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MAY • JUNE 2013

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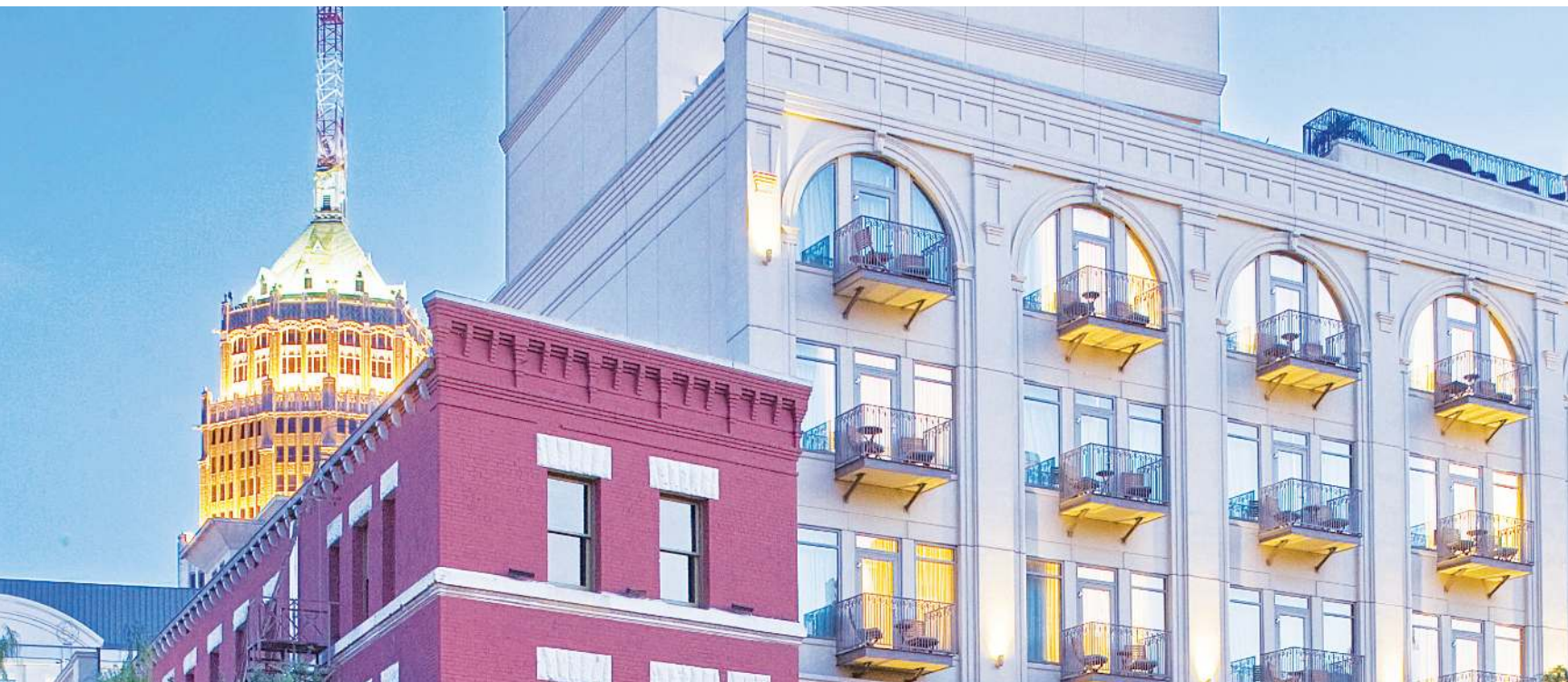
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88 • BABYLON'S REVISITED

Suddenly, it's the 1920s Jazz Age again that is inspiring the fashionable world around us. Taking a cue from the decadent eras sophisticated looks—daring and provocative, this spring and summer these clothes will have you up and dancing the Charleston in any ballroom or club abroad. It's the bees knees.

Photography by Marc Oberlin Styling by Andru

98 • THE WAYS WE WERE

Fashion and styles have come and gone, and sometimes come back again as Austins social scene is recounted with Robert Godwins book, Austins Faces of Philanthropy is like a time machine ride back to the glorious 70s, 80s and 90s to now where hearts still give and people love a good gala.

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography by Robert Godwin

106 • ALWAYS, ADLER

Jonathan Adler, the designer whose winning, fresh-scrubbed style has helped his many clients nurture their mid-century modern furniture aesthetic, shares his secrets of success as he celebrates his new Austin store opening.

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography courtesy of Jonathan Adler

112 • GLOBE TROTTING

Want to get away from it all? Who doesn't? It's the perfect time of year to visit Australia, and while you're at it, why not fabled Vietnam? From the exotic foods to views, there is something for everyone in this ve-star jaunt.

Written by Wes Marshall Photography courtesy of Author



(on the cover)

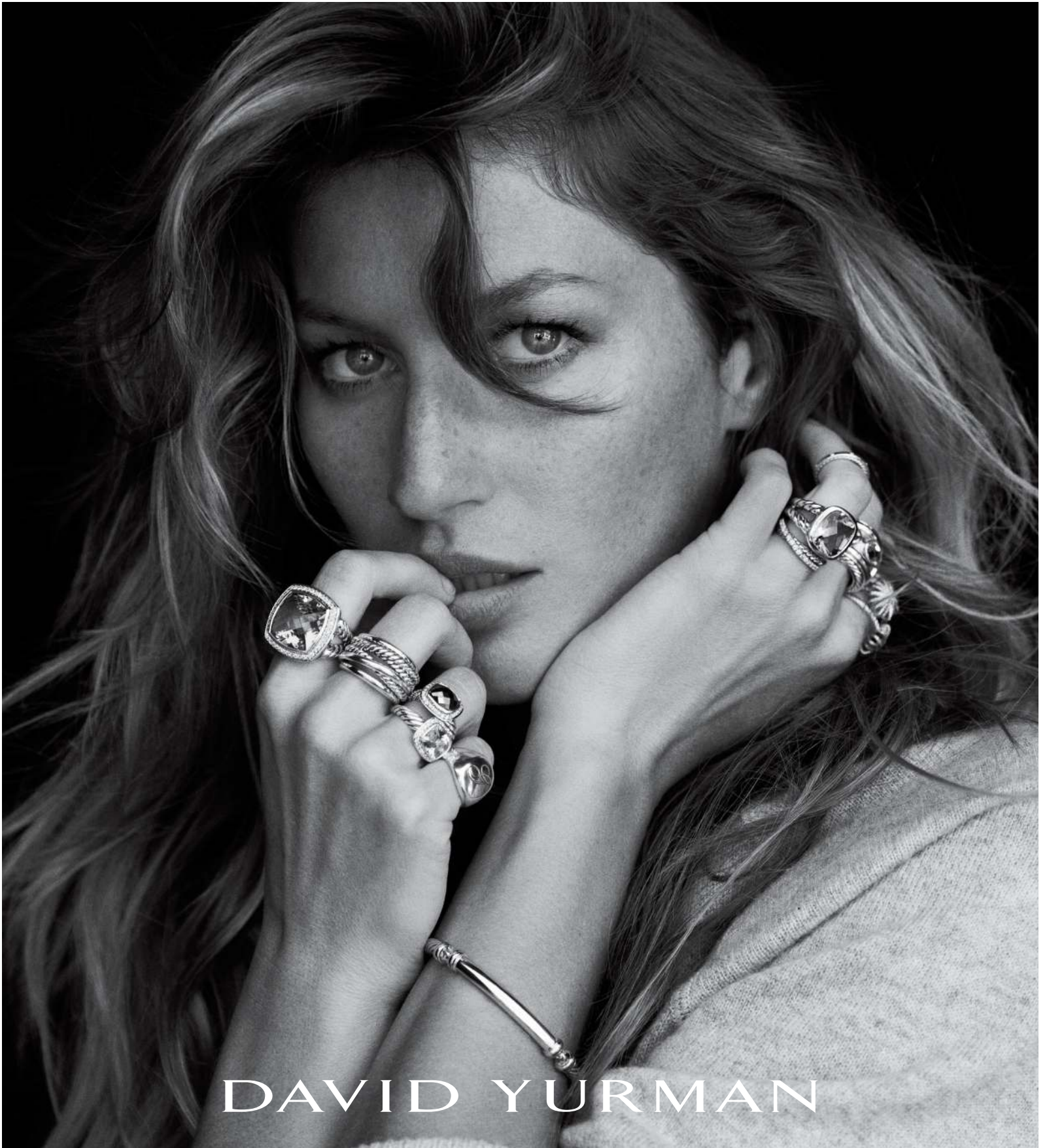
THIS SIDE OF PARADISE

On Her: Lace cocktail dress by Sue Wong at Suewong.com. Hosiery by DKNY. Rose gloves by PRB Private Studio Beverly Hills. Gold Cuff by Tebazile at Tebazile.com. Earrings by Micha at Michadesign.com. Ostrich diamond headpiece by Ava Sfez for L'Ecole Des Femmes at Lecoledefemmes.com.

On Him: Gray Wool with lavender faille lapel suit by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfrancodesigns.com. Shirt by Calvin Klein. Necktie by Turnbull & Asser. Shoes by Hugo Boss

(on this page)

DIAMOND AS BIG AS THE EYE
Black beaded cocktail dress with French lace trim by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfrancodesigns.com. Hosiery by Kate Spade. Garter belt by Agent Provocateur. Ankle strap shoe by Dolce Vita. Gold Cuff and earrings by Tebazile at Tebazile.com. Ring by PRB Private Studio, Beverly Hills. Black headpiece with vintage diamond brooch by Ava Sfez for L'Ecole Des Femmes at Lecoledefemmes.com.



DAVID YURMAN

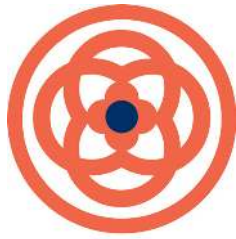
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16. CONTRIBUTE

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

18. PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Publisher Eduardo Bravo is excited about the warm weather. Learn what he shares that could help your summer be its best, too.

20. EDITOR'S LETTER

Creative Director and Editor-in-Chief Lance Avery Morgan loves the arts. Here he lends insight into just how important the arts are to all Texans.

24. HOST

Our favorite professional hostess-to-the-stars Lara Shriftman takes us inside a star-studded luncheon and conference with author and speaker Angella Nazarian.

28. ENLIGHTEN

Noted Immaker Elizabeth Avellan shares her own highs, lows and epiphanies, according to Elise Ballard and her groundbreaking book, Epiphany!

32. ACQUIRE

Want to feel bolder this season? So does San Antonio trendsetter Erin Busbee as she weighs in the hot, graphic trends and how you can wear them right now.

34. BEHAVE

This month in our manners department we learn what our new Ms. Manners, Fort Worth resident Grace Ballard, recommends to live a more civilized life.

36. ADORE

A weekend love rendezvous? Sign us up. Austin-based dating expert and professional matchmaker Julia McCurley offers tips on how to make your romantic getaway a more enthralling one on foreign shores.

38. EVOLVE

Austin-based holographic repatterner Mary Schneider reports on the power of resonating and attracting more good vibrations than ever before.

40. RESTORE

Austin-based acupuncturist Andra Million gets to the point on why the ancient healing form might just be for you, too.

42. THRIVE

Evaluating your financial future, especially with multiple investing options is important. Here are some tips to consider in helping you mastermind your wealth-gathering strategies.

44. REVEAL

Houston's stylish leading lass Lindsey Love, the social columnist for the Houston Chronicle, lives an unabashedly gorgeous life. Here she reveals a few of her favorite style-setting secrets.

46. ESCAPE

Just a quick flight away is a desert oasis, Scottsdale. With more golf, fun and sun per square mile, this destination is a way to escape your routine and dive into heated glam.

50. NOURISH

Long overlooked in the culinary scene, Austin cuisine has arrived. We get an insider's look at it with the delicious new book, Austin Chef's Table by Crystal Esquivel with photos by Aimee Wenske.

54. CHRONICLE

Ah, Paris. What a great city in which to attend the world's most anticipated charity gala. Dance into the evening's intrigue in this excerpt from the Society Chronicles novel by Lance Avery Morgan.

56. CELEBRATE

Join us for a front row seat at Governor Rick Perry's birthday party at the Governor's Mansion that also benefited the Carry the Load cause.

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

ENTRANCE

58. LAREDO The Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant and Ball

63. AUSTIN The Texas Medal of Arts Awards

66. HOUSTON The Houston Symphony Ball

70. SAN ANTONIO The San Antonio Symphony Debutante Ball

74. AUSTIN The Helping Hand Debutante Ball

77. HOUSTON The Houston Ballet Ball

80. SAN ANTONIO The Bexar County Medical Foundation Gala

83. AUSTIN The Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards

86. SAN ANTONIO The Children's Museum Gala

ARRIVAL

116. SAN ANTONIO San Antonio Ballet Welcomes the Joy Ballet

117. AUSTIN The Alzheimer's Association DKR Gala

120. SAN ANTONIO North Star Gives Celebration

123. AROUND THE STATE: DALLAS DIFFA DALLAS Gala

128. ARRANGE

A social calendar from the Austin & San Antonio Social Planner, recommended by social habitus Laura Villagrán Johnson and Kevin Smothers.



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THE SOCIETY DIARIES

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ELISE BALLARD

Dallas-raised author, journalist and the creator and host of EpiphanyChannel.com, Ballard's first book, *Epiphany: True Stories of Sudden Insight to Inspire, Encourage and Transform* (Random House/Crown Publishing), is a collection of over 50 interviews with people from all walks of life recounting the stories of their greatest epiphanies. She is a TEDx speaker and a regular contributor to *Psychology Today* and the popular website, *Positively Positive*. The Los Angeles resident is currently in development on several projects, including more for EpiphanyChannel.com, film and television versions of the Epiphany project, and future books for the Epiphany series.



WES MARSHALL

Our author for our travel feature, *Globe Trotting*, started collecting wine at an illegal age and later discovered the salutary effect of taking girls to his college dormitory room to show them his ill-gotten wine collection (You drink wine? How interesting!). His pursuit led to a career writing about wine, three books, most recently *What's a Wine Lover To Do?* (Artisan), a column in the *Austin Chronicle*, abundant travel to exotic destinations, and so many happy days it still feels illegal.

ERIN BUSBEE

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



MARK OBERLIN

Our feature fashion photographer for this issue's fashion feature is Los Angeles-based Mark Oberlin. Oberlin has also photographed the collections of many of the West Coast's top fashion designers. He is an acclaimed painter, as well and has exhibited his paintings in Los Angeles, New York City and San Francisco galleries. More of his work can be found at his website at Markoberlin.com.



ROBERT GODWIN

Social chronicler extraordinaire Robert Godwin looks back at Austin's rich social heyday this month in our *The Ways We Were* feature. Social arbiters from the 1970s to the present are seen in this exclusive excerpt from his book, *Austin Faces*, focusing on stories devoted to the pictorial aspect of the city's past gala events. As an Air Force brat, Godwin traveled the world as a child and after a medical retirement from the Air Force, he settled in Austin. He then graduated from the University of Texas and has been a fixture covering the non-profit scene for over three decades.



JEN ROOSTH

Our Associate Editor Jennifer Roosth joins us with this issue. She is a Houston-based writer who never ceases to be amazed by the wonderfully generous spirit of the Houston Community. It's nice to live in a city where so many are excited about giving back. And in the process, she says, they throw some mighty ne parties.

JULIA McCURLEY

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



MARY SCHNEIDER

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



ANDRA MILLIAN

Andra Millian M.S., L.Ac., C.H. is a master of Traditional Chinese Medicine who weighs in with our Restore column this month. She is a graduate of the prestigious Yo San University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Santa Monica, California. Her rigorous training includes postgraduate work at UCLA Medical Center Pediatric Pain Clinic in Los Angeles, California and specialized training in Neuro Acupuncture for Spinal Chord Injury at Project Walk in Carlsbad, California giving her a unique working background in Integrative Medicine - acupuncture applied to a Western Biomedicine environment. She has been happily living and practicing in Austin, Texas since 2001 and can be reached at AustinOnsiteAcupuncture.com.



LARA SHRIFTMAN

Our West Coast Lifestyle Editor Lara Shriftman co-founded Harrison & Shriftman in 1995, an agency that specializes in public relations, marketing and events for high-profile luxury brands (Hs-pr.com). The agency specializes in public relations, marketing and events for high-profile luxury brands. In addition to serving as a correspondent for Extra with her own segment, Party Confidential, Shriftman has authored four books on entertaining, *Fete Accompli*, *Fete Accompli Workbook*, *Party Confidential* and *Party Confidential: New Etiquette for Fabulous Entertaining*.



***IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE SOCIETY DIARIES***

Look for coverage of the recent Rolls-Royce Owners Club National Meet held, for the first time in Texas, this April 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort.

San Antonio business owner and RROC member Robert Ober partnered with Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and Bentley Motors to underwrite a raffle benefiting the San Antonio Food Bank and the Rolls-Royce Foundation.

Beautiful motorcars abounded on the streets of San Antonio, during tours of local landmarks and driving excursions, with over 150 collector cars on the green on judging day.





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Travels Near & Far

I HAVE A FEELING, THAT IF YOU ARE LIKE ME AND MY family, you seize the opportunity to travel beyond our region to stimulate your senses and glean others' points of view that may positively affect your own dealings here when you return. Sound familiar?

That's why we love sharing travel stories in all our issues, like this one, with a weekend retreat to Scottsdale... to an around the world jaunt to far-flung Vietnam and Australia. If you have been, you'll see familiar territory. If you want to go, use us as a guide for any of your five-star experiences.

Locally, sure, the economy is strong in Texas. We are getting used to that again and I have to confess, we like being the most dynamic and growth-bursting region in the state. We are extremely proud to now include Houston in our enhanced coverage of people, places and things you have requested knowing about. We read your emails, letters and website postings. Each one of them, in fact, and they are both encouraging of what we are doing here at the Society Diaries and also, informative of what we might be missing.

We love learning about how you spend your time. We were fascinated to learn how much you enjoy being outdoors for exercise and sports, no matter what the weather. In our minds a healthy body equates to a healthy mind and perspective.

So, no matter what your pursuit, we look forward to being touched this summer as you make the most of it. With the Society Diaries handy in your beach bag or suitcase, of course. ☺

Eduardo Bravo
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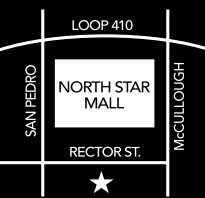


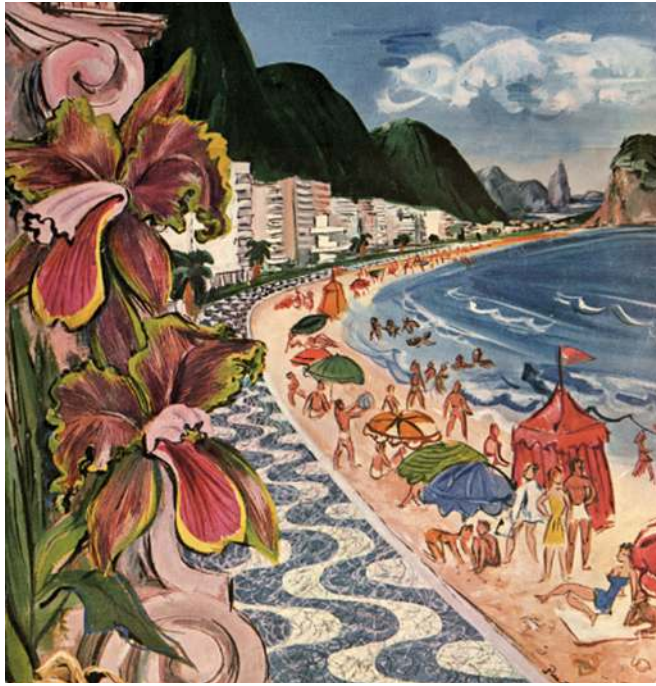
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Summer's Sizzle

“OPTIMISM IS LIKE A MUSCLE. THE MORE you exercise it, the bigger it gets.” Around here we like that kind of thinking and practice it daily, which is why we love this month’s issue that kicks your sizzling summer into high gear as we welcome our coverage of Houston.

This month we bring you that big mix with San Antonio style maven Erin Busbee’s look at the season’s graphic influence in accessories for your home and closet. Photographer Mark Oberlin and stylist Anrdu Wallace created a Jazz Age-inspired fashion feature that is both elegant and daring. We take our inspiration from this month’s film debut of *The Great Gatsby*, surely one of the world’s best books on how yesteryear’s high performers lived, worked and played. There are many chic fashions to choose from that will dazzle your senses for your own selections of entrance-making show stoppers for any gala and luncheon. We well understand you want to look your best and we are here to motivate you. From sun up until sun down.



Photo by Jen Perez
Styling by Amanda Donley
Location: The Driskill Hotel

That’s why we love getting up close and personal with leading designer Jonathan Adler about his new stores in Houston and Austin, his design aesthetic and why he’s a boy who can’t say no to his enthusiasm

for Mid-Century modern. We love brining you the best inspiring articles on topics as diverse as romance, self-empowerment and entertaining articles by our regular and wildly talented writers like Grace Ballard, Andra Millian. Julia McCurley, Elise Trube, Mary Schneider and Lara Shriftman, to name a few, to our feature on Vietnam and Australia by Wes Marshall.

Then there’s an insider’s look at high society Austin when it was a town of 350,000, a far different city than it has become now.

On the topic of sociability, our crop of galas and luncheon social coverage chronicles where you went, with whom you sat and how much-needed funds were raised for so many worthy organizations. It takes a village to raise an event, as we all know, and we are honored to celebrate these events that take a year to plan, create and execute.

In fact, according to the Texas Cultural Trust (you’ll see our coverage of their bi-annual Texas Medal of Arts Awards), these cultural events make a difference to every Texan, not just to those in a ballroom. On your right you’ll see some facts and figures that will enrich and stir your senses on why the arts matter so much to this state. And, to us at *The Society Diaries*.

It is no secret that we love being a magazine you can read all month: in your jet, on your coffee table or sunning poolside. So, plan to take us along because each time you pick us up, you’ll see someone new, learn something different and help create your own personal sizzle wherever you go. ☺

XO Lance Avery Morgan
lance@thesocietydiaries.com

ART FOR ART’S SAKE

The arts in Texas mean business. Recently, the Texas Cultural Trust commissioned, and Texas Perspectives produced, a study that illustrates the impact of arts and culture industries on a

In the last decade alone, arts and cultural industries added more than 12 percent growth to Texas’ economy, including millions of dollars generated locally through sales tax revenue. The

contribution to sales tax revenue, tourism and economic growth.

The arts and culture industry is responsible for

is directly related to arts and culture activities.

\$150 revenue is attributable to the arts and culture industry.

The arts and culture industry accounts for **\$2.46 BILLION** in tourism spending, which translates into **21,000** with payrolls in excess of

economy, attracts tourists who spend on average 59 percent more and helps sustain a creative workforce.

Highlights of “Update 2012: The Impact of Arts and Culture Industries on the Texas Economy” are listed below and the full study can be found at www.txculturaltrust.org/invest-in-the-arts/.

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Dr. Michael A. Leonard is now performing state-of-the-art spine surgery using Mazor Robotics' Renaissance™. This technology provides Dr. Leonard with additional ability to perform surgery with extreme accuracy and precision, which decreases neurological risk. For you, this means reduced exposure to radiation, less pain, faster recovery, and even quicker return to your normal daily activities.

With Mazor Robotics technology at his fingertips, Dr. Leonard is raising the standard of care at Alamo Neurosurgical Institute.

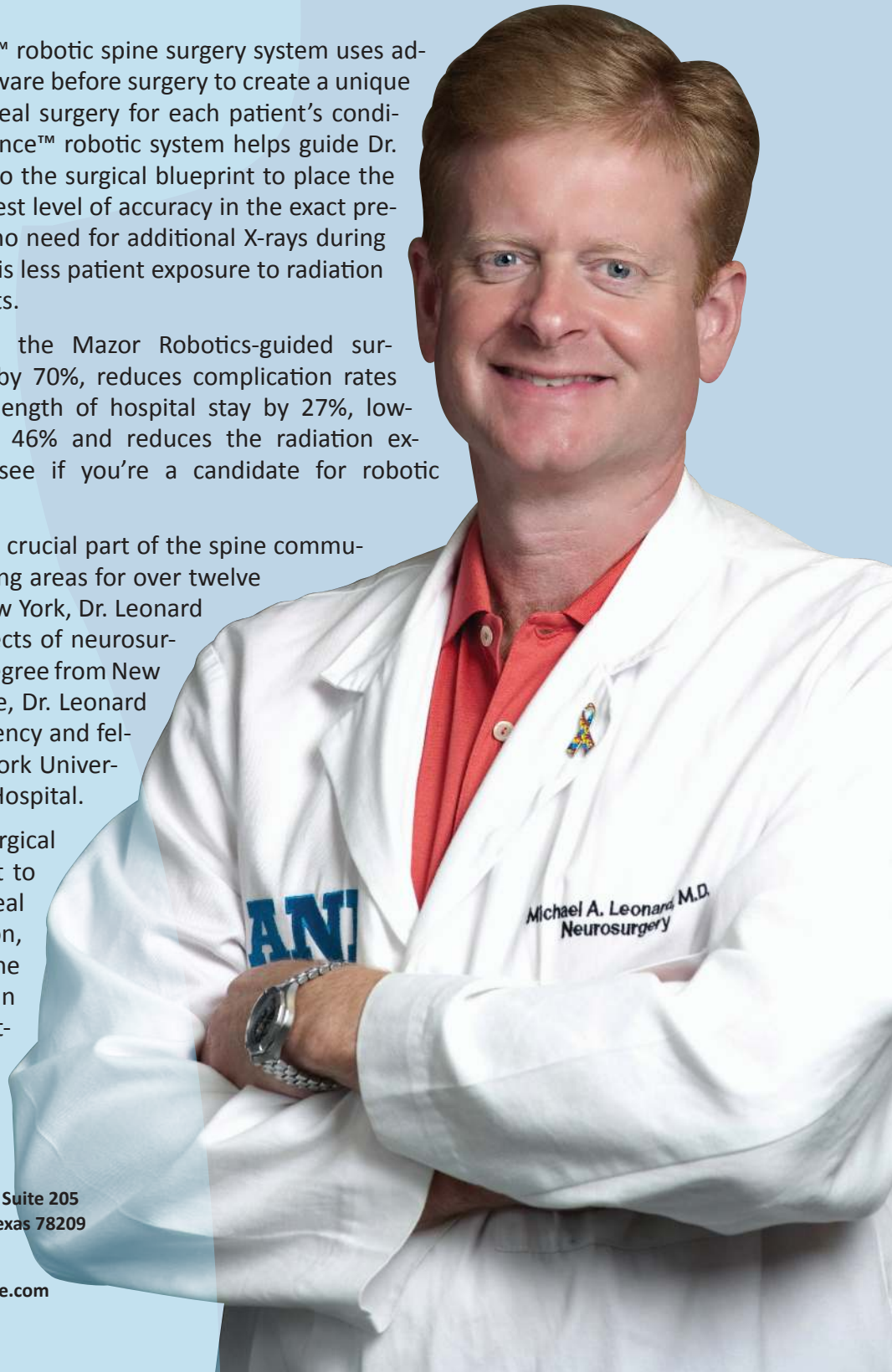
Bringing ROBOTIC SPINE SURGERY to San Antonio

The Mazor Robotics' Renaissance™ robotic spine surgery system uses advanced CT-based 3D planning software before surgery to create a unique surgical blueprint, which is the ideal surgery for each patient's condition. During surgery, the Renaissance™ robotic system helps guide Dr. Leonard's instruments according to the surgical blueprint to place the implants safely, and with the highest level of accuracy in the exact pre-planned locations. Since there is no need for additional X-rays during surgery, with Renaissance™ there is less patient exposure to radiation than with other surgical treatments.

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Dr. Michael A. Leonard has been a crucial part of the spine community in San Antonio and surrounding areas for over twelve years. Educated and trained in New York, Dr. Leonard gained broad exposure to all aspects of neurosurgery. After obtaining his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Leonard completed his neurosurgery residency and fellowship in spine surgery at New York University Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital.

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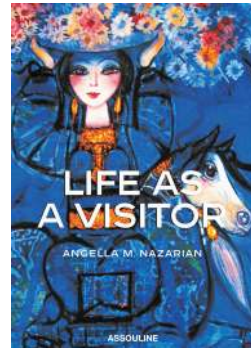
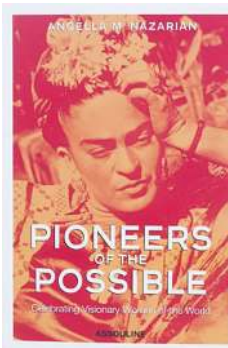
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WOMEN A.R.E.

In this issue our West Coast event goddess-on-the-go Lara Shriftman produces a memorable conference for author and speaker Angella Nazarian. With plenty of celebs on hand, join as we listen into the inside details of how women who do good in the world also do good in their own lives and tips on hosting your own conference and being a public speaker.



Angella Nazarian



AnnaLynne McCord and Lori Loughlin, Photo by Stephanie Keenan – WireImage



attend Women A.R.E Launch Honoring CNN Hero Somaly Mam, Photo by Stefanie Keenan – WireImage



Photo by Stefanie Keenan – WireImage

ANGELLA NAZARIAN IS A BEST-SELLING author and noted speaker, and has conducted several workshops and seminars focused on women's personal development and leadership including the Millken Institute Global Conference on Visionary Women Entrepreneurs and Visionary Women in Social Enterprise. She has been a keynote speaker at various national events and conferences like AON Presents: 2012 Women in Risk Management Celebration and the Zimmer Children's Museum and Women's Leadership Council. She is also a woman I consider a friend.

In 1999, Nazarian co-founded Looking Beyond, a charitable organization that promotes awareness and creates advancement and enrichment for children with disabilities. The organization has dispersed over \$2 million to local organizations, schools and hospitals

and from this experience she has written two inspiring books, *Life as a Visitor* and the newly released *Pioneers of the Possible: Celebrating Visionary Women of the World*. Both have become Assouline bestsellers and garnered glowing reviews from notables such as Arianna Huffington, Tina Brown, Martha Stewart, and Diane von Furstenberg.

Nazarian's first book, *Life as a Visitor*, chronicles the physical and emotional journey she and her family took when they were forced to flee to the United States after the violent Iranian Revolution of 1979. *Life as a Visitor* is part travelogue, part introspective journal, incorporating both prose and poetry. She weaves a mosaic of thoughts, emotions and locations to present an intimate, inside look at the life of an immigrant caught between two cultures.

In her latest tome, *Pioneers of the Possible: Celebrating Visionary Women of the World*, Nazarian honors twenty women from the last century; passionate visionaries driven by an ability to imagine and aspire to what did not yet exist. By celebrating their legacy, she believes we carry on their collective, fearless spirit and encourage one another toward greater and deeper lives. Profiles in the book include: Martha Graham, Ella Fitzgerald, Frida Kahlo, Simone De Beauvoir, Wangari Maathai, Estee' Lauder, Zaha Hadid, Helen Suzman, Jacqueline Novogratz, and many more.

Recently, Nazarian co-founded Women A.R.E. with friend and colleague Beth Friedman. The organization serves to inform, inspire, create and exchange ideas amongst Los Angeles' aspiring top female leaders. Women A.R.E. events will provide a forum for

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collaborative thinking, discussion of initiatives that advance the impact of women, and foster networking opportunities for mutual growth and support. Women A.R.E. will be holding their first conference this October 2013 in Los Angeles.

Somaly Mam, CNN HERO and honored as one of TIME magazine's "100 most influential people," joined forces with Nazarian and Friedman to share her inspiring story and launch WOMEN A.R.E. in Los Angeles. The city's top female leaders were in attendance to discuss some of the issues affecting women today. Guests included Daryl Hannah, Lori Loughlin, Jane Fonda, Alex Jones, Emily Greener, Monique Lhuillier, Linda Gersh, Sophia Bush, Julie Cordou, Dermologica Skincare's Jane Wurwand, Pam Morton, power producer Suzanne Todd, MTV Awkward's Ashley Rikard, Brandee Barker, and Erica Zohar, Kimberly Emerson, Florence Sloan, Joyce Arad, and Nadine Watt.

I had the privilege to sit down with Nazarian and speak with her about what inspires her most, and how to host your own conference at home and how to make any speech an event. "Live Generously. Live Your Passion" is not just a catchphrase for Angella Nazarian. She lives and breathes this message.

When I asked her what inspires her to write, she was candid by saying, "I always feel that we have the most impact on others when we write something that truly moves us personally. For me the stories that convey a sense of meaning, hope, and inspiration are worth sharing because it will ripple through the lives

of so many others who read it. This is how I have created such an incredible community around me."

I also asked what motivates her to be involved in charitable organizations and women's foundations. "Believe it or not, I am a big proponent that one person can make a big difference—sometimes a bigger difference than big organizations," concluded Nazarian. "I have come across so many people who have overcome obstacles and have effected change in their lives and those around them. My immediate response is 'I want to share her wisdom, her story, with my friends and community.'" I also wholeheartedly believe that when I focus on issues and concerns that are outside of my personal life, I am happier. So, giving and serving those I love is important to me." ☺



Angella Nazarian

Tips from Angella on how to have your own conference at home or how to turn any speaking engagement into a party.

1. The guest list is important. Invite those you feel will be both influencers and influenced.
2. The quality of the speaker is important. It is important to build a narrative for the day that speaks to women's lives in a personal way—that really resonates with their interests. Choosing the right speaker that can articulate a certain message in an authentic way is the surest way of creating a meaningful event.
3. Create a forum where women exchange dialogue and participate—being a passive listener is not energizing.
4. Quality of the speaker is important. It is important to build a narrative in the day that speaks to women's lives in a personal way—that really resonates with their interests. Choosing the right speaker that can articulate a certain message in an authentic way is the surest way of creating a meaningful event.
5. We should remember to have fun. Humor, light-heartedness and an air of warmth all go a long way.

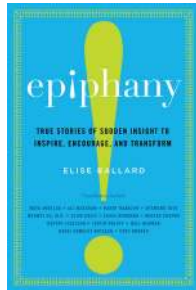


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DEVELOPING YOUR *TALENTS*

Austinite film producer Elizabeth Avellán produces films that have fans globally. Here, **Austin-tied author Elise Ballard, author of *Epiphany: True Stories of Sudden Insight to Inspire, Encourage and Transform*** gets up close and personal with Avellán to learn about her own epiphanies in the entertainment industry and beyond.

Develop your talents and they will make a way for you.
—Elizabeth Avellán



Elizabeth Avellán

ELIZABETH AVELLÁN AND I WERE acquaintances before our interview, but I had never really had the opportunity to sit and talk with her. She is the co-owner of Troublemaker Studios, the Austin-based production company that she and her former husband, Robert Rodriguez, founded in 2000, and is the producer of over twenty-five films, including *El Mariachi*, *Desperado*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *The Faculty*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl 3-D*, *Grindhouse*, *Sin City*, the *Spy Kids* trilogy, *Shorts*, *Predators*, and *Machete*. Elizabeth is also the mother of six children and serves as a mentor and on numerous non-profit boards.

She is a woman of tiny stature with a great sense of humor, tremendous energy, presence and grace. As in most cases, I had no idea what her epiphany would be and was mesmerized as we discussed her journey of epiphanies. This account is only a fraction of the conversation we had in her office while her employees, who are like family to her, worked around us and her children quietly played.

In Her Own Words . . .

I was one of those kids who was very together, very serious, a bookworm who read a lot and was very spiritually aware. I knew I was different, odd. When I was four, I started asking my parents if I could make my first Communion. My family was Catholic, like 98% of the people in Venezuela where I grew up. The Church usually doesn't let you take your first Communion until you're eight without special permission. I had an older sister, so it was decided that when she took hers, they would give me special permission to take mine. I was excited about the fact that I was going to receive something really deep and special. But three days before the ceremony, I got this fever. It was incredibly high and it

came out of nowhere. There was no cold, no illness, it just came over me. Maybe it was the excitement—we never knew. But it was so high, it was dangerous. And as I was laying in bed really sick with this strange fever, I thought, "I'm going to die before I get to do this." Then I said or prayed, "I don't want to die. Let me make my first Communion and you can take me. After that, my life will be fulfilled." I still remember this, it was so powerful. It marked me in a way that few things could. I can remember that day completely. Later that day, the priest came to my house to offer Confession and gave me my first Communion. I got better.

And I wanted more. This moment was the first that set me on the path that my life is about, a quest for spiritual knowledge and an unshakable faith. The faith I'm talking about lets you know, in your heart of hearts, that when a problem comes and you don't know how to solve it, wisdom from above will come and guide you. You will do anything in life because you're never afraid. You know you will always be guided and given the tools for any situation and that it's all about developing yourself.

I'm always telling young people: Develop your talents and they will make a way for you. You're only as good as what you can do with those talents. Only they will make your way—not some networking person that you schmoozed. So if God is moving you into an arena that you know nothing about, but He has given you the talents to be able to do it, you will not be alone. You will never be alone. The guidance is always there. We just have to be willing, and be willing to listen and see—which has always been the hardest thing to do for me,

because I always want to do everything on my own and do what I want to do and what I think is best!

One Driven Woman

When I was 33 years old, I was married to Robert (Rodriguez) and his film *El Mariachi* had been a huge success, so we went to film festivals all over the world. I'd met Robert while working at the University of Texas and before we got married, I had wanted to be a vice president at the university, which is completely unrelated to filmmaking. But what I love and am good at are budgets and people—which is perfect for that position in academia but also, now I know, film production. In fact, right before I met Robert, I saw the movie, *Broadcast News*. When I saw Holly Hunter as a news producer juggling all those balls, I thought, "Huh, that's a job I'd be really good at." Robert was a student and my file clerk at the University. Neither of us had any professional experience but Robert had made about 30 short films. That's the thing that blew me away about him. He'd been developing those talents since he was a little boy. And when you do that, it will take you where you're supposed to go. It just will, even if you're not spiritual in the least. I realized: here is one talented man and a very driven woman who understands him, and together we can do something. And we did.

I prepared myself. I took extension courses in production at UCLA and learned as much as I could about production. When *El Mariachi* was this huge success, and we got back from the festival circuit, I realized that if I were to be a producer in this business with these people I wasn't really comfortable with, my life would change drastically. So I did a 30 day fast. I wanted to



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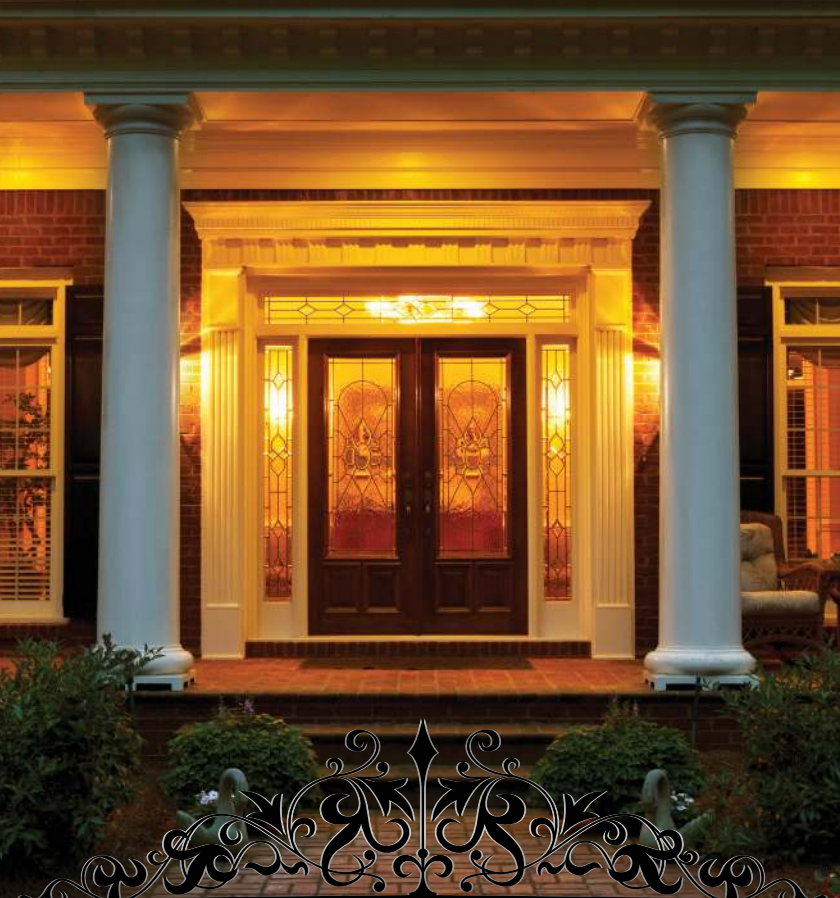
There's a reason groups of women flock to Fredericksburg. Actually, there are several. On-and-off Main Street shops full of couture, modern and vintage home décor, art galleries and more are only the beginning. Relaxing spa treatments. Delectable gourmet cuisine. Sweet creations from our bakeries and award-winning wineries to tour. Live music and spectacular views from one of our 350+ Hill Country B&Bs, guesthouses or inns. One tip: Save room for memories!

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focus on the question I was asking God: “What is it you want me to do about this? Do you want me to do this business?” Finally I felt it, about halfway through the fast. I felt it in my heart and I heard it in my head. A voice said, “Yes.” It was a very weird, audible thing. And very clear. The truth is, a part of me didn’t want it to be yes. I knew it would take me on a very different path. But the voice was so clear, that I went ahead with what I heard even though I couldn’t figure out why. I became a producer (for no pay) on Robert’s next film, *Desperado*.



On the production, there was this guy working who had just been through a horrible experience on another film set. One day we were talking and he ended up telling me about it. The stories were so bad, I honestly wanted to cry for him. Towards the end of our conversation, all of sudden he looked at me intently and said, “What is it about your production – everyone seems so happy. Something’s really different about you. What is it?” I answered, “You really want to know?” and I began to share my story with him.

And then it overcame me, it was literally like I heard, “That’s why I want you in the business. You’re to be a light. You are to be a light when many times there is so much darkness.” I never really knew why I was supposed to be doing it before that moment.

Good And Light Out Of Darkness
Years later, on the movie *Grindhouse*, I experienced some of my very darkest hours. It was the hardest shoot I’ve

ever done. I’d had to shut down the production for six weeks, and my marriage was unraveling. On that film, I met the actor Jeffrey Fahey, and we had become good friends. Jeffrey is very involved in helping Afghanistan with various charities, and I had joined in his efforts to set up a factory to employ 250 Afghani widows. One day I was lamenting about the nightmare I felt I was in. Jeffrey responded, “Well, you know, you’ve been through a lot. But if you hadn’t shut down that movie, if all this hadn’t happened, you wouldn’t be helping 250 women in the world right now.” And he was so right.

That was another defining moment for me. Always with anything that you go through—anything—there is always someone going through something much worse, and good and light can always come out of the darkness.

I have faith that I will always be guided. I believe that if we develop our talents, we will be led to what we are supposed to be doing. I compare the hard times in life to like being in a fog—sometimes a tunnel of fog—where we can only see a few feet in front of us. But if you keep going, a few feet at a time, and take the high road, the fog always lifts and there is light at the end of every tunnel. 5



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Now *THAT'S* An Angle



TOTE AROUND THIS

The poppy red "Kelsey Tote" by Tory Burch, featuring an intricate cutout leather design, is the perfect everyday bag this summer. \$650. Availability and photo courtesy of ToryBurch.com.

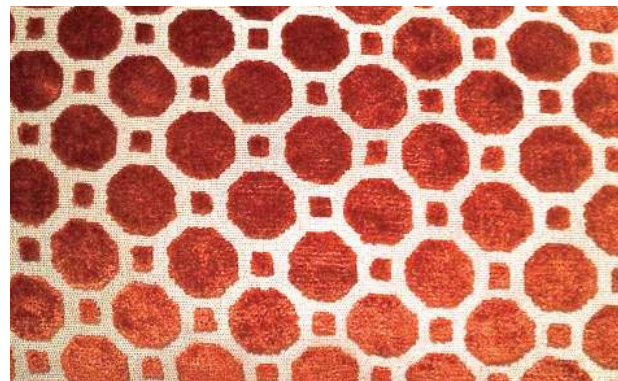


A PLACE AT THE TABLE

It took three months for artisans to achieve the sculptural effect of the metal base for this stunning "Voiles" Dining Table, designed by Maudie Barilone. \$8,015. Availability and photo courtesy of Roche-bobois.com.

FAB FABRIC

One of my favorite fabrics. Create bold, custom pillows and upholstery with this Robert Allen Home Velvet "Geo" fabric in copper. Also available in turquoise, magenta and black. \$34 per yard. Availability Onlinefabricstore.net.



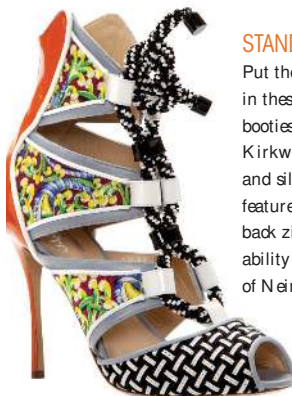
POSH PET

House your pet in style with this luxurious crate by Mariela Sanchez. It combines modern, elegant design with pet practicality. Color options: black and white. \$1,000 — \$1,250. Availability and photo courtesy of Marielasanchez.com.



STANDOUT HEELS

Put the focus on your feet in these graphic, four-inch booties by Nicholas Kirkwood. These leather and silk, printed sandals feature sexy cutouts and a back zip. \$1,225. Availability and photo courtesy of NeimanMarcus.com.



TAKE A SEAT

The raised chenille fabric on the Desmond Granite Chair will add texture and shimmer to your living space. \$899. Availability and photo courtesy of Arhaus at stores in Austin and Houston.





BEJEWEL ABOUT THE NECK

This choker by Bejewel will definitely make a statement this spring. It is a series of sterling silver circles, cascading down to teardrops of Peruvian Blue Opal gemstones. \$475. Availability and photo courtesy of Bejewel.biz.

LIGHT-BULB MOMENT

Add an industrial element to your decor with this "Edmond" antique brass and glass hexagon pendant light. \$1,170. Availability and photo courtesy of Arteriorshome.com.



COVER UP IN STYLE

Made of 100% baby alpaca wool, this Jonathan Adler "Richard Nixon" throw blanket in green combines comfort with chic, modern design. \$295. Availability Casa.com and Jonathan Adler stores in Austin and Houston.

ARCHITECTURAL RING

Spark interesting conversations and garner compliments while brandishing this modern, eye-catching, rose gold, link ring by Repossi. \$6,305. Availability and photo courtesy of NET-A-PORTER.COM.



CLUTCH THE LINE

Rarely is a bag described as "architectural" and "abstract," like the multi-colored "Pearce" Mini Audiere clutch by Kotur. \$650. Availability and photo courtesy of Julian Gold.



GO BOLD OR GO HOME

The "Alison" tote bag by Chloe is a mix of color-blocked and lizard print leather that will no doubt stand out in a sea of solids. \$1,595. Availability and photo courtesy of NeimanMarcus.com.



SUNNY SANDALS

Add a pop of cheerful color to your look with these versatile "A malie" flat, cage sandals by Tory Burch. Wear them with everything from your white skinny jeans to a flowing maxi. \$285. Availability and photo courtesy of ToryBurch.com.

VACATION WORTHY

Every perfect vacation starts with the perfect swimsuit. Enter the Shane asymmetrical cutout one-piece by Norma Kamali. \$225. Availability and photo courtesy of NET-A-PORTER.COM.



SHOW-STOPPING STRIPES

One word: gorgeous. I'm in love with this Oscar De La Renta navy and white silk and polyester striped gown. \$6,790. Availability NeimanMarcus.com. Photo courtesy of Frida Gustavsson at Style.com.



GLADIATOR GODDESS

Edgy, bold, innovative. Fashion risk takers will clamor for Alexander Wang's "Martina" boots. \$1,200. Availability and photos courtesy of NeimanMarcus.com.

WANTED: Social Graces

The questions of life's frustrations and concerns are easy to resolve with the right manners. Learn what **our own insightful Ms. Manners Grace Ballard** recommends for wedding invitation dilemmas, co-workers taking credit where it is not really due, and that friend with a weight loss issue.

Dear Ms. Manners,

I was just invited to a close friend's wedding and unfortunately the invitation states, *No Children, Please*. As new parents, what are we to do since we really want to be there to help celebrate?

Undecided In The Dominion

Dear Invited Inquiry,

I get it. When my husband and I were married we had the same notation on the invitation. A wedding is one of the most wonderful celebrations a couple can have. The joy and excitement is overwhelming, and the planning can be as well. Invitations have long been looked upon to set the tone for what the wedding will be like. Regrettably, brief language of invitations can leave some guests, even family, feeling hurt and even unimportant. Deciphering what should be written on an invitation can be tricky, and frankly, most guests these days don't understand how to translate what is written in plain English.

An invitation should not need to be explained, but many people feel the desire to ask for clarification from the hosts when they feel singled out. Remember the omission of kiddies has nothing to do with you, yet rather it may have been decided based on another guest or guests, or simply the couple's desire for a more formal nuptial affair. The only way for the couple to play fair is to have the "no children" rule apply to everyone.

One of the beautiful things about a wedding is that every couple has the right to host the wedding of their dreams. Though I don't agree that stating "No Children, Please" directly on an invitation is very tasteful, certain people do feel the need to "spell it out". I understand your dilemma and feel for you as a new parent, especially if nursing. It is not easy for you to be away from a newborn for the hours a wedding can take from start to finish.

Even though you want to be there, I feel it is perfectly acceptable if you are not able to attend, given the circumstances. Another option would be to find a sitter, perhaps even a close family member. If the wedding is in your own city, you might consider just going to the

ceremony and forgoing the reception. Remind yourself that the wedding is about them and think about sending them a note to let them know how happy you are for them and their future together.

Ms. Manners

Dear Ms. Manners,

I have a co-worker who intentionally bends the truth to work out to his advantage. He has lied about reports and appropriated his name to others' reports, etc. How do I handle dishonesty in the workplace?

Frustrated In A Houston High Rise



Dear Rising Above It All,

One of the curiosities about a workplace is that everyone is different, and sometimes you work with people whom you may not associate with in your private life. That will never change. Many times you will adore your associates, and it can be a very lovely place to come to daily. Either way, you must remain professional.

It can be very challenging when a colleague is taking credit for things they did not do. Remember that your supervisor may not be as dense to these situations as it may seem. Simply because you do not see your co-worker being called out does not mean that your boss doesn't take note and is not gathering information for the near future. I can understand the urge to want to swoop in heroically and bring to light your co-worker's failings and serve a piece of justice in your office to help ensure it will not happen again. Remember that it is inappropriate to do so, as it is not your place, and may not serve you well in the long run in eyes of your boss and other peers. Stay positive, focus on doing the best job you can and I feel that in time, all will reveal itself and the colleague will receive the karma that inevitably bounces back somehow.

Ms. Manners

Dear Ms. Manners,

How should I respond when a gal pal consistently puts herself down for being overweight?

Wanting To Know In Westlake

Dear Westlake Wonderer,

Having good manners is all about being sensitive to other's feelings. Always. She is a dear friend for many reasons, so do not deny her feelings with a lie. That doesn't help anyone. It might make her feel worse. When she talks about being 'fat and gross,' she is really saying 'I feel bad about my weight, and it makes me feel self-conscious and helpless when I want to feel better.' The next time she starts self-deprecating herself, state in a kind, yet firm tone, "Sweetie, please don't talk like that about yourself. Of course you are not gross. We all feel negative about ourselves sometimes."

I do strongly recommend shying away from trying to offer specific weight loss advice unless she asks for it. Feel free to add, in the same gentle tone you used before, that you won't listen to her denigrating herself anymore. However, if there are any other things you can do to help (exercising with her, planning healthy meals), you're willing to lend a hand. Plus, your presence is more helpful than you know.

Ms. Manners



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à bientôt

Come *Fly* With Me

There's something sexy about the idea of a romantic weekend getaway. Here [Austin relationship expert and professional matchmaker Julia McCurley](#) helps you prepare to refresh your love with shared travel.

It has been said that we need just three things in life: something to do, something to look forward to and someone to love.
— Anonymous

HERE'S A LITTLE PEARL OF WISDOM about relationships: if you think it's time to get away to put a little spark in your love life, it usually is. If you don't think a romantic rendezