Phillip Carrington

THE SCENE:

Fiesta San Antonio 2016, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, promised to be a showstopper and indeed most agree it was the annual celebration's best year ever. Fiesta supports many local philanthropic organizations and contributes substantially to the city's economy. The festivities and pageantry, lasting several days and nights, extended into three full weeks this year. Events included the Battle of Flowers parade through downtown, directed by the Battle of Flowers Association and founded in 1891 by local business leaders when the Fiesta was inaugurated. The work that went into the festivities, almost a year into the making, proved itself through the positive impact the events had on the city of San Antonio.



Cornelia Wilde Cavender, Duchess of Classical Maritime Crossroads and Abigail Porter Cavender, Duchess of Golden Luminescence

Sophie Hilliard Larkin, Duchess of Bountiful Harvests

THE VIBE:

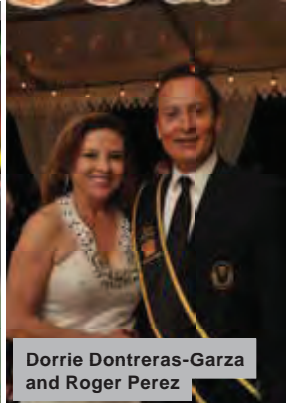
Fiesta's gorgeous gowns are legendary, and this year's designs were especially stunning – in fact, the 18-foot long trains weigh between 60 to 80 pounds. The dazzling dresses, crowns, and grand trains sparkled with brilliant jewels, beads, and sequins that emphasized the grand festivities that unfolded at the regal Majestic Theatre downtown. The Court of Grecian Glory theme, was created by Mistress of the Robes Carrie Green, inspired the heavily bejeweled gowns that drew from the Greek Isles, each garment was influenced by Athens, the Parthenon, the Olympics, art, literature, philosophy and ancient Greek mythology.



Henry Munoz, Allison Johnson and Kyle Ferari



Caroline Carrington, Queen of The Court of Grecian Glory



Dorrie Dontreras-Garza and Roger Perez



Webb Sellers and Alyse Straus & Caroleene and Bobby Dobson



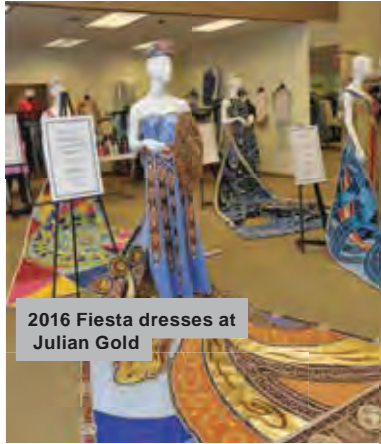
Keller Henderson, Claire and George Vaughan & Melissa and Bob Vaughan



Georgia Kuper and Rick Kuper



Audrey Billups, Marguerite Mannix, Meredith Bayoud and Elizabeth Crowley



2016 Fiesta dresses at Julian Gold



Mae Nixon and Georgia Kuper



Triana and Brandon Grossman

THE CAUSE:

Her Gracious Majesty, Caroline Carrington, Queen of The Court of Grecian Glory, presided over the coronation, and with Her Royal Highness, Morgan McClelland, Princess of Hellenic Grandeur, they led the court of 24 duchesses. Rosemary Kowalski served as the Grand Marshal for this year's Battle of Flowers parade. R. Hunt Winton served as this year's King Antonio XCIV, the 2016 Coronation Chairman was Scott Christie, while the President of the Order of the Alamo is Brandon Clementson. Contributing to Fiesta's spirit of giving, The Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation, founded in 1989, have raised over \$3.5 million dollars to date that have been awarded to local children's charities.



Stephanie and Bobby Cavender



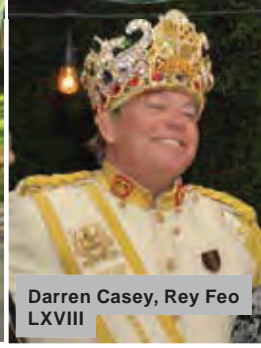
Claudia Abbey Strunk, Duchess of the Flames of Creation



Annabelle Noyola and Elizabeth Smith



Cheri Longoria and Lynn Crystal



Darren Casey, Rey Feo LXVIII



Morgan McClelland, Princess of Hellenic Grandeur



Sheila Jackson, Grace Cartwright, Kaydee Bailey, Mary Jane Edwards and Sarah Pitt



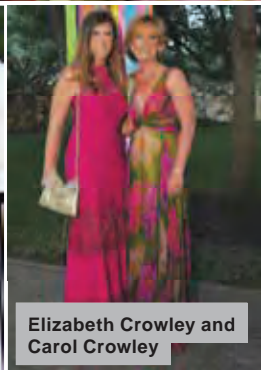
Hunter Hawkins and Allegra Pitt



Allison Leighton Donnell, Duchess of Transcendent Traditions



Julie Kleberg and Scott Kleberg



Elizabeth Crowley and Carol Crowley



Mary Philip, Phillip Carrington, Al Philip and Forrester Smith



The Mini Coronation - Balcony design by Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers



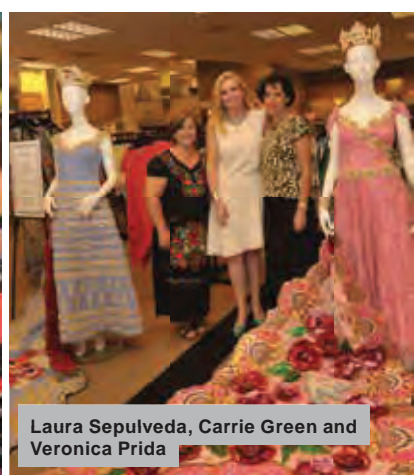
Natalia Zacarias and Sergio Zacarias



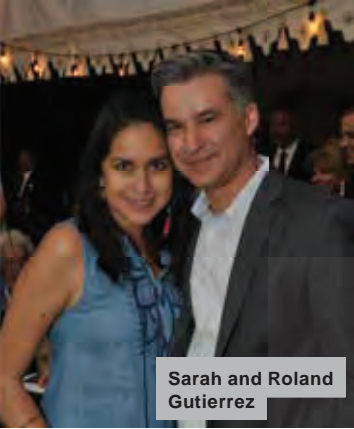
The Court of Grecian Glory



Charlie Fuhrmann and Martha Fuhrmann



Laura Sepulveda, Carrie Green and Veronica Prida



Sarah and Roland Gutierrez



Sebastian and Jennifer Bararo



Ceci McMurrey, Jeanne Dobson, Tamie King and Ted Flato



Juliana Newman and Chico Newman



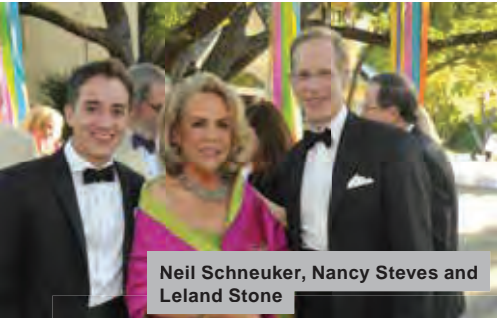
Julie Lecorgne, Julie Kleberg and Brenda Brunette



Annie Larkin, Mary Larkin, Johnny Larkin, Sophie Larkin and Jack Larkin



Tom and Wendy Wirth & Chase Wirth



Neil Schneuer, Nancy Steves and Leland Stone



Lori Donnell, Alice Ball Strunk, Sue Arnim and Lisa Carrington



Putter Black, Charlotte Moore, Gabby Close, Olivia Parker and Hailey Hart



Claire Hodges, Julie Kleberg, Tina Fenese and Bebe Brent



Paige Pursley and Rob Cavender



Malou Flato and Ted Flato

ENTRANCE: DALLAS



Tootsies models



Stephi Maron, Renee Farren and Nicki Maron



Jan Strimple

MAD AS A HATTER

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden Hosts the Annual Mad Hatter's Tea, Luncheon and Style Show

By Jake Gaines | Photography by Danny Campbell, Quoc Cong, Dana Driensky and Daniel Driensky

THE SCENE:

Recently over 500 Who's Who guests gathered for the 28th annual Mad Hatter's Tea at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The theme was *Steel Magnolias* as attendees donned extravagant hats in shades of blush and bashful pink, and other chic colors, for the chance to win the various contest themes ranging from Simply Elegant to What Was She Thinking? The highlight of the event was not only the plethora of eye-catching chapeaus, but also the beautiful display of springtime's floral scape within the Arboretum. The floral décor was created in hand-decorated watering cans, designed and donated by Shane Walker of Flower Reign.



Connie and Denny Carreker



Billy Fulmer, Linda Gray and Shane Walker



Cathy Phillips and Heather Furniss



Kellie Rasberry, Jocelyn White and Jody Dean



Marena Gault, Marielle Lemasters and Sherwood Wagner



Cathy Vieth and J. Faridy Cocco



Kathy Cothrum and Karen Carroll



Jane McGarry



Diane and Daryl Johnston



Nerissa Von Helpenstill



D'Andra Simmons Lock



Gina Ginsburg



Barbara Daseke and Robert LeLeux



Cynthia Smoot and Linda Ivy



Jordi Bostock



Guinn and Betsy Crousen

THE VIBE:

The romantic comedy film's theme luncheon served up Glenda's gazpacho, followed by the entrée of Patricia's field and micro greens with thin sliced radish, fennel, marinated peppers and carrots, accompanied by Connie's fried chicken, Big Mama's fried green tomato, deviled eggs, Renee's corn relish and Ouiser's pickled okra. Dessert featured Miss Jocie's banana pudding in mini Mason jar, Linda's pecan tart and Miss Faye's mini buttermilk pie. Celebrity emcee Kellie Raspberry greeted the guests as they were seated, then enchanted by a fashion show of spring and summer fashions sponsored by Tootsies, produced by Jan Strimple. Jody Dean of KLUV-FM led an exciting live auction and finally, with much anticipation, the judges presented the awards to the guests with the most fabulous hats.

THE CAUSE:

Welcoming guests were Jocelyn White, Chairman, was joined by Renee Farren, President of the Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Honorary Celebrity Chairs Janine Turner and Linda Gray; joined by Vice-Chair Linda Spina, Mary Brinegar, President of the Dallas Arboretum and Dave Forehand, Vice-President of Gardens. The Women's Council supports the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden and funds the renowned *A Woman's Garden*, the only public garden in the nation that is visualized by women, funded by the efforts of women and dedicated to the spirit of women.

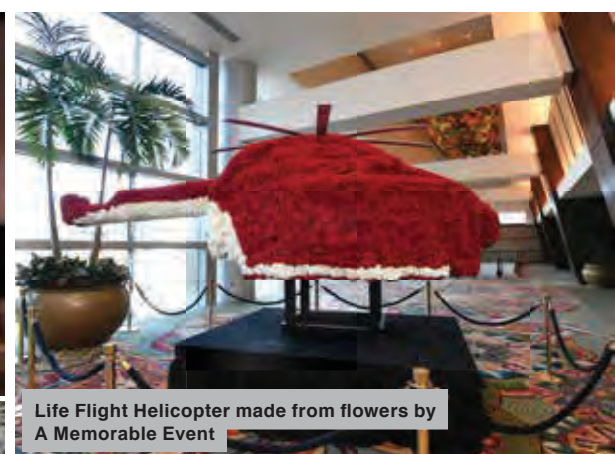
ENTRANCE: HOUSTON



Hallie Vanderhider



Deborah and Gardner Cannon



Life Flight Helicopter made from flowers by A Memorable Event



Sherry Smith & Giorgio and Cathy Borlenghi

THE SCENE:

The Memorial Hermann Foundation recently hosted its annual *Circle of Life* gala at the Hilton Americas-Houston, raising \$2.9 million dollars with over 1,600 guests. The Memorable Event transformed the gala venue's ballroom with beautiful white clouds adorned in crystals and a helicopter made of fresh flowers. Following a delicious dinner, the audience filled the dance floor and enjoyed music from Atlanta-based band Simply Irresistible, which included more than 40 performers.

'ROUND IT GOES

Memorial Hermann Foundation Circle Of Life Gala Astounds With Fundraising

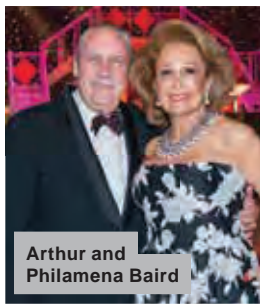
By Jennifer Roosth | Photography by Michele Watson/CatchLight Group



Crew of Life Flight and Dan Wolterman



Bob and Vicki Harvey, Angela O'Pry & Daniel Wolterman



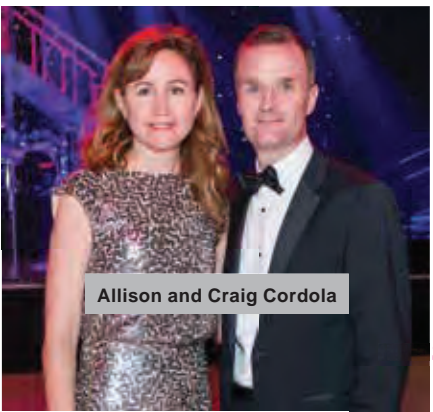
Arthur and Philamena Baird



Miguel Trevino, Mari Trevino and Bryan Glass



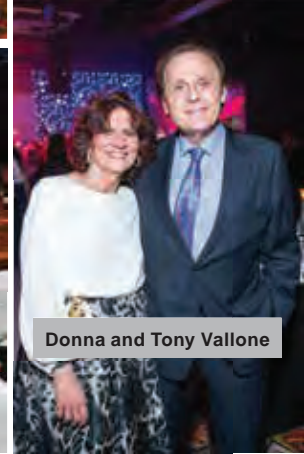
Suzie and Larry Johnson



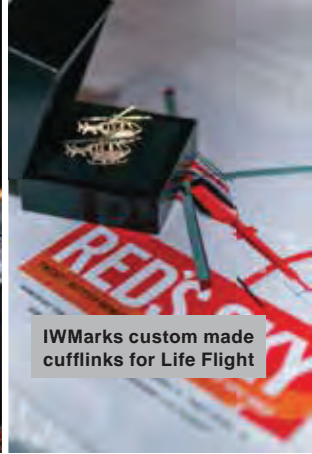
Allison and Craig Cordola



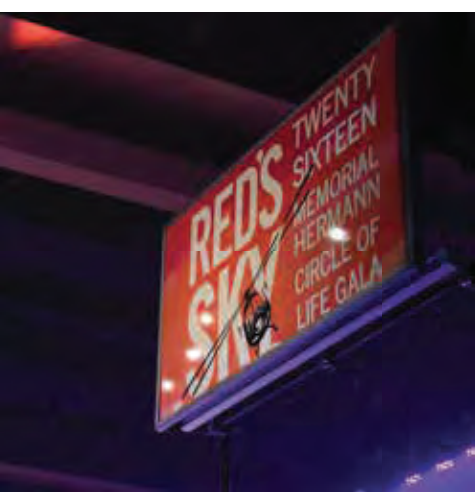
Bill and Diane Campbell & Bill and Barbara Easter



Donna and Tony Vallone



IWMarks custom made cufflinks for Life Flight



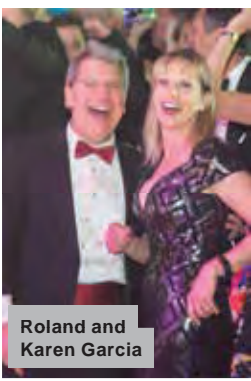
Gary Petersen & Alice and Keith Mosing



Christine Falgout, Bill Gutknecht & Jo Lynn and Gregg Falgout



Susie and Iggy Distefano



Roland and Karen Garcia



Walter Johnson, Jim Smith, Susan Sarofim and Clarence Cazalot



Diane Lokey Farb and Mark Sullivan dancing

THE VIBE:

Chaired by Susan Sarofim and the Memorial Hermann Foundation Board, the evening proved to be one of the most entertaining and exciting events of the year, punctuated by special tributes. After moving tributes to both Memorial Hermann Life Flight® founder, the late Dr. James H. “Red” Duke, Jr., and Dan Wolterman, who recently announced his retirement from his post as president and CEO of Memorial Hermann, Houston’s elite philanthropic and business community, along with Houston’s brightest medical minds danced the night away.

THE CAUSE:

Clarence Cazalot, Walter Johnson, and Jim Smith served as honorary Chairs for the sold-out event. The evening’s honoree, Memorial Hermann’s own “Father of Trauma” and Memorial Hermann Life Flight® founder, the late Dr. James H. “Red” Duke, Jr. was instrumental in developing and bringing the air-ambulance program to Houston in 1976 and served as its medical director for nearly four decades. Since its inaugural flight, Life Flight has become one of the most successful air-ambulance programs in the country.



Jim and Jaci Smith



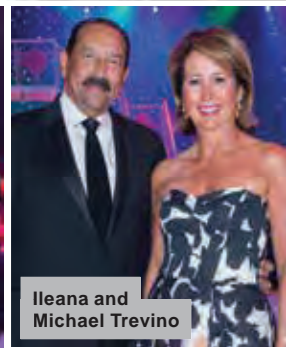
Joe and Cathy Cleary



Beckie and Gasper Mir



Jim Smith, Walter Johnson and Clarence Cazalot



Ileana and Michael Trevino



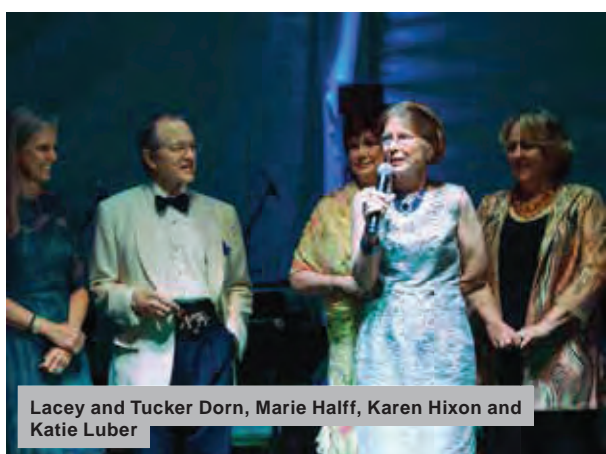
Dr. Sara Duke and Charles King



Dr Benjamin Chu, Donna Moylan & Lori and Dan Wolterman



ENTRANCE: SAN ANTONIO



Lacey and Tucker Dorn, Marie Halff, Karen Hixon and Katie Luber

ART'S TRUE PASSION

San Antonio Museum Of Art Honors City's Culture

By Shannon Miller Turner | Photography by Jenna Beth Lyde

THE SCENE:

The San Antonio Museum of Art recently honored Karen Johnson Hixon, her generous support to innumerable causes benefitting our city and our state, and her own contagious *Passion for Art*, the gala evening's theme. A committed naturalist and a champion of the arts, Karen Hixon has worked tirelessly to make the joy of art accessible to all, nurturing the San Antonio Museum of Art into a world-class museum while serving for more than two decades on its board.



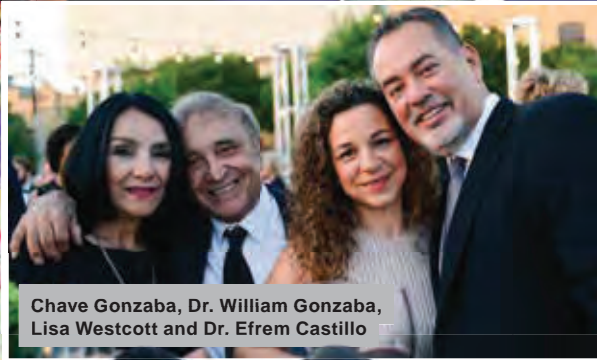
Karen Hixon, Barbara Gentry and Tim Hixon



Kate Johnson and Linda Seeligson



Christine Tyng, Elizabeth Roberts, Lorin Runnels and Jill Rosenthal



Chave Gonzaba, Dr. William Gonzaba, Lisa Westcott and Dr. Efreem Castillo



Denny and Suzanne Ware, Katie Luber and Sam Dawson



Suhail Arastu and Morgan Bates



Sho Nakpodia and Tracy Watts



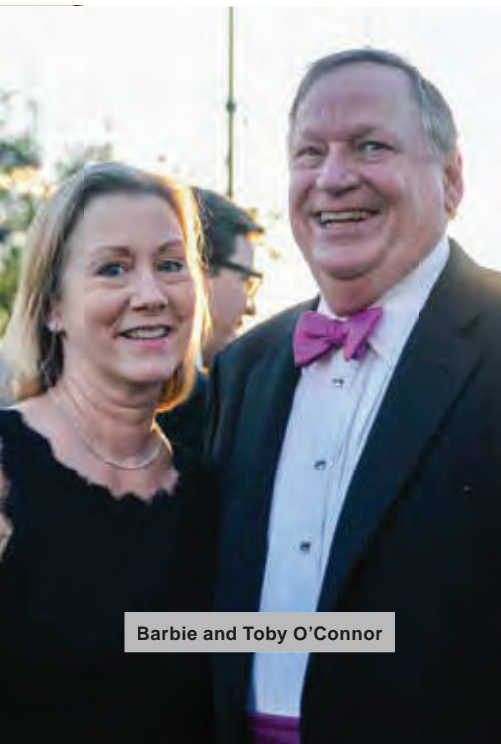
Dr. Homero Garza and Judge Sandee Marion



Rodney Taylor, Hon. Ivy Taylor and Patsy Steves

THE VIBE:

Almost 500 guests gathered in the museum's event space to celebrate the evening's honoree in grand style. The gala's artful theme was evident in the décor: the sylvan ambiance was made possible by Uptown Flowers and Monte Vista Strings, and the cocktails and dinner fare by Rosemary's Catering. Both stunning and fun, the evening also raised a record amount for the museum's goal of serving as a cultural, educational, and community anchor institution.



Barbie and Toby O'Connor



Beth and John Eadie & Kathryn and John Keeton



Marie Halff and Patricia Ruiz-Healy



Mike and Andrea Smith



Barbara Dreeben and Tena Gorman



Caroleene and Bobby Dobson



Lacey and Tucker Dorn

THE CAUSE:

The event was chaired by Lacey and Tucker Dorn, and the mission of the San Antonio Museum of Art is to delight and inspire its audience with significant artistic achievements of the world's cultures from ancient times to the present.



Cosmo Guido, Danielle Bochat & Maryanne and Tom Guido



Karen Herrmann & Danny and Kimberly Anderson

EXPERIENCE

519 BRIARPATCH ROAD

Lockhart, Texas

www.519briarpatchroad.com



SPRAWLING ESTATE *of the* LATE DOLLIE A. COLE

First time on the market, this Southwestern-style mansion is being offered for sale with 33 +/- acres and over 15,000 sq. ft. in the main house. The property includes a 2 bedroom guest house, pool, 6 car garage, tennis court, large lake, 3 ponds, horse barn, pens and is located only 30 minutes from Downtown Austin and 15 minutes from Circuit of the Americas. The ranch has been the scene of many lavish, colorful parties and charitable events, attended by many sports legends and Hollywood's elite. Scenes for many movies, television shows, and commercials have been filmed at the ranch as well. This is the perfect property to serve as your very own estate, wedding venue or even a dude ranch.

PRESENTED BY
RON MARSHALL
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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

ENTRANCE: AUSTIN



Julian Gold fashion show and brunch



Bari Furst, William Furst, Jenna Dwyer and Caroline Furst



Chandler Bryant, Peyton Dennis, Alexis Shirley and Sarah May



Kelly Goulding and Gayla Stuart

GAZE INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

Helping Hand Home Debs Presented At Gala, Honored At Brunch And Fashion Show

By *Rose Betty Williams* | Photography by *Janet Scott and Rose Betty Williams*

THE SCENE:

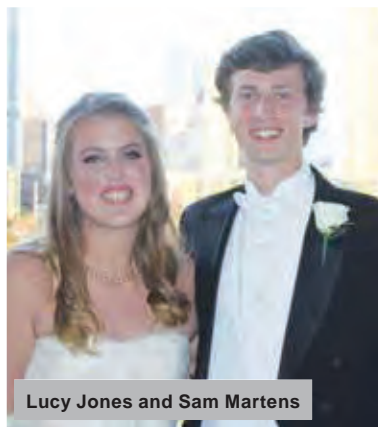
The Helping Hand Society recently hosted its 73rd annual Crystal Ball as the Palmer Events was transformed with Old World classic décor. The prominent stage and runway showcased the presentation of 30 debutantes, their escorts and junior escorts as well as 148 Helping Hand Girls and Boys and 39 First Grade Princesses. The capacity crowd enjoyed a champagne brunch by Catering by Rosemary and admired a spectacular fashion show presented by Julian Gold and Webber Productions. The black tie gala commenced later that evening with cocktails and a silent auction followed by the debutante presentation, dinner, a cigar bar and dancing to Blind Date.



Jenna Howard, Anne Howard, Jessie Howard, Laney Howard, Ty Howard and Jay Howard



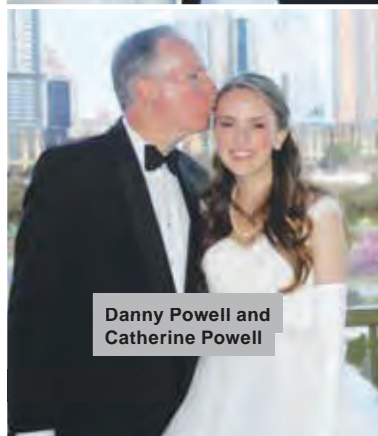
Laney Howard and Mary Catherine Walters



Lucy Jones and Sam Martens



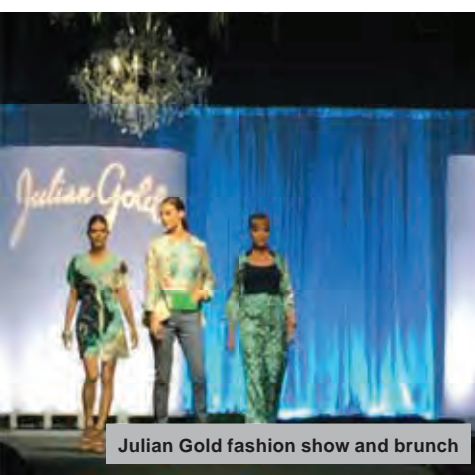
Eloise Breckbill, Mary Taaffe, Sophia Jackson, Hannah Marcus, Gracie Byram and Campbell Griffin



Danny Powell and Catherine Powell



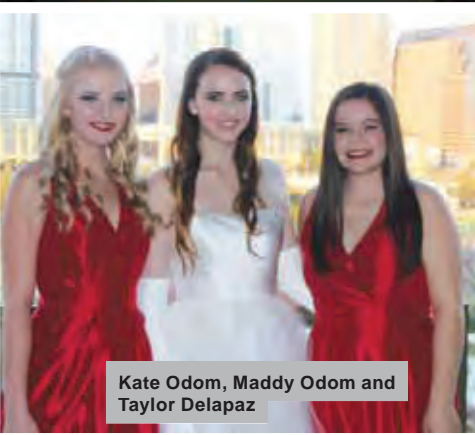
Elisabeth Foster, Laney Howard, Lucy Jones and Alexandra Sherwood



Julian Gold fashion show and brunch



Marshall Durrett, Allison Durrett, Maddi Durrett, Lock Durrett and Beth Durrett



Kate Odom, Maddi Odom and Taylor Delapaz



Grant Shippy and Matthew Staats



Jordan Fredricksen and Larson Beck



Caprice Fredricksen, Charlotte Brigham, Beverly Newsom and Shelley Scott



Julian Gold fashion show and brunch



Governor Greg Abbott and Audrey Abbott



Pati Cumby, Morgan Cumby and James Cumby



Roe Sharon Hughes, Beth Sherwood and Betsy Foster



Nancy Prickett and Susan Prickett

THE VIBE:

The 2016 Helping Hand Crystal Ball stunning debutantes presented were: Audrey Sophia Abbott, Brady Kathryn Anderson, Mary Morgan Baker, Lillian Margaret Brown, Alex Courtney Cameron, Abigail Erwinna Coon, Morgan Alexandra Cumby, Madeline Lea Durrett, Jenna May Dwyer, Elisabeth Rachel Foster, Kaitlee Elizabeth Haralson, Elisabeth Lane Howard, Lucy Jones, Rachel Alexander Kessler, Barbara Nicole Laughlin, Emily Michelle Mansour, Caroline Mays McCaul, Caroline Blake McFarland, Grace Frazer Moore, Hailey Dea Nelsen, Madeline Elise Odom, Catherine Anne Powell, Nancy Elizabeth Prickett, Lauren Kathryn Schwartz, Alexandra Hudson Sherwood, Claudia Anne Taylor, Mary Catherine Walters, Sarah Virginia Wells and Marietta Merritt Wise.

THE CAUSE:

The Crystal Ball event is the largest fundraiser for the Helping Hand Home for Children, and this year's gala, co-chaired by Kelly Goulding and Gayla Stuart, raised more than \$1 million in support of the Helping Hand Home's mission to heal and transform the lives of children in need by providing nurturing and residential treatment services, therapeutic foster care, adoption services, family support services and an on-site charter school to the children it serves. In keeping with the Helping Hand Home's motto "Hope Happens Here," the organization helps children whose young lives were once filled with fear, pain and chaos learn to trust adults to take care of them and to reclaim their childhood.

ENTRANCE: DALLAS



FGI Rising Star 2016 Recipients

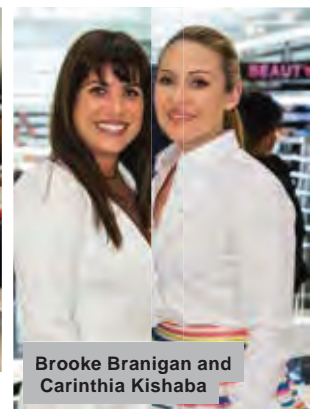
STARS ON THE RISE

Fashion Group International Dallas Celebrates Emerging Creative Talent

By *Cynthia Smoot* | Photography by *Thomas Garza*



Chad Collom and Steve Kemble



Brooke Branigan and Carinthia Kishaba



James Turner



LaToya Jones

THE SCENE:

At Galleria Dallas, Fashion Group International Dallas (FGI of Dallas) celebrated the city's most notable young talent in the world of fashion, art and design. Eighteen nominees were presented in the areas of Fashion, Accessories, Photography, Interior Design, Art, and Makeup Artistry. Event chair Carinthia Kishaba introduced the night's emcee and blogger Courtney Kerr, and the fashionable evening began.



Eric Grembowski, Ese Azenabor and Stephania Schirru



LeeAnne Locken and Tiffany Hendra



Britt Harless and Jan Strimple

Courtney Kerr and Chuck Steelman



Dana Miller and Taylor Miller



Meredith Hite, Ken Weber and Shay Geyer



Rising Stars runway

THE VIBE:

The event kicked off with a fashion show produced by Jan Strimple, featuring pieces from the three fashion nominees and event sponsors: Banana Republic, Belk, Rangler, Express, BCBGeneration and Club Monaco. After weeks of voting, the 2016 Rising Star winners were announced. The big winners of the night were handbag designer Allison Mitchell (Accessories), La Toya Jones (Art), Binzario Couture's Andre Yabin and Luis Nazario (Fashion), James "JT" Turner (Interior Design), Shane Monden (Makeup Design), and Jason Fitzgerald (Photography). In addition to the six honorees, the Peoples Star award was voted on by the audience, and that award was presented to bow tie designer Jeremy Michael Calhoun.



Andre Yabin, Luis Nazario and Juan Lerma



Shane Monden and Andrew Gonzales

THE CAUSE:

Fashion Group International of Dallas is part of Fashion Group International, Inc., a global nonprofit professional organization with more than 6,000 members representing all areas of the fashion industry. Fashion Group International, Inc. provides a high-profile forum to promote the fashion business by hosting events that educate and facilitate the exchange of ideas by giving back to the community.



Scott and Katy Messermith Maddox



Tricia Sims and Yvonne Crum



Holly and Matt Quartaro

FASHION X SOCIAL

Austin Fashion Week Honors Four Style Setters

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Carlos Barron, Gregg Cestaro, Candice Ghai and Brianna Moore

THE SCENE:

Who doesn't love a week where hundreds – no, *thousands* of event attendees witness the latest in cutting edge fashion, couture, and artisan jewelry, as well as honor several philanthropic women who have set the pace for combining impeccable style with high level community philanthropy? This year's Austin Fashion Week, also known as Fashion X Austin now in its eighth year, provided several unique and powerful fashion experiences by honoring four Style Setter women and nonprofits who have helped make Austin the world class city it is today.



John Dieck, Melissa Dieck, Aida Dieck, Alexandra Dieck and Gaines Thaxton



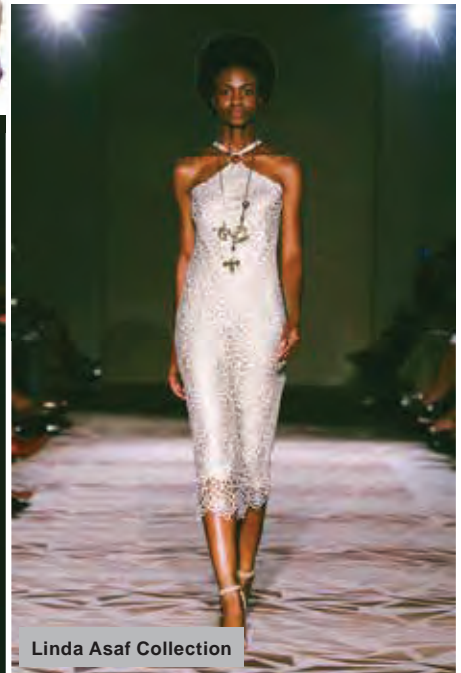
Johnna Jones and Lulu Jones



Kara Swinney, Oshlianna Stewart and Matt Swinney



John and Sharon Schweitzer & Marc Hruschka



Linda Asaf Collection



Rob Giardinelli, Bobbi Topfer and Lance Avery Morgan



Katie Kime Collection



Dean McWilliams, Max McWilliams Andrea McWilliams, Marcus McWilliams and Madison McWilliams



Paola Moore, Donna Baldwin, Laura Craddick and Lucy Reagan



Brunch guests and John Hardy jewelry



Daniel Esquivel

THE VIBE:

The week of glam began at Austin's grand dame Driskill Hotel for the Fashion Week Brunch sponsored by John Hardy to honor Style Setter Aida Dieck with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the American Heart Association. The hotel's mezzanine was transformed into a Balinese oasis for a once-in-a-lifetime experience featuring John Hardy's artisans, flown in from Bali, hand crafting their one-of-a-kind heritage pieces before the awestruck crowd, beautifully showcasing the care and attention to detail that goes into each and every piece of jewelry. As guests dined during the brunch, models circled the table featuring collections from John Hardy, Lexicon of Style by Alexandra Dieck, and Big Bertha's Paradise. Guests were able to beckon models to their table to inquire about specific pieces they admired, creating a uniquely intimate fashion experience unlike any other.

For the second half of the week, the action turned to Austin's JW Marriott for three evenings of runway events, where each night over 800 of Austin's fashionable, social and cultural elite mingled together to view boutique collections by emerging Austin-based designers as well as designers from other markets in Texas and beyond, including several collections by alumni of the hit Lifetime series *Project Runway*.

The next three Style Setters showcased their love and support for the Austin fashion community. Each of the honorees wore looks from top Austin designers, while being showcasing with how each of them loves giving back to Austin with a personal video that inspires their fashion sense and the charity they were supporting their evening. The runway show celebrated their favorite Style Setter looks worn at the various philanthropic endeavors they have supported over the years.



Stylish Ensemble from Big Bertha's Paradise



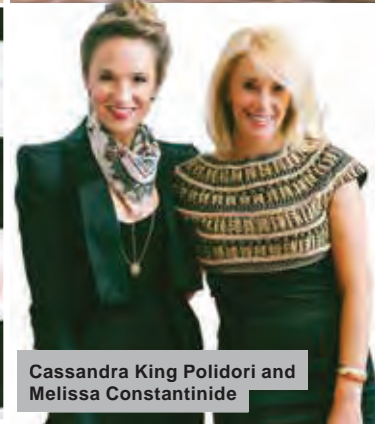
Sally Daneshjou Collection



Tinsley Radix Collection



Maureen Staloch and Suzanne Erickson



Cassandra King Polidori and Melissa Constantinide



Korto Momolu Collection



John Hardy Artisan



Sofia Avila and Victoria Avila



M.E. Shirley Collection



Gail Chovan Collection



Mike Seitz, Hilary Rose and Andre Williams



John Hardy Jewelry

THE CAUSE:
 Laura Craddick was honored the first evening, wearing a beautiful ensemble by Austin-based designer Katie Kime with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Dell Children's Medical Center. Bobbi Topfer, sporting a stunning number from Austin-based designer Rare Trends was honored the second evening with a portion of the proceeds benefitting ZACH Theatre. Andrea McWilliams was honored the final evening, sporting a refreshingly inspired dress complete with a floral-immersed corset designed by Austin-based designer Franco Herrera of Mandarin Flower Company, with a portion of the evening's proceeds benefitting Ballet Austin.



Michelle Lesniak Collection



The Ross Bennett Collection



Sonjia Williams Collection



Amanda Valentine and Kylie Bollwitt



WELCOME TO THE WEDDING

Join *The Society Diaries* as we present our favorite weddings across Texas and beyond



BLOOM YOUR BRIDAL

look with classic millinery – this blooming peony piece is oh so fascinating. \$625. At GigiBuriss.com

COMMEMORATE TWO NAMES

joining as one, with a personalized embossed monogram. It makes a perfect finishing touch for invitations and thank you notes. \$54. At Neiman Marcus



Audrey Hepburn and Givenchy, 1956



RAISE A TOAST TO THE GROOM and his closest attendants, with this handcrafted crystal brandy snifter and decanter set. \$735. At Neiman Marcus



HONEYMOONERS IN SEARCH of skiing, look no further than Aspen's historic Hotel Jerome. Spend a day in the powder, then retreat to the luxury suite. At HotelJerome.AubergeResorts.com

OLD, NEW, BOLD & BLUE

FOR A SLEEK TAKE ON THE CLASSIC solitaire ring, this sleek, gracious setting lets the diamond dazzle. It's minimal design with a big impact. At Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry



This summer wedding season, we update the classic adage *Something Old, Something New, Something Bold and Something Blue* to bring you the most stylish trends to inspire your own wedding experience

By Natalie Bloomingdale and Jonathan Spindel



FOR A TIMELESS BRIDESMAIDS' ensemble, choose this beautiful Amsale design in a classic champagne hue. \$300. At Julian Gold



SLEEK AND CHIC, VINTAGE meets contemporary in Olvi's Lace Collection. Each dress is handmade in Amsterdam with stretch lace \$1226/845. At The Garden Room



FOR A BUBBLY MOMENT of celebration, reach for these sleek flutes with honeycomb detail, a symbol of the newlyweds' sweet start of their lives together. Contact for more information. At BakerTatum.com



DELICATE YET POWERFUL, this bridal pump by Jimmy Choo evokes a magical Cinderella scene with its sleek curves and dazzling crystals. \$2095. Exclusively at Saks Fifth Avenue



MONARCH BEACH RESORT in Dana Point, California has just completed a \$40 million renovation that introduced redesigned guest rooms, a new Miraval Spa, five new dining concepts, a new pool area and a new arrival experience. At MonarchBeachResort.com



FOR THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE WEDDING, or honeymoon jaunts thereafter, this sleek and modern dress will have you looking sharp, and comfortable too. \$340. At ArianaRockefeller.com



IGNITE YOUR LOVE STORY with a diamond that reflects the fire inside your heart. The Hearts on Fire collection features new, instant-classic designs. Price Upon Request. At CalvinsJewelry.com



Princess Grace, 1956



OSCAR-WORTHY IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT with this stunning gown by Oscar de la Renta. It's sure to become an instant treasure... and to remain one for generations. \$11,000. At [Joan Pillow Bridal Salon](http://JoanPillowBridalSalon.com)

BLENDING ORGANIC FORMS WITH GEMS

and fine materials, Roberto Coin's innovative designs are beautiful and versatile, perfect for any special day. \$3900. At Saks Fifth Avenue



GIFT YOUR GROOM this modern chronograph with alligator strap by Baume & Mercier, a sporty yet refined piece for bold black tie, or a day at the track. Price upon request. At DuncanAndBoyd.com



RENEW YOURSELF with the **Lifting and Firming Mask** by La Mer. \$245. At Saks Fifth Avenue

CREATE STRIKING COCKTAILS, Create striking cocktails, beverages, and any infusion the imagination conjures.

The Porthole Infuser is a stylish addition to any newlywed's kitchen. \$99. At ThePortholeInfuser.com



NEW



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Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman, 1958



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AFTER YOUR GROOM CARRIES you across the threshold, let him slip into these sleek and comfortable slippers. From \$500. At Hadleighs.com

THE BEST GIFTS COME WRAPPED IN A BOW, SO TIE THIS CHARMING BOWTIE around your groom. A distinguishing touch for black tie, or to set off an otherwise for look. Contact for more information. At Hadleighs.com



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A photograph of the Chaumet jewelry store entrance in Paris. The store is housed in a grand, classical building with a white awning over the entrance. The name 'CHAUMET' is written in gold letters on the dark door. The reflection of the building's facade is visible in the glass of the door. The overall scene is romantic and elegant.

CHAUMET

CHAUMET

ROMANCING THE STONE

Paris, the City of Love, reports *our worldly chronicler Ashley Dobson*, has never been so invigorated with life's greatest pleasure than now at the chic Place Vendôme's Chaumet venue. It's where sparkling, bejeweled amour reflects the timeless gift of love: jewelry

CHAUMET

CHAUMET



Le Chaumet Paris
L'heure de Noël au Chaumet
de 18K à 18K





Bowknot tiara in gold, silver, diamonds, pink topazes Joseph Chaumet, circa 1890



AMOUR bracelet, circa 1890, AMOUR bracelet, 2004 and Multi Liens bracelet, 2007



Pair of wings brooches Joseph Chaumet, 1908



Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney's enamel and diamond wings aigrette, 1908



Bowknot corsage brooch by Joseph Chaumet, 1922



Exhibit space at Chaumet

Tubogas necklace with knot motif, 1955



Wing brooch by Joseph Chaumet, circa 1909



Bowknot corsage brooches, 1915



Tiara by Chaumet



Diamond, opal and ruby tiara by Chaumet



Chaumet



Napoleon welcomed into Heaven by Josephine, etching, circa 1830, Grand Palais by Daniel Arnaudet



Pearl corsage brooch with knot motifs, 1913



Set from the corbeille de mariage of Princess Alicia of Bourbon-Parma, 1936

Marmirolo, July 17, 1796

...Ever since I left you, I have been sad. I am only happy when by your side. Ceaselessly I recall your kisses, your tears, your enchanting jealousy; and the charms of the incomparable Joséphine keep constantly alight a bright and burning flame in my heart and senses. When, free from every worry, from all business, shall I spend all my moments by your side, to have nothing to do but to love you, and to prove it to you? ... I thought I loved you some days ago; but, since I saw you, I feel that I love you even a thousand times more...

-Napoléon Bonaparte

Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte's letters to his beloved Joséphine de Beauharnais abound with passion, fervor, and love. But while it's not uncommon to find romance in letters, it's rare for a museum to inspire those same feelings.

That's exactly what jewelry designer Chaumet has done with "Une Éducation Sentimentale," its latest pop-up exhibition at the Ephemeral Museum in Paris, located within its flagship Place Vendôme store. As Chaumet's first customer back in 1780, Napoléon put the jewelry designer on the map when he commissioned Chaumet's founder, Marie-Etienne Nitot, to design a wedding tiara and collar for Joséphine. When Joséphine wore the tiara, it became the status symbol for young brides.

Since that time, Chaumet has created more than 2,500 tiaras and dazzling headpieces. To show off these exquisite creations, the design house has started opening themed pop-up exhibits. While past exhibits have shown off more intricate jewelry work, "Une Éducation Sentimentale" is illustrative of Chaumet's crowning glory. It's as if the entire Place Vendôme was designed for this exhibit. Featuring an imposing statue of Napoléon in the center of the luxury shopping square, you have already been transported back to the right era as you walk toward the white Chaumet awnings.

GLEAMING GLAMOUR

Once inside the museum, you get to feel as though you are royalty yourself, picking out your own tiara for a coronation. You are greeted at the door personally by a member of the Chaumet staff. I was given a personalized tour by an employee who was overjoyed to walk me through the exhibit and to share the story behind each of the lovingly handcrafted pieces on display.

Along with the famous tiara and link necklace that started it all, an impressive collection of other tiaras, ceremonial jewels, and iconic pieces can be found inside the museum. These antique treasures are accompanied by photographs and jewelry design sketches. Napoléon's love letters to Joséphine are splashed on the walls, themselves painted various shades of red and pink to match the mood of the exhibit.

Though Napoléon and Joséphine are the stars of the show, the exhibit also features six other famous couples through the centuries that have been an integral part of Chaumet's history. Chaumet assembled the "corbeille de mariage" – wedding gifts meant to symbolize a fiancé's commitment to his bride – for Felix Yusupov to give to Irina of Russia. This gift included the Polar Star diamond and several nest gems of the 19th century. But their love was star-crossed from the start. She was a niece of Tsar Nicholas II and he helped plot Rasputin's assassination in 1916. When they left Russia for Paris in 1917 they had to leave behind most of the family jewelry, much of which was commandeered by the Russian state.

In 1911, the Maharaja of India, Tukoji Rao Holkar III, asked Joseph Chaumet to make him a signature piece of jewelry. The jeweler used a pair of diamonds, each weighing 47 carats, to create a necklace for the Maharaja. The Maharaja's son inherited his sense of style and when he married, the couple became devoted customers of the Parisian jeweler.

French lyrical soprano and actress Yvonne Printemps and director and playwright

Sacha Guitry married in 1919. Their creative marriage also collaborated well with Chaumet and together they left a sparkling legacy. Printemps' favorite gift from Guitry was an Art Deco bracelet set with a 111-carat emerald cabochon created in 1924. Sixte de Bourbon-Parme, the last Duke of Parma, married French aristocrat Hedwige de La Rochefoucauld in 1919. Her parents commissioned the famous Bourbon-Parma tiara from Chaumet to commemorate the occasion.

Australian actor Errol Flynn and French movie star Lili Damita wed in 1935 and, for a time, they were Hollywood's golden couple. Chaumet created a series of bracelets and a pearl necklace for Damita. Most recently, Chinese actress, singer, and model Angela Yeung—best known by her stage name, "Angelababy"—brought Chaumet's celebrity status back into the limelight. She wed actor Huang Xiaoming in 2015 while wearing multiple Chaumet pieces. "Angelababy" is often called the "Chinese Kim Kardashian" and she made headlines for drastically outspending her American counterpart on her wedding. Yeung's extravagant wedding cost about \$31 million. Yeung was even allowed to use the original Chaumet tiara and collar – the pieces created for Joséphine – for a wedding photo shoot, which is on display at the museum.

GLITTERING EXHIBITS

The first section of the exhibit focuses mostly on the origins of Chaumet's famous link pattern and its celebrity wearers. The first set of links were incorporated in the design of the collar for Joséphine. Links have always been important to Chaumet because they represent two lives coming together as one and the interconnectedness of love. Though the style of the links changes with each collection, the symbolism and importance does not.

As you move to the next section of the exhibit, you walk through a red keyhole-shaped cutout inside a larger heart on a wall – a literal representation of the key to your heart. Inside the hallway, you can hear heartbeats – ba-bum, ba-bum, ba-bum. This section showcases Chaumet's famous wings. Wings are among the most symbolic of Chaumet's creations. Hair ornaments, broaches, and collars carrying the motif are immediately eye-catching. According to my museum tour guide, the wings symbolize the fragility of love, the victory of love over destiny, and the ability of spirits to soar on the wings of love.

One of most striking wing pieces on display belonged to American heiress Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. Vanderbilt Whitney had a "fearless" taste in jewelry. She studied art and loved Chaumet's wings. She owned multiple pairs of the diamond encrusted broaches. The final section shows off the jewelry designer's current collection that builds on these same themes. With modern updates to pieces worn by Joséphine, the new Escapade de Chaumet collection was created especially for the exhibition. Instead of crisscross links, these pieces are sculpted to imitate an unravelling ribbon while still interconnecting.

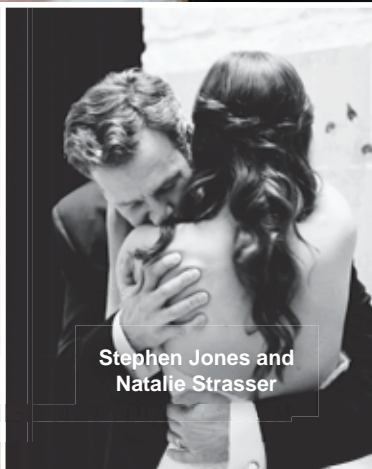
Chaumet designers say that they have always found inspiration in emotion, the greatest of which is love. After exploring this exhibit, it would be hard not to agree. The beauty and the stories behind each piece have the power to turn even the most hardened heart into one full of hopeless romance. **S**

Le Musée Éphémère is open from Monday to Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

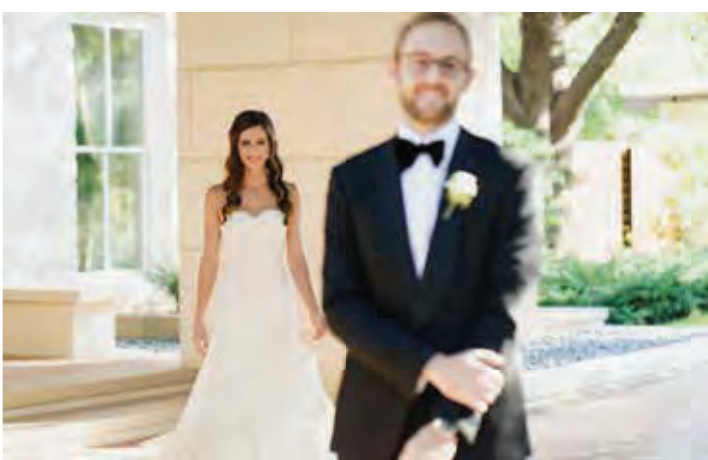
Chaumet Boutique, 12, Place Vendôme, Paris, France The "Une Éducation Sentimentale" exhibit runs until Sept. 24.



Johnna Jones and
Natalie Strasser



Stephen Jones and
Natalie Strasser



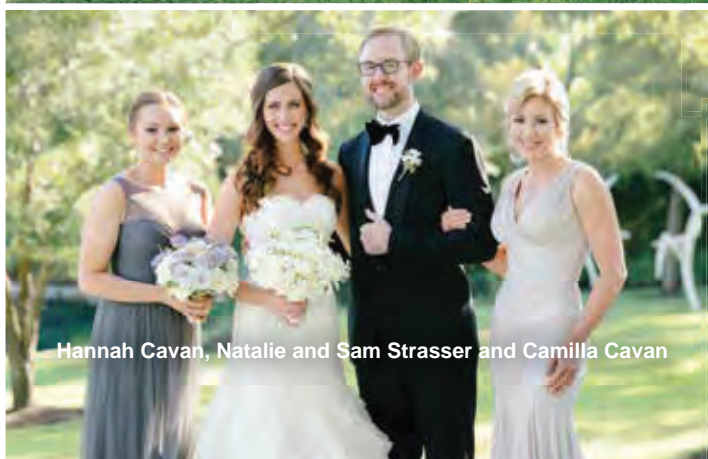
Grayson Glade, Hannah Coon, Lulu Jones, Natalie Strasser, Hannah Cavan, Kelsey Mackall, Adelynn Bennett and Hannah Young



Stephen and Johnna Jones, Natalie and Sam Strasser, Lulu Jones, Harrison Jones and Anthony Jones



Matt Walsh, John J McCurry Jr., Anthony Jones, Natalie and Sam Strasser, Oliver Gomme, Harrison Jones and Alex Mann



Hannah Cavan, Natalie and Sam Strasser and Camilla Cavan

What A Wonderful World

The Wedding of Natalie Jones And Sam Strasser In Austin

By Rob Giardinelli Photography by Stephen Karlisch

NATALIE DEANGELIS JONES, DAUGHTER OF JOHNNA DEANGELIS Jones and Stephen Jones of Austin, and Samuel David Strasser, son of Camilla Cavan of Scottsdale, Arizona were wed at the Smith Family Chapel at Riverbend Church in Austin, a perfect example of how two families seamlessly become one. The level of intimacy can be traced back to when the couple first met. The lovebirds fell in love over time without a “shazam” moment, as the groom likes to call it, yet rather through the process of getting to know one another through a substantial courtship. “Anytime I saw him interacting with babies and children helped me see how great a dad he would make,” muses the bride. Indeed, this day, four years in the making after a two-year courtship and a two-year engagement, was a special and beautiful sight that all on hand were lucky enough to witness.

The weekend began with a rehearsal dinner on the rooftop deck of The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center in downtown Austin. The family feeling was felt throughout as the groom’s mother Camilla, an interior designer, planned every detail – from the décor to the floral to the food – creating a uniquely Austin experience. The gathering of approximately one hundred family and close friends from out of town against the backdrop of the city’s skyline featured iconic local foods including Salt Lick Barbecue, Maudie’s, and Natalie’s favorite: Amy’s Ice Cream.



David Cavan and Sam Strasser





On the day of the wedding, the bride made her entrance into the chapel wearing a stunning Isabelle Armstrong gown on the arm of her father. As kismet would have it, she learned the dress was named “The Natalia.” The day was even more special as the bride’s grandmother, suffering from Alzheimer’s, was able to enjoy the day’s festivities with the support of many family members. After the exchanging of vows was performed by Sam’s grandfather, David Cavan (who became ordained specifically to conduct the ceremony), guests went to the bride’s family home for the wedding reception. The party began with cocktails poolside before heading over to the custom tent erected on the tennis court where the event planner, Caplan Miller and floral designer David Kurio created an intimately romantic space full of white, lavender, silver and gray hues, resulting in a glamorous environment for the families and several hundred guests to enjoy the special event.

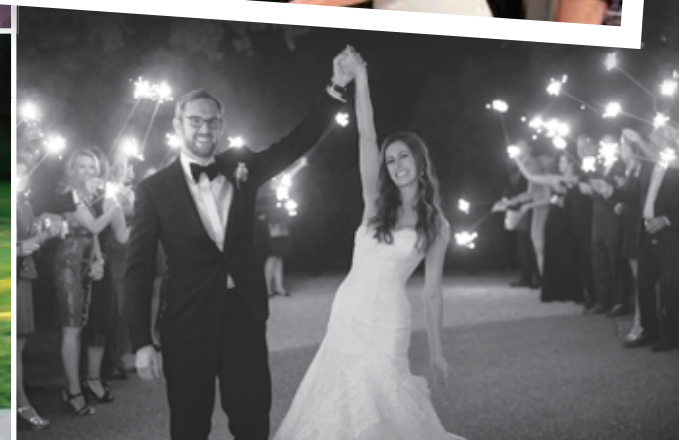


The family touches of the bride and groom were on full display during the reception including a sibling-rap written by the bride’s sister and maid of honor Olivia “Lulu” Jones, and various personalized food-stations that consisted of an entirely gluten-free menu. The groom designed a special monogram for the festivities, which was featured on the cigars, hand-rolled in an onsite cigar bar, specially for the occasion.



As for the most memorable moments of the day, the groom Sam shares, “That moment the doors opened and Natalie walked down the aisle. As soon as the doors swung open, I saw her eyes look directly at mine, and everything just stopped. I had an overwhelming sense of joy and a sensation of calm unlike I really had ever felt with the assurance in my decision.”

After the wedding, the bride and groom traveled to California’s Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur for what the couple aptly called a “mini-moon,” as they are currently planning a future honeymoon in the South Pacific. The couple currently resides in Santa Monica, California, where Natalie is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Mount Saint Mary’s University and Sam is the founder and COO of WeezLabs, a mobile app and web development company. **S**





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Destination: *Love*

Nicola Bathie Weds Michael McLaughlin In England

By Alison Elberger Photography by Andrew Coulter

IT WAS A MAGNIFICENT EVENING IN THE CATHEDRAL room of the Bovey Castle where Nicola Bathie of San Antonio, daughter of Vivienne and Chris Bathie, wed Michael McLaughlin of San Antonio, son of Vicki and John McLaughlin. Their romance began when the couple met when the bride's best friend was dating the groom's twin brother. They had dated for seven years before this beautiful weekend became the conclusion to their eleven-month engagement. An ever-so-classic evening, the wedding ceremony was followed with a seated reception dinner.

The bride is British and spent time studying in England, one of many reasons England was chosen as the wedding's destination. In fact, the bride recalls the first time the groom told her he loved her was when she was studying in England and he was in Madrid. The bride's grandparents lived in Dorset, England, very close to where the wedding took place, and the bride's parents were also married

in England, making Bovey Castle in Devon the perfect place for the couple to exchange their vows. The destination event was magical with blue sunny skies the entire weekend. The castle's cathedral room accommodated the couple's 130 guests, most of which were Americans who flew across the pond for the occasion.

The bride wore Vera Wang and was adorned with a special touch from her mother's diamond flower earrings. The bride's maid of honor was Julianna Bathie, with Claire Cavender, Hellie Hamilton, Shelby Smith, Brittany Blonkvist, Emily Honigblum, Emma Altgelt, and Bonnie McLaughlin serving as attendants. The groom's best man was Matthew McLaughlin, with Alex Bathie, Sebastian Bathie, Evan Golden, Charlie Fuhmann, Spencer Lewis, Brady Blonkvist, Tad Brittingham, and George Nunnley serving as groomsman. The ceremony was especially endearing when the bride's grandparents gave a heartfelt speech.



Zach Rymer, Tad Brittingham, Sebastian Bathie, George Nunnellely, Charlie Fuhmann, Brady Blonkvist, Matthew McLaughlin, Michael and Nicola McLaughlin, Alex Bathie, Evan Golden, Cullen Wernette, Spencer Lewis, John Dobson and Dub Yarborough





Vera Wang Wedding Dress Details
Nicola Bathie McLaughlin



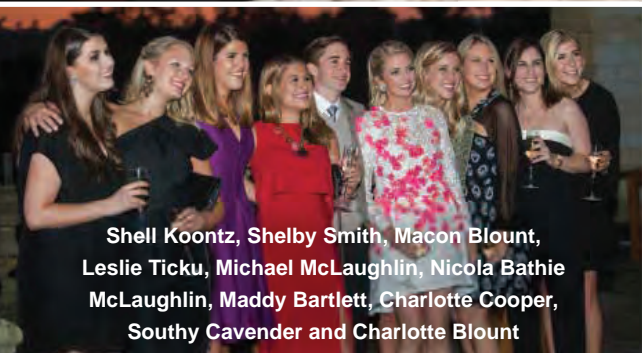


The reception was held in The Great Western Dining Room and was catered by the Bovey Castle Hotel. The color theme was a classic yet chic all white, along with a touch of light pink. Lynn Huntress planned the event, and Going Green did the floral decor. The cake was the English traditional fruitcake with flowers in between its layers. Introduced by Rick Cavender, the reception highlighted the newlyweds' first dance as well as the father-daughter dance.



The couple drove away in the bride's uncle's vintage 1933 Aston Martin Lagonda that he drove away in at his own wedding. The entire weekend of festivities was "something out of a storybook," as the groom mused, and concluded with an after party that went all night long.

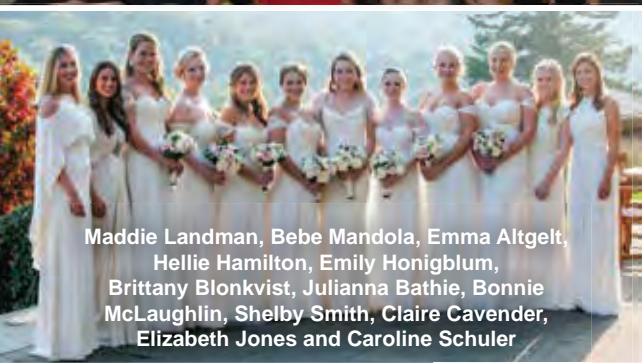
The bride was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and was raised in San Antonio. She graduated from Texas Christian University and is currently a jewelry and interior designer. The groom is from San Antonio and graduated from Auburn University. He is currently employed at Capital Group American Funds. The bride and groom spent their honeymoon in South Africa, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, and Singita Bolders. They love playing tennis, hosting family BBQ's, attending art galleries and performances, and now reside in San Antonio. [S](#)



Shell Koontz, Shelby Smith, Macon Blount, Leslie Ticku, Michael McLaughlin, Nicola Bathie McLaughlin, Maddy Bartlett, Charlotte Cooper, Southy Cavender and Charlotte Blount



Jack and Mona Hancock, Bonnie McLaughlin, Matthew McLaughlin, John and Vicki McLaughlin, Michael and Nicola McLaughlin, Chris and Vivienne Bathie, Jim and Pat Weller, Sebastian Bathie, Julianna Bathie and Alex Bathie



Maddie Landman, Bebe Mandola, Emma Altgelt, Hellie Hamilton, Emily Honigblum, Brittany Blonkvist, Julianna Bathie, Bonnie McLaughlin, Shelby Smith, Claire Cavender, Elizabeth Jones and Caroline Schuler



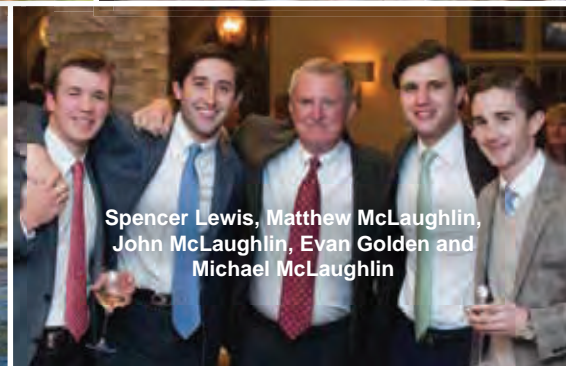
Vivienne Bathie



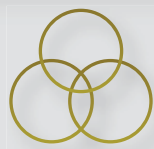
Vicki McLaughlin



Pat Weller, Vivienne Bathie, Chris Bathie, Nicola and Michael McLaughlin



Spencer Lewis, Matthew McLaughlin, John McLaughlin, Evan Golden and Michael McLaughlin



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID SIXT



Fay Fitzsimons, Burkely Fitzsimons and Kate Fitzsimons



Robin Wombwell, Burkley Fitzsimons and John Wombwell





Fay Fitzsimons, Kate Fitzsimons, Stewart Wombwell, John Wombwell, Robin Wombwell, Burkley Fitzsimons, Jonny Fitzsimons, Blair Fitzsimons and Joseph Fitzsimons



Sita Francis, Burkley and Jonathan Fitzsimons & Leo Clark



All This Love

Burkley Wombwell Weds Jonathan Fitzsimons In Houston

By Alison Elberger Photography by Chris Bailey

IT WAS AN ELEGANT EVENING WHEN BURKLEY ANNE Wombwell, daughter of Robin and John Wombwell of Houston, wed Jonathan Calvert Fitzsimons, son of Blair and Joseph Fitzsimons of San Antonio. St. John the Divine Church was blooming with greenery and white roses for the perfect wedding ceremony. The bride was baptized and spent time her entire life at the church, which accommodated 700 guests to witness the marriage and conclusion of the couple's ten-month engagement.

In an elegant mood, glowing candles lined the aisle and ledges along the side of the church walls for a beautiful event planned by Richard Flowers of the Events Company. The bride wore an Oscar de la Renta dress and veil, along with earrings borrowed from her mother. The ivory gown of rose Chantilly lace featured a scalloped V-neck and hand-embroidered petals and beadwork. The bride complimented her look with a two tier circular veil trimmed with organza created

by the designer. She carried a garden style bouquet of white and blush roses with assorted echeverias. The Houston Boys Choir sang during the ceremony along with a thoughtful and personal homily from the church's Reverend Douglas W. Richnow who presided over the double ring ceremony.

The bride's maid of honor was Holly Katharine Hughes, with Fay Carrigan Fitzsimons, Katherine Burgwin Fitzsimons, Christina Attie Ballantyne, Constance McFerran Bushong, Hallie Easter Crawford, Clayton Michelle Crum, Claire Jones Davis, Grace Hobby Grundy, and Allegra Elizabeth McCarthy Pitt as attendants. The best man was the groom's cousin Anson Howard, with John Stewart Wombwell, Henry Kleberg Johnson, Henry Wilson Maclin, IV, John Frederick Nash, Jack Saunders Reagan, Jonathon Roger Schneider, Matthew Mitchell White, Benjamin Ross Thamer, and Taylor Reinhart as groomsmen.





On the eve of the wedding, the parents of the groom hosted a rehearsal dinner at The Coronado Club. After the wedding ceremony, the reception took place at Houston Country Club. It was a wintry and ethereal evening with a color theme of mostly white with a hint of a dusty blue. Big Blast and the Party Masters entertained the couple and their guests throughout the night. The Can't Hardly Play Boys were also featured for their country music at the reception. Marlene Romero made a white amaretto wedding cake for the bride. The groom's cake was a rich chocolate ganache cake that featured the ranch brand and his favorite pair of cowboy boots, no surprise because of his love for riding horses and his time spent on his family's ranch. In fact, on the day the groom proposed, the couple was riding horses together with their families awaiting them to have champagne and celebrate.

The bride attended the University of Texas for both undergraduate school and law school. The groom graduated from Texas A&M University. He grew up on his family's ranch outside of Carrizo Springs for most of his childhood before moving to San Antonio. For their honeymoon, the newlyweds wanted to travel somewhere that neither of them had ever been, so they jetted to Australia and New Zealand where they had the time of their life. They now reside in San Antonio. S



Suzanne Negley, Burkley Fitzsimons, Bonnie Chumbley and Alice Johnson



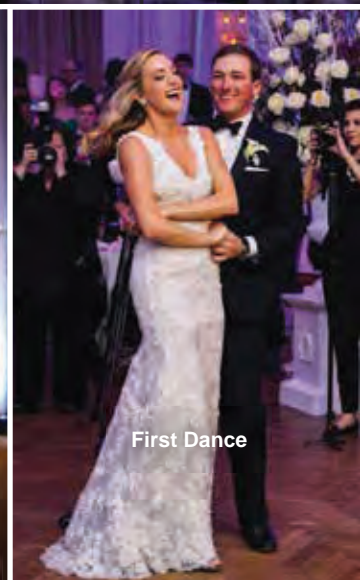
J. Hugh Liedke, Caldwell Flores, Henry Dodd, Wilson Griffith and Stevie Pitt



Lindsey Dutton Lomax, Walter Simpson, Mattie Dutton Simpson, Ada Osborn and Annie Daugherty



Jenny Hancock Ware, Hannah Heighten, Peyton Blackwell, Margaret Wolcott, Starla Terry and Margaret Rudd



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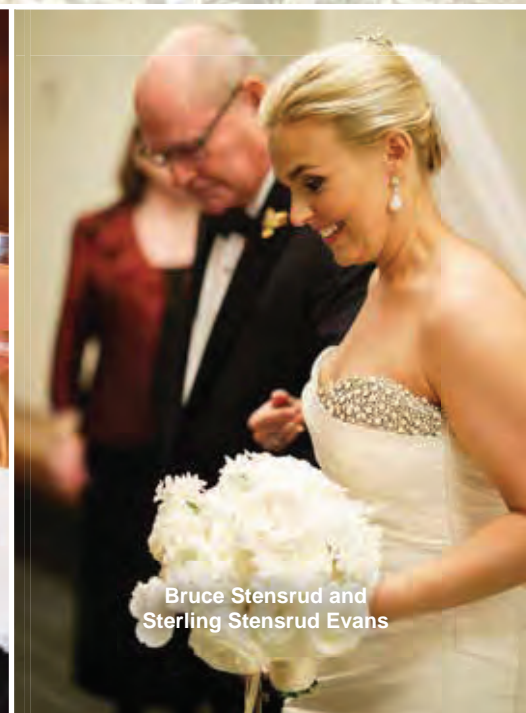
Sterling Stensrud And Rob Evans Marry In Dallas

By Jake Gaines Photography by Stephen Karlisch

IT WAS A PERFECT SETTING WHEN STERLING STENSRUD OF DALLAS, the daughter of Vicki and Bruce Stensrud, and Rob Evans of Houston, the son of Linda and Mark Evans were joined in marriage at Highland Park Methodist Church. The minister who presided was Reverend Thomas J. Pace, III, from the couple's new home church in Houston, St. Luke's United Methodist. The grand ceremony had the Texas Boys Choir leading the processional and also singing four numbers with the Dallas String Quartet.

Since the bride was from Dallas, the couple and their families chose the city for the nuptial festivities. A downtown view at the Crescent Club at the Crescent Hotel served as the backdrop for the rehearsal dinner of 120 guests, while the entire Mansion on Turtle Creek was the venue for the reception of 500. The color theme was a chic coloration of rose gold with blush, amongst the neutral palette of pinks, beiges and antique rose. A tent from the front lawn leading to the terrace provided the venue for the stunning reception site that was bathed in a golden glow.

The bride had 14 bridesmaids, dressed in long strapless Monique Lhuillier gowns, along with seven house party attendants, with the couple's three nieces serving as flower girls. Allie Cole Stensrud served as matron of honor, with Alexandra Besing, Catherine Branch, Rebecca Brown, Christin Brown, Jayne Dale, Allison Evans, Emily George, Molly O'Donnel, Elizabeth Mann, Mackenzie Moussa, Caroline Richards, Katherine Stensrud and Margaret Zimmerman. The groom had 18 groomsmen and 12 ushers: William Jarvis



Bruce Stensrud and Sterling Stensrud Evans



Vicki Stensrud and Sterling Stensrud Evans





Evans was the Best Man, with Richard Beeler, Sterling Curry, Robert Davis, George Dodd, Michael George, John Stavinoha, Taylor Stensrud, Justin Stensrud, Brucker Stensrud, Hunter Stensrud, Trevor Tamlyn, Lawson Gow, Peter Guffey, Robert Mann, Billy O'Neil, Luke Phillips and John Wallace.

Sterling wore a custom couture wedding gown design of silk faille with a modern twist that was designed by Nardos Imam of Nardos Design. The elaborate train, when bustled, created additional architecture, while the gown's sparkle was from moonstone Swarovski crystals set in rose gold, beautifully accented by a silk tulle veil. A set of moonstone and diamond drop earrings, a wedding gift from her parents, completed the ensemble.

The wedding event planner, Sara Fay Egan and Jackson Durham Florals and Event design, led the creation of the magical weekend. The cake, a highlight of the evening within the thousands of flowers, greenery and candles, had seven graduated tiers decorated in rose gold with the couple's monogram, which was used throughout the stationery and invitation suite. The cocktails and champagne flowed, with cuisine from six stations of specialty food, including many Mansion favorites like their famous tortilla soup. The band, Jessie's Girls from Atlanta, changed costumes throughout their performance for the evening that went into the wee hours with the after party in the Mansion Bar.

The couple are both graduates from the University of Texas and love their strong ties to the state. The bride is a teacher at River Oaks Baptist School and the groom is an associate at Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors. The couple spent their honeymoon in San Francisco, Napa Valley and Bora Bora. [S](#)



Texas Boys Choir

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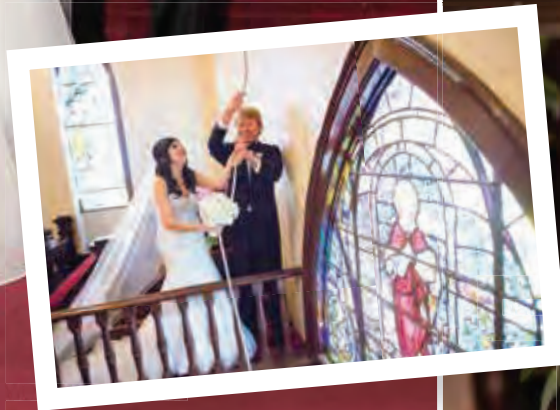
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Rehearsal Dinner



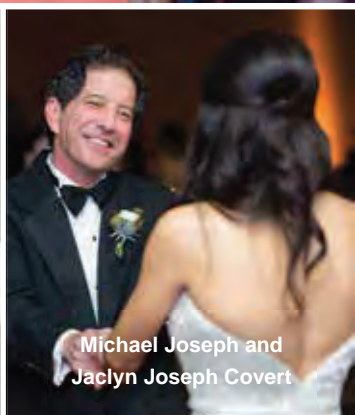
Best of my Love

The Elegant Austin Nuptials Of Jaclyn Joseph And Conley Covert

By Kelsey Goldberg Photography by Debra Gulbas Photography



JACLYN CHRISTINE JOSEPH, DAUGHTER OF MICHAEL AND MYRIAM Joseph, and Conley Anderson Covert, son of Clark Covert and Melinda Covert, tied the knot in an enchanting ceremony held at St. David's Episcopal Church surrounded by several generations of Austinite family and friends. The groom popped the question, amidst much planning, in a surprise gathering in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.



Michael Joseph and Jaclyn Joseph Covert

The rehearsal dinner, hosted by the groom's family, was on the second floor patio of The Stephen F. Austin Hotel, where the couple captured their vision of romance with the stylish influence of their love of Mexico. The night was set with one uninterrupted long table set for 100 guests that expanded along the entire length of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel Balcony. Adding to the romance of the evening, there were 400 red lit-candles lined down the center of the extensive table. The elegant seated dinner, catered by the hotel, was placed overlooking the Paramount Theatre and Congress Avenue.

Dinner set the stage for a romantic weekend of festivities. The wedding ceremony at St. David's Episcopal Church was especially touching as Conley was baptized and confirmed in this church and the new couple was fortunate enough to get to ring the church bell after the ceremony. Jaclyn looked stunning, with tears of joy down her face as she walked down the aisle wearing the exact same veil that her sister Juliana wore on her special day. She also held a special bouquet, adorned with a cameo brooch from her maternal grandmother. She had two maids of honor, her sisters Jennifer Joseph and Juliana Schlichting, with Cameron Covert, Chelsea Rigney, Brooke Peterson, Kelsey Lawrence, Michelle Freres, Lexi Wier, Taylor Story, Parrish Williams, Bayley Bash, Michelle Hood, and Abby Goodman served as attendants. The groom's best man was his father Clark Covert, with Spencer Palmer, Leif Johnson, Anthony Gallo, Harrison Giles, David Standefer, John Mason Carter Jr., Jonathan Maki, Will Hardeman, Justin Bayne, Chris Skyles, Shawn Walker, and Blake Berns serving as groomsmen.



Michael and Myriam Joseph, Jaclyn and Conley Covert, Melinda Covert and Clark Covert





Renee Downer, Maryann Joseph & Michael and Myriam Joseph

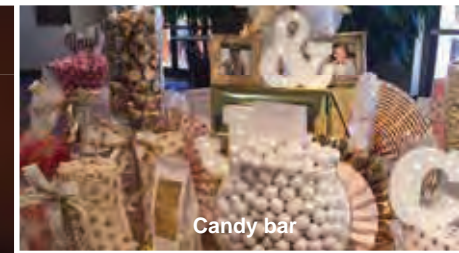
The extraordinary celebrations flourished with the reception at the Four Seasons Hotel, with the presence of the brilliant colors of mauve and champagne continuing throughout the party and all of the décor. Planned by the bride's parents Myriam and Michael Joseph, the festivities had 400 guests dancing the night away with the newlyweds. During the cocktail hour, guests were encouraged to try Jaclyn's specialty cocktail the "French Kiss" as well as Conley's, the "Covert Libre". The venue also added some customary Lebanese food during this hor d'oeuvres portion, closely following the tradition of the bride's family heritage and the couple's favorite food.

The night continued with a seated dinner and the band JumpStart, which brought all of the enthusiastic guests to their feet. Women were even offered gold ballet slippers of their size to extend their night on the dance floor in comfort. For those with a sweet tooth, a striking candy bar created by Jill Beerman hit the spot throughout the evening. The foral décor was created by Mary Frances of BellaBloom Couture Florals. The videographer for the evening was Will Herrington at Photohouse. Following the event, the party continued in The San Jacinto Room at the hotel where the red-themed room was filled with an open bar, a dance floor, comfy couch lounge areas, and another sensational musical set by Shane Smith & The Saints.

Following the spectacular wedding weekend filled with family, friends, and festivities, the newlyweds knew they wanted a relaxing honeymoon destination with a beach, somewhere different than they had been before. They were elated with their choice of the scenic Nicaragua beach at the gorgeous Mukul Resort. The couple now resides in their hometown of Austin, where they practice law and real estate, and enjoy live music, traveling, and adventures around town. S



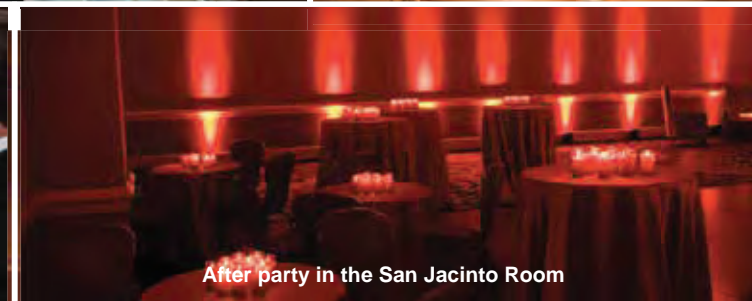
Conley Covert and Melinda Covert



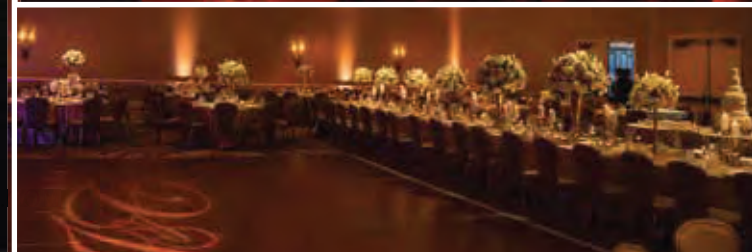
Candy bar



Groom's cake



After party in the San Jacinto Room

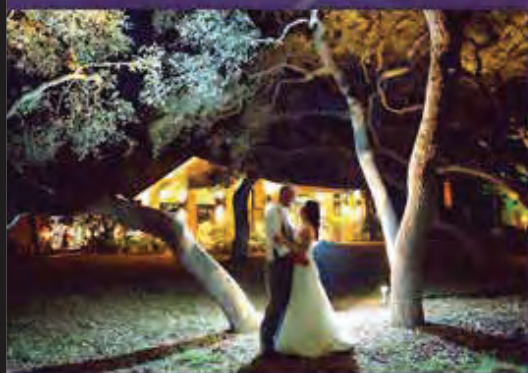




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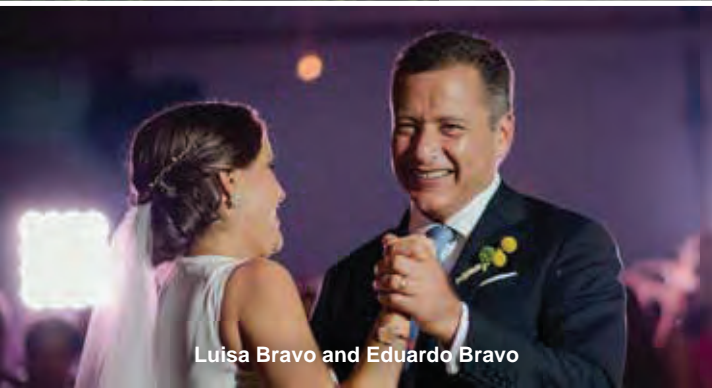
Luisa Bravo And José Sierra Marry In Mexico

By Jonathan Spindel Photography by Arturo González



LUISA BRAVO, THE DAUGHTER OF LUISA PULIDO AND EDUARDO Bravo, and José Sierra, son of Paloma Candia and Alberto Sierra, were recently joined in marriage in Santa María Tonatzintla, in Cholula, Puebla. Inspired by their shared passion for design and decoration, the couple selected a rustic, indigenous baroque church for their ceremony. The church's rare, beautiful architecture set the stunning stage for the couple's special moment with their families.

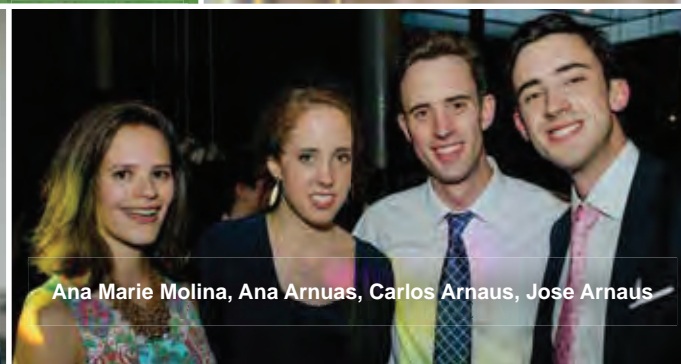
The couple first met during high school, but went their separate ways – Luisa studied interior design at University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, and José studied film at Escola Superior de Cinema i Audiovisuals de Catalunya in Spain – but they found each other again and rekindled their relationship. José captivated Luisa with his sense of humor, and there has never been a dull moment, always making her laugh. Bonding over a love of movies, music, and travel, they often explore small towns near Mexico City, where they enjoy visiting bazaars of local jewelry, furniture and accessories.



Luisa Bravo and Eduardo Bravo

For the ceremony, adorned in a vintage, verdant theme in white and green, the church was an artistic masterpiece. Blooming with flowers designed by Paola Jimenez of Banevents, the blossoms were pristine white, accompanied by bursts of lively green plants.

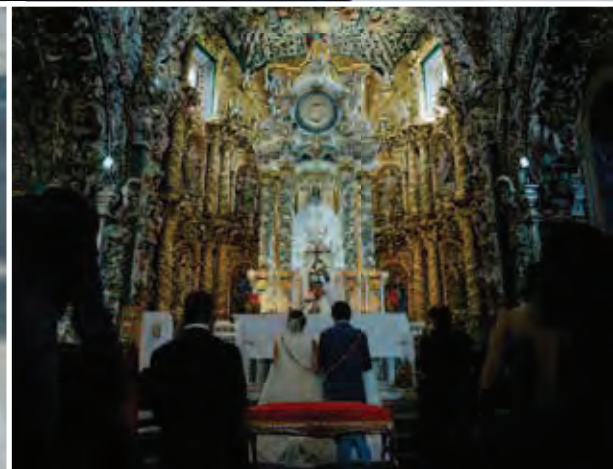
Eschewing the traditional wedding dress style, Luisa wore a striking design by Needle and Thread from the BHLDN boutique. The colors suited the theme perfectly, as well as the bride's personality and style. The bride's cousins Anabel and Leire Reinking served as bridesmaids, and many younger members of the family participated as well, from

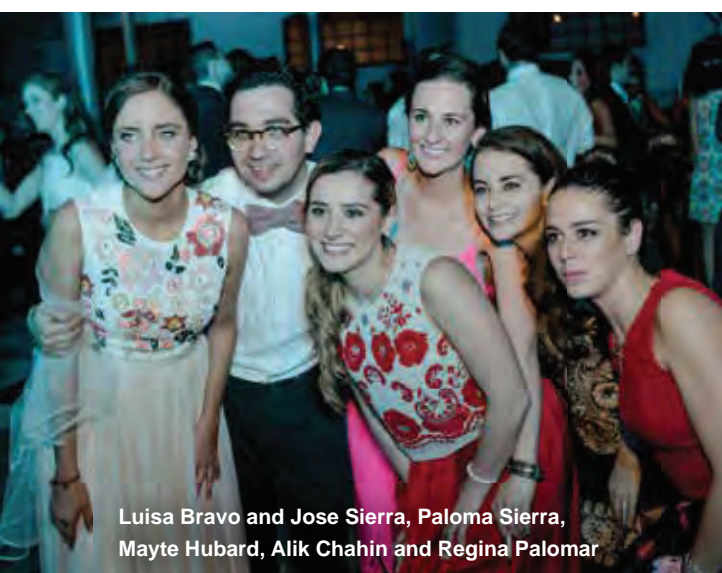


Ana Marie Molina, Ana Arnuas, Carlos Arnau, Jose Arnau



Bosco Sierra, Ana Cristina Aliaga, Alberto Sierra,
Alvaro Sierra, Santiago Sierra, José Ricardo Merino,
Paloma Sierra, Alberto Sierra, Paloma Sierra,
Jose Sierra and Luisa Bravo, Luisa Bravo,
Eduardo Bravo, Juan Pablo Bravo and Eduardo Bravo





Luisa Bravo and Jose Sierra, Paloma Sierra, Mayte Hubbard, Alik Chahin and Regina Palomar



Eduardo Bravo, Luisa Bravo, Jose Sierra, Luisa Bravo, Eduardo Bravo and Juan Pablo Bravo

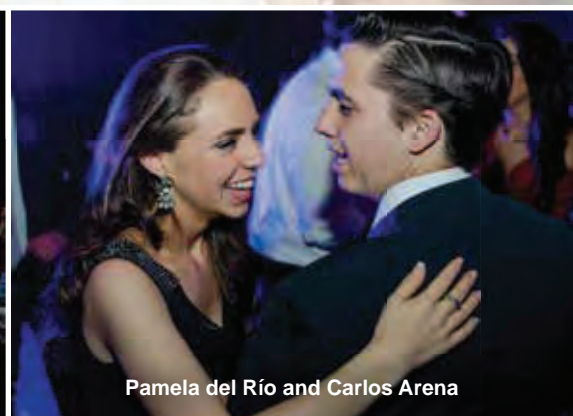
presenting the bouquet, to bearing the wedding rings, and reading passages during the ceremony. The ceremony also featured a children's choir who sang in the indigenous Nahuatl language as the bride walked down the aisle.

In a whimsical turn, the bride and groom surprised their families with traditional Mexican masks of animals crafted by a local Mexican artisan, and made everyone wear the masks for a family picture. "Nobody expected something like that, and the results were amazing pictures! It made us all laugh," Luisa recalls. Of all the special moments, the bride remembers sharing a dance to The Beach Boys' *God Only Knows* with her father, Eduardo Bravo. And of course, the bouquet, which landed in the hands of one of Luisa's close cousins.

Keeping with the theme of vintage discoveries, the reception took place on the grounds of *Fabrica La Carolina*, a historical area and unique architectural space. The bride and groom first took their civil vows in the colonial house, a beautiful vintage building. Afterward, guests enjoyed cocktails in the expansive outdoor esplanade, then moved into the interior of the former factory, which was transformed into an opulent banquet hall. After a seated dinner of Mexican high cuisine, guests moved to the dance floor where they danced late into the night to the tunes of DJ Boda. The dance floor was always full, and guests enjoyed sweet treats and posed for the photo booth, which captured the party's joyous energy for future memories.

After the wedding the couple retreated to Chiapas, Mexico for their honeymoon, where they discovered unbelievably scenic landscapes, beautiful traditional towns, and authentic artisanal crafts. With so much to learn and discover, they began their married life enjoying the passions that brought them together.

They now reside in Mexico City, where Luisa works in the field of interior design, and José works as a film director. Keeping with their passion for getting to know Mexico, they soon plan to embark on vacation in Oaxaca, Mexico, and doubtless many more adventures in their future together. **S**



Pamela del Río and Carlos Arena



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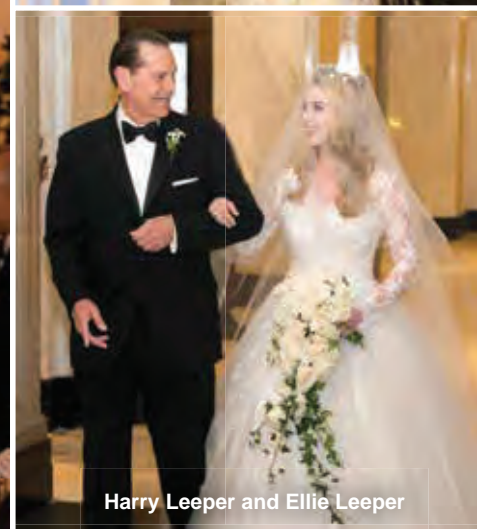
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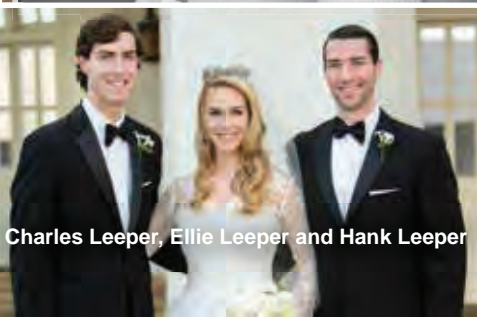
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Harry Leeper and Ellie Leeper



Dr. Marissa McDonnell, Ellie Leeper and Vanessa Bruder



Charles Leeper, Ellie Leeper and Hank Leeper



Zach Summers, Michael Dacres, Kyle Schwarz, Dan Morrison, Zach Evett, Anthony Pagano and Nate Evett



Harry and Rossana Leeper



I Love You For Sentimental Reasons

Ellie Leeper And Dan Morrison Wed In San Antonio

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography by David Sixt

THEY MET OVER MUSIC AND THE REST, AS THEY say, is history. When Ellie Leeper of San Antonio, the daughter of Rossana and Harry Leeper, and Dan Morrison of Chicago, the son of Judy and David Morrison, started their married life in front of family and friends, their love of the performing arts also joined them in their new lives together:

Set up on a blind date by Claudia Zapata Elliott and her San Antonio Spur player legend husband Sean Elliott, surprise would be a theme for the couple. In fact, Dan asked Ellie to marry him at his sister, Jennifer Morrison's home in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve as he played the piano and sang John Legend's love ballad, *All of Me*.

The couple's love of tradition inspired the 1940s Old Hollywood-meets-New York glamour-filled wedding weekend with the coloration theme of abundant hues of gold, pink and white. The rehearsal dinner and welcome party was held

for family and close friends from out of town at the Hotel Emma, where the warm toasts all around set the tone of the festivities.

At the wedding, the bride was escorted down the aisle by her father. Dressed in her grandmother Maria Sollitto's wedding gown worn initially in 1954, and subsequently by the women of their family, the white silk taffeta and tulle hoop-skirted dress with lace, pearl and crystal accents and was refurbished by Angelina Mata in San Antonio.

The St. Anthony Hotel, the city's fabled grand dame hotel reminiscent of The Plaza in Manhattan, provided a resplendent backdrop for the nuptials that were exchanged in front of the fireplace in the venue's famed Peacock Alley. The bride was accompanied by her attendants, maid of honor Satchie Seidlits and man of honor Brandon Mills, along with bridesmaids Jennifer Morrison, Julia Morrison Summers, Allison Reyes, Ashley Lindsey and Sage Blount. Bridesmaid Julia



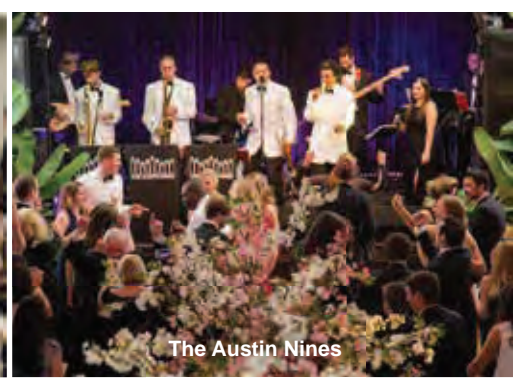
Julia Morrison Summers, Dan Morrison, Judy and Dave Morrison & Jennifer Morrison



Jennifer Morrison, Ashley Lindsey, Sage Blount, Ellie Summers, Julia Morrison Summers, Brandon Mills, Ellie Leeper, Satchie Seidlits and Allison Reyes



Mariachi Azteca de America



The Austin Nines



Rick and Sherry Leeper



Claudia Elliott & Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar and Ramiro Salazar



Kelly Beevers, Aurora Baumgartner, Annlyn Osborn, Cameron Redding, Katie Reynolds and Taso Comanescu



Nancy Gary, Sara Marshall and MaryJo Razook



Bruce and Alethea Bugg, Henry Munoz, Alice Foultz and Kyle Ferari

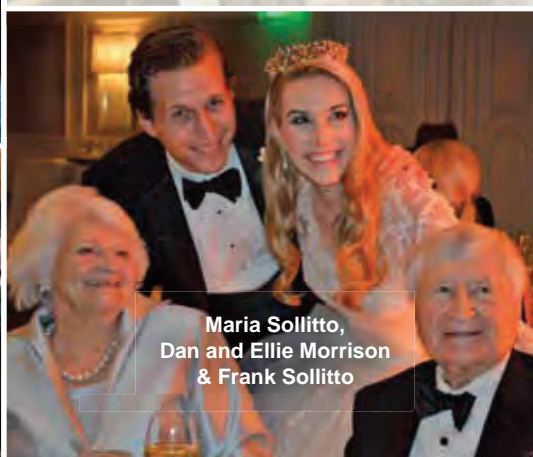
Morrison Summers, the groom's sister, also sang the aria of *The Lord's Prayer* during the ceremony. The groom was attired in black tie, as was his best man Kyle Schwarz and groomsmen Nate Evett, Zach Evett, Zach Summers, Anthony Pagano and Michael Dacres, along with his ushers, the bride's brothers, Hank Leeper and Charles Leeper and the groom's cousins, Brandon Billbrey and Ryan Brettmann. Guests included the couple's extended families and friends from across Texas, Los Angeles, Chicago, Connecticut, Washington D.C. and New York City.

Fittingly, the evening's music was a prominent theme throughout the ceremony and reception. Guests arrived as the couple's friend and world-touring Spanish classical guitarist Taso Comanescu from Los Angeles set the mood. The ceremony, officiated by family friend Reverend Arden Dorn, began with a regal processional by a brass quintet that played throughout, and was followed during cocktail hour by both a violinist and a pianist who graced the keys of The St. Anthony's famous antique Steinway. Then the Mariachis Azteca de America heralded the newlywed's arrival into the reception in the Anacacho Ballroom, while the Austin Nines led by David Young played the evening's dinner and dancing music. The couple and their parents worked closely with Young to create the mood of a bygone supper club complete with white dinner jacket-clad band members and branded bandstands.

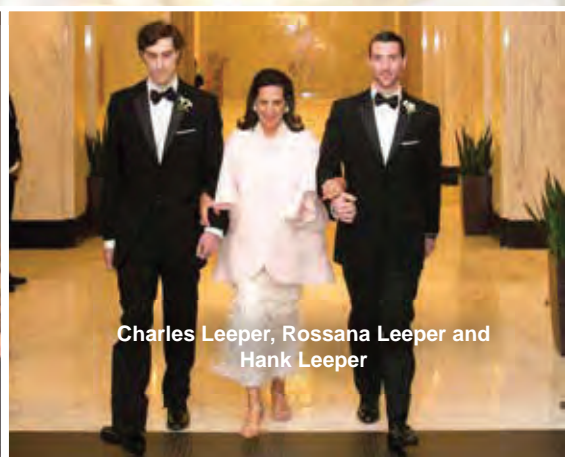
The stunning wedding and reception for the 225 guests was created and coordinated by event planner extraordinaire Richard Gallaway, while Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers expertly executed the floral inspiration. The fireplace in Peacock Alley where the vows were exchanged was enveloped in a fresh white ginestra floral garland accented with large caramel Antike garden roses. The guest tables in the ballroom were peppered with gilded Italian columns and topped with a variety of pink-hued roses, while a canopy of white and pink cherry blossom branches hovered over the head wedding table, creating a soft and romantic garden atmosphere.

The 40-foot garland of Israeli Ruscus and variegated tropical leaves dotted with pink-hued roses draped the entire length of the head wedding table to incorporate the Hollywood glamour and Manhattan sophistication into the mix of the ballroom. The band's stage was flanked by towering five-foot-tall urns that housed imported Costa Rican banana leaves crafted into tropical trees, to compliment the banana leaf table linens provided by Illusions of The RK Group. The dessert after dinner was a multi-tiered wedding cake created locally by Cakes by Cathy. After dinner and dancing, the party continued into the wee hours at the hotel's rooftop terrace overlooking the city.

The bride, a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, is the public relations manager at the Children's Rehabilitation Institute, and the groom, a graduate of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, is the director of bands at Ronald Reagan High School. They spent their tropical honeymoon at Excellence Resort Playa Mujeres in Cancun, Mexico and continue to reside in San Antonio. [S](#)



Maria Sollitto, Dan and Ellie Morrison & Frank Sollitto



Charles Leeper, Rossana Leeper and Hank Leeper

I have the:

Man

Ring

Date

Dress

Shoes

Church

Reception site

Flowers

Menu

Cake

Planner

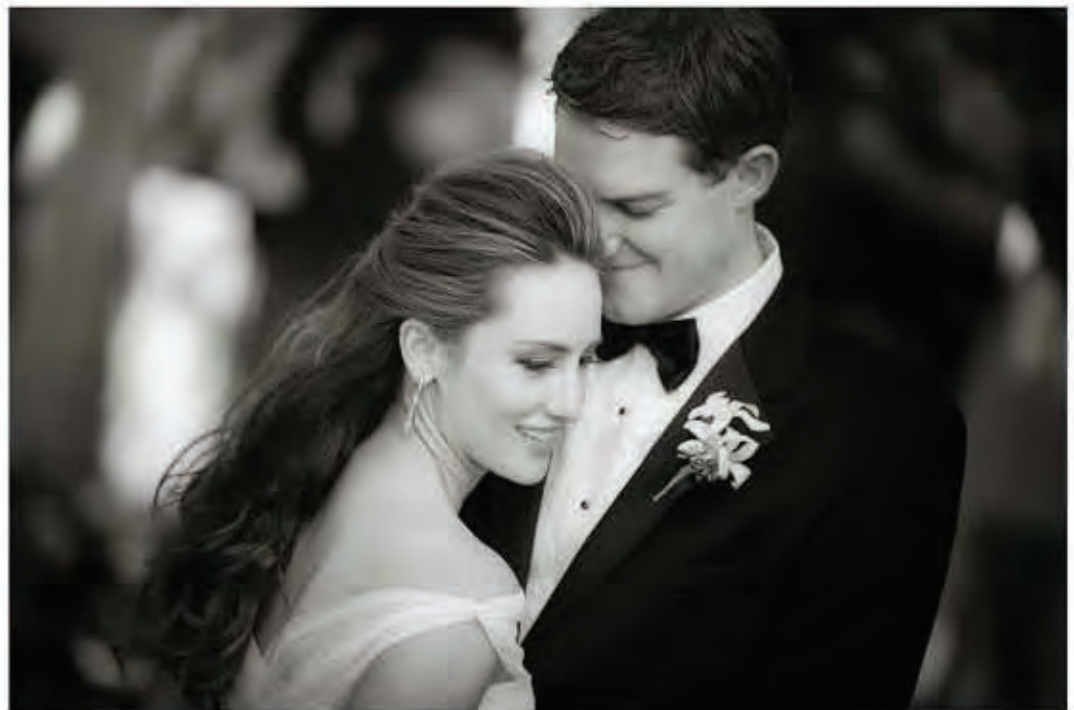
Band

Invitations

Linens

Stylists

Minister



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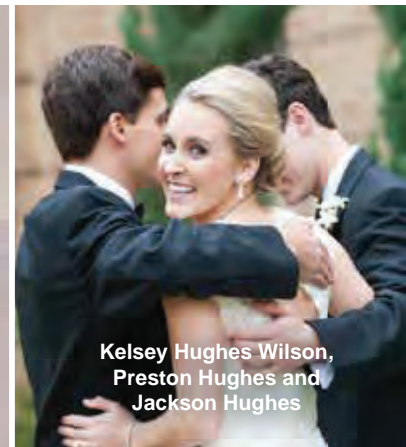
David Sixt

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It Was *Love* From The Start



Kelsey Hughes Wilson,
Preston Hughes and
Jackson Hughes

Kelsey Hughes and Grant Wilson Tie The Knot In Austin

By Kelsey Goldberg Photography by Ashley Garmon

I T WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE NIGHT, AS KELSEY Leigh Hughes daughter of Roe Sharon Hughes and granddaughter of Gail and Bob Hughes, and Grant Kimbell Wilson, son of Lauren Wilson and the late Sterling Wilson, walked down the aisle and announced their wedding vows.

The couple began their relationship in middle school, yet as Wilson was one year ahead of Hughes in school, they did not continue their relationship into high school but always remained friends. Both third generation Austinites, they each went separate ways to college: Kelsey attended the University of Oklahoma and Grant attended the University of Alabama, as well as the University of Texas at Austin. After both moving back to Austin, it was fate that they reconnected.

Spending time together, beginning with an affinity for watching *The Bachelor* on Monday nights, the couple never turned back. They dated for a year and a half when Wilson popped the question on Christmas night in Aspen with his family.

The wedding weekend began with the rehearsal dinner at the Headliner's Club of Austin with over 100 guests enjoying the scenery and the decorations of white floral magic along with grand candelabras. The celebration grew the next night as the wedding ceremony took place at the beautiful Central Christian Church in downtown Austin, where the room was again filled with white flowers and candles to give an old European church feel with so much elegance. Carly Ray was the maid of honor, with Caroline Baizer,





Gail Hughes, Roe Sharon Hughes, Kelsey and Grant Wilson, Preston Hughes and Jackson Hughes



Lauren Springer, Abigail Finch, and Catherine Chlebowski. Bo Seamunds served as best man, with Dillon Houstoun, Taylor Wilson, Will Scharnberg, and Daniel Cunningham as groomsmen.

The bride looked stunning walking down the aisle with her brothers on each side of her; she wore Jimmy Choo shoes, a pink sapphire and diamond ring given as a birthday gift by her mother and grandmother, and a diamond bracelet borrowed from her mother. Lucy Nazro, former headmaster at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, and her husband led the intimate ceremony, which made it even more touching for the couple as they had gone to school at St. Andrew's together growing up. The service was nothing short of magical.

The festivities followed at the Four Seasons, with the evening's events designed by Victoria Hentrich of Creative Consultants with help from floral designer David Kurio, who together made the couple's vision of "traditional but edgy" become a reality. The theme of the sophisticated evening was black and gold with the special addition of a life-size horse statue as the photo backdrop, representing the bride's great personal passion for all things equestrian. It was a grand soiree for the nearly 500 guests to enjoy. The dinner was served in stations, embodying all of the couple's favorite types of food on small plates in order for guests to taste a little bit of everything. Scott Calvert with The Cake Plate designed the cakes for the celebration. To top the night off, the exceptional band Icehouse kept the party going until after 1 AM and made sure that there was never an empty spot on the dance floor. The night could not have been more perfect for the newlyweds.

After the picturesque weekend, the couple flew off to Bangkok, Thailand for their honeymoon, which was planned by Grant, ever the experienced traveler. They stayed in the luxurious destination for several days and then flew to Chiang Mai where they spent a day at an elephant sanctuary. The new couple then flew off to Railay Beach in Krabi where they remained for the rest of their opulent vacation at one of the leading hotels in the world, The Rayavadee Resort. The couple resides in their hometown of Austin, where they enjoy trying new restaurants, taking their beloved dogs for walks in the park, competitive horseback riding, golf and tennis. **S**



Gail Hughes and Kelsey Hughes Wilson



Betsey and Reid Clemons & Ben and Mary Ann Frishman



Susan Armstrong, David Armstrong and Geoff Armstrong



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Artpace Gala Honors Ballroom Marfa Founders

By Jake Gaines | Photography by Greg Harrison and Cory Mendez

THE SCENE:

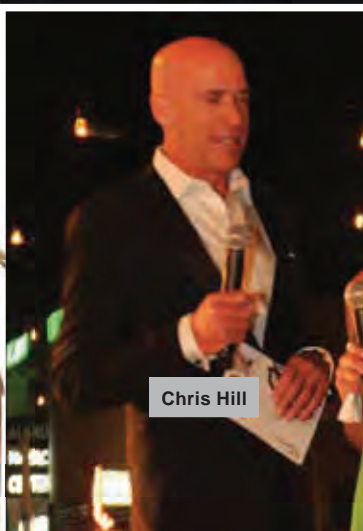
The Happening, attended by some of the most active collectors in Central and South Texas, was once again one of Artpace's signature events. It also celebrated Artpace's 21st anniversary, which occurred in January. The evening's theme, celebrated the infamous "21" Club with the glamour of Old New York with Texas flair that was inspired by the prohibition-era speakeasy. Patrons celebrated Artpace's coming of age under the stars on Main Avenue in downtown San Antonio with a night of sipping, supper, and dancing in the street.



Fairfax Dorn and Virginia Lebermann

Anna Martinez and Felix Padron

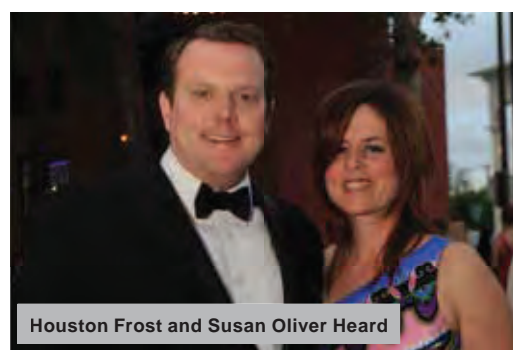
Todd and Anna Wulfe



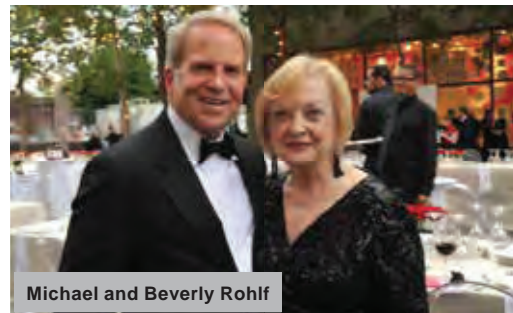
Lauren Pepping, Margaret Walker, Tim McDermott and Britt Kleberg

Chris Hill

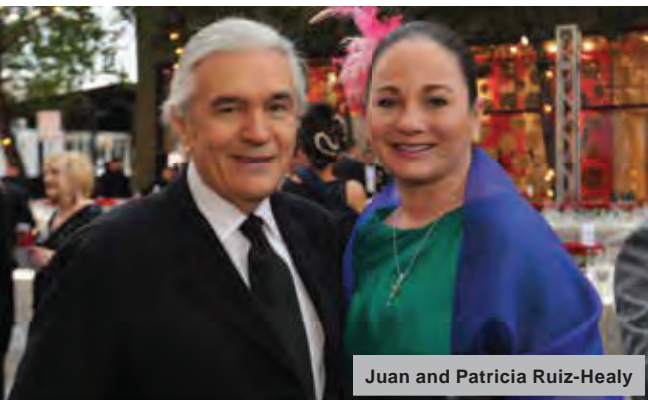
Bob and Jennifer Shemwell



Houston Frost and Susan Oliver Heard



Michael and Beverly Rohlf



Juan and Patricia Ruiz-Healy



J. Travis Capps Jr. and Lee Anthony



Pat Smothers and Anna Cursten

THE VIBE:

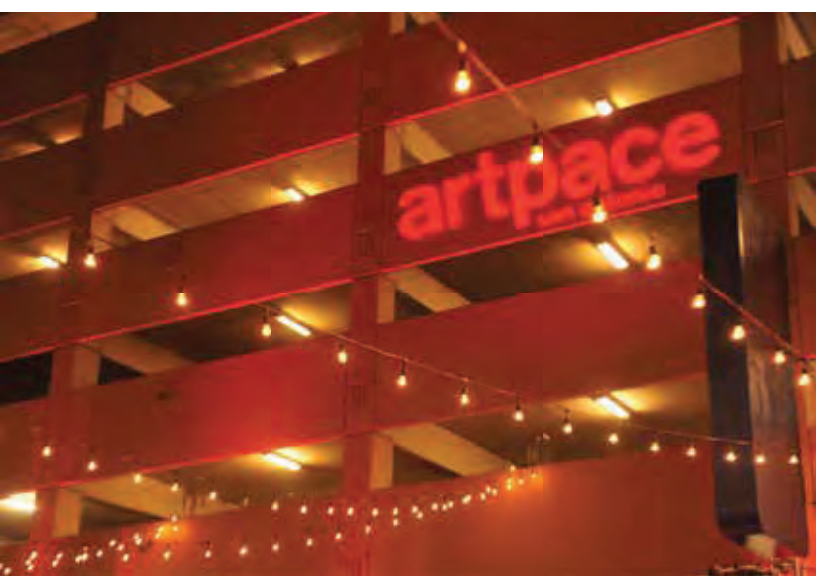
Co-chairs Anna Wulfe and Christopher C. Hill set the artful vibe as guests were welcomed to the evening's cocktail hour. The evening's honorees, Fairfax Dorn and Virginia Lebermann, the visionary founders of Ballroom Marfa, have worked to elevate Texas and Texas artists in the international contemporary art arena. Dorn and Lebermann transformed a 1920s-era dancehall into a dynamic, contemporary cultural arts space where varied perspectives and issues are explored through visual arts, film, music, and performance. The nonprofit organization is an advocate for the freedom of artistic expression and serves international, national, regional and local arts communities by supporting the work of both emerging and recognized artists. The evening was topped off with a Rooftop After Party, commemorated by the New York DJ/Violin duo The Dolls.



Kim Azar, Alice Welder and Melissa Morgan



Gloria Dilley, Alex Schenker, Miguel Dilley and Denae Schenker



Allison Reyes and Katie Reynolds

THE CAUSE:

In addition to serving as one of the season's hottest tickets in town, it also raised funds for Artpace's annual exhibitions and community programming. In keeping with the vision of its founder, Linda Pace, "Artpace nurtures the freedom to dream by supporting the creative process and engaging audiences with the most innovative art and artists from around the world."



James Danzinger, Anna Kerstens, AnaPaula Watson, Jenny Laird and Hendrik Kerstens



Lindsey and Jack Guenther



Emory Hamilton and Dr's Harriett and Ricardo Romo



Wendy Black and Michelle Schenecker



Ramiro Salazar and Xitlalt Herrera-Salazar



Richard and Carla Veliz



Alex and Sabina Begum





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Wendell Mobley and Mike Reid
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Mary Ann Heller

LIVE! LIFE!

Seton Hospital's Two Spectacular Spring Events

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Ben Porter Photography and Swendner Photography

THE SCENE: Austin's Seton Hospital recently completed the spring social season showcasing the impact Seton has on the Austin community – over 600 sociables came out to support The Celebration of Life Luncheon Benefitting The Seton Breast Care Center and the ZTA Foundation and over 1,000 Social Setters attended the EASB (Elizabeth Ann Seton Board) LIVE! TWENTY FIVE! Event on the grounds of Camp Mabry.



Terri Gruca



Donna Stockton Hicks



Venus Strawn and Chris Hendel



Cynthia Harkness, Reenie Collins, Marcia Levy and Susan Lubin



Brittany Wheeler, Patti Rogers and Perri Beathard





THE VIBE:

The Celebration of Life Luncheon, featured by KVUE news anchor Terri Gruca, featured over 200 survivors, thrivers, and fighters of breast cancer of all ages and stages of the disease and a fashion show from Neiman Marcus which provided six thematic fashion trend scenes with something for every fashion palette, including Confident Reds, Black and White, Denim Everything, Neutrals, Bold Striped and Boho Chic. Local fashion brands got into the mix as well, with Kendra Scott's pop-up shop donating 20% of its proceeds and LizaBeth Jewelry donating 50% of its proceeds to the luncheon.

EASB LIVE! TWENTY FIVE! featured an incredible evening that included a meal catered by Don Strange, a live auction that featured a week-long getaway at a private villa in San Miguel along with a trip to the 2017 Masters golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia. The fireworks continued well into the night – literally – as party-goers were treated to a surprise 30-minute pyrotechnic show to celebrate the 25th anniversary of this spring social staple, which capped off with a performance by The Bellamy Brothers and after-party entertainment by RadioStar.

THE CAUSE:

The Celebration of Life Luncheon, chaired by Reenie Collins, Cynthia Harkness, Marcia Levy and Susan Lubin with Mary Ann Heller, with Donna Stockton Hicks and Patti Rogers serving as honorary chairs, raised over \$250,000 to benefit the Seton Breast Care special projects and programs along with the ZTA Foundation to support breast cancer awareness and education nationally.

EASB LIVE! TWENTY FIVE! chaired by Elisabeth Anderson and Leslie Pitts, raised over \$1,000,000 to support the neonatal intensive care unit and mother/baby services at Seton Medical Center Austin.



Blake and Jamie Chandlee



Marc and Kailey Shatzer & Reed and Lauren Clay



Elisabeth Anderson, Taylor Harper and Lesley Pitts



Nancy Nash Harper, Lolla Page & Bob and Lutie Butler



Matt Bray, Vinson Lee, James Greenway, Kent McNeil



Molly Drought and Megan Maund



Martha Small Dyess



The Bellamy Brothers perform

BLOOMING BLOSSOMS

River Oaks Garden Club Azalea Trail Grows

By *Jake Gaines* | Photography by *Carol Junell*



THE SCENE:
Patrons of the River Oaks Garden Club turned a new leaf this year at the 81st Annual Azalea Trail Home & Garden Tour. The attendees turned out in fancy hats and pretty parasols for the three-day weekend of cocktail parties, a ribbon cutting ceremony with designer Charlotte Moss and Jane Scott Hodges, founder of Leontine Linens New Orleans, and chic tours of several Houston homes. The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, with the Bayou Bend Gardens and Rienzi, are the museums whose gardens are maintained with proceeds from the event.



Cathy Frank and Rosanna Blalock



Minnie Baird



Carmen Knapp and Kit Detering



Jane Scott Hodges, Gretchen Lahourcade, Charlotte Moss and Sarah Pitt

THE VIBE:

Rain or shine, the gardens are a sight to see. From pre-war mansions to cutting edge contemporary abodes, the homes of the trail offered a feast of florals and as a showcase of interior design for a sophisticated palette. Visitors were treated to sprays of orchids, water features, and lush lawns bordered by roses, magnolias, camellias, boxwood hedges, and yes, thousands of azaleas. The icon of the tour, the azalea, bloom fully each spring in Houston and flourish in varying shades of pink, purple, white, red, and yellow. This year a true walking trail with complimentary trollies between St John the Divine Church campus and Bayou Bend added to the festivities, along with a James Coney Island food truck and Crave cupcakes



Nancy Abendshein



Charlotte Moss and Jane Scott Hodges



Kackie Dunwoody and Chris Caudill



Sarah Eilers and Sandy Lucas



THE CAUSE:

The events were chaired by Kit Detering and Carmen Knapp. The River Oaks Garden Club was founded in 1927 and has made many contributions to the Houston community in the areas of conservation, horticulture and civic beautification. Proceeds from this year's Azalea Trail support the Bayou Bend Gardens Endowment, the annual Sadie Gwin Blackburn Environmental Seminar, and maintenance of Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics Building and Gardens. The gardens are open to the public.





Emily Steves, Sam Steves, Tres Steves, Miguel Dille, Sarah Steves, Nancy and Edward Steves, Gloria Dille and Megan Steves



Marie Brown, Andrea Brooks, Sheila Mayfield and Trisha Sinclair

MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU

Villa Finale Gala Honors Patsy Steves

By Jake Gaines | Photography by Gary Stanko

THE SCENE: Villa Finale, the only National Trust Historic site in the state of Texas and located in the King William Historic District, was the setting for a recent gala themed *Moonlight At Villa Finale*. Preservationists, architects, arts patrons, collectors, nature professionals, community leaders, and friends gathered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to present the 2016 Inaugural Walter Nold Mathis Preservation Award to Patsy Steves for her commitment to the promotion of local history and the preservation of cultural, architectural, and nature heritage, and whose vision and determination has made a positive contribution to the quality of life for current and future generations.



Rosemary Kowalski and Ruth Eilene Sullivan



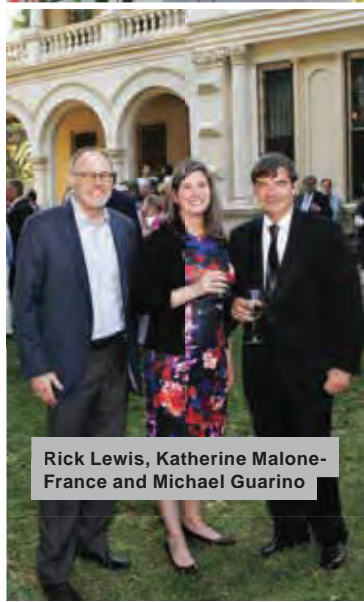
Kay and Randy Harig



Bill and Susan Hausser & Stacey and John Ferguson



Jessie Kardys, Anna Peavy and Claire English



Rick Lewis, Katherine Malone-France and Michael Guarino



John Nau & Nancy and Edward Steves



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His emphasis on minimally invasive procedures sets him apart from other cosmetic surgeons. He encourages realistic expectations while still delivering phenomenal results. From facelifts to tummy tucks to Botox to breast augmentation, Dr. Menendez is highly skilled in the art of perfecting all parts of the body. In the end, his talent and compassion will improve your body and satisfy your mind.

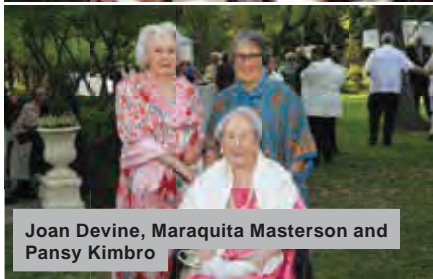


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Christy Meador and Lissa Allen



Joan Devine, Maraquita Masterson and Pansy Kimbro



Carol Karotkin



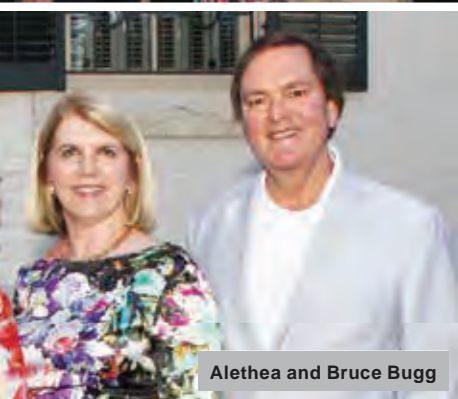
Daryl Tanner, Marshall and Jane Steves, Martha Steves & Tricia Steves



Mark and Carolyn Johnson & Charles and Cindy Huey



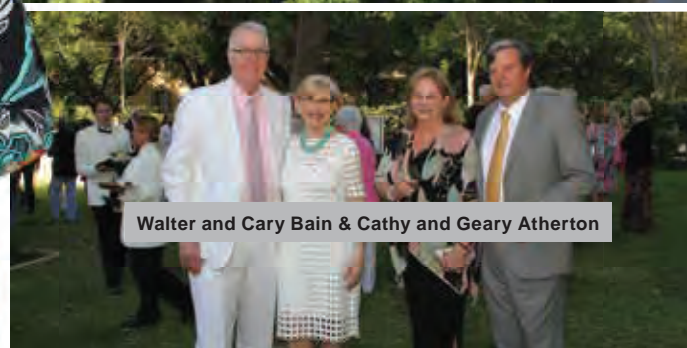
Kathy and Lionel Sosa, Mollie Zachry, Sallie Peacock and Bartell Zachry



Alethea and Bruce Bugg



Molly Drought and Susan Wise



Walter and Cary Bain & Cathy and Geary Atherton

THE VIBE:

Inspired by over 130 lions in the venue's 12,000-piece collection, the co-chairs chose 'The Lion' to represent the gala and the courageous determination required for preservation. VIP guests in festive spring attire were greeted with champagne, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres in the gardens, and 420 guests dined by moonlight in the garden along the San Antonio River with catering by Catering by Rosemary of The RK Group. Stunning glass hurricane vases bearing lion medallions, ringed with white calla lily, hydrangea, and lambs ear designs by Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers, and filled with fairy lights created a magical setting. A magnificent lion cake-sculpture created by Morsels by Josie highlighted the sumptuous dessert presentation served with brandy freezes.

THE CAUSE:

Nancy Marchbanks Steves, Gloria Steves Dilley, Sarah Hause Steves, Megan Hoffman Steves, and Emily Steves co-chaired the committee with a team of 60 mothers, daughters, and daughters-in-law to plan the gala. Villa Finale was built in 1876 on part of the original farmlands of The Alamo, and restored in the late 1960s by Walter Nold Mathis, who also spearheaded the preservation and revitalization of the King William area as well as many other preservation efforts. The mission of Villa Finale Museum and Gardens is to interpret its collections and site in order to foster an appreciation of the value of cultural heritage and historic preservation. Proceeds from the evening will support educational and cultural programming, historic preservation initiatives, and conservation at Villa Finale Museum and Gardens.

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BEST GUEST LIST

Being the ideal wedding guest is both a privilege and an art form. Here are some tips on how to do it perfectly, according to *well-experienced wedding attendee Lance Avery Morgan*

R.S.V.P.

When the multi-tiered invitation arrives, for Heaven's sake, do respond right away whether you can attend or not. Be the guest the couple can count on with your timely response. For a pre-printed response card, always include a short, personal sentence on it expressing your anticipation of the big day or reason for your regrets.

GIFTING

We're all invited to so many weddings of families and friends, so learn where the couple is registered or if the couple has a wedding website, registry information will most likely be there. Give something of substance you'd love to receive yourself, too.

WEAR & WHEN

Weddings are the way to present your best self. If the wedding is after seven o'clock, it's black tie. If before, it's cocktail dresses and suits. Remember your own personal style, yet no white outfits worn on the big day unless it's a beach wedding and even then, think pastels. Leave that to the couple in the spotlight.

HOW CEREMONIOUS

Get to the church on time, at least 30 – 40 minutes before the designated start of the ceremony, unless you want to be seated in the last row or in the balcony. If the ceremony's religious rituals are not that of yours, remain seated. Don't skip the wedding to attend just the reception. You're an honored guest, so go the whole mile with a smile on your face and a song in your heart for the newly joined couple.

RECEPTION PERCEPTION

For larger, more formal weddings, if there is a receiving line, go through it to share your good wishes with the nuptial couple and family. Make sure you are photographed so there's a visual record of attending the festivities, but no selfies, please. Let the pros the couple hired handle the photos.



Grab a cocktail, mingle and then find where you will sit if it's designated seating. No place card swapping, since it took hours to arrange the guests accordingly. Meet everyone at your table if you do not know them already and be prepared to keep the conversation light and breezy. If your tablemates are strangers, keeping the conversation away from politics is always recommended, especially in this heated election year.

DANCING MACHINE

There's a tendency at wedding receptions and office parties for guests to over indulge with alcohol and that usually doesn't end well on the dance floor. Make sure that's not you. Monitor your own cocktails. You may not remember what happened the next day, but others likely might, so keep it clean and cool.

EXIT STRATEGY

The average reception is about four hours. Staying until the cake is cut is *de rigueur*. No other option, even though we've all attended weddings where no cake knife was foreseen until midnight. That happens. Before you leave attempt to find the happy couple for a final well-wishing, or a member of the bride's immediate family to bid your adieu.

If you like, send the couple and their families a note post-wedding letting them know the swell time you had. With all the pressures of creating a grand event, that extra touch afterward always means so much. **S**

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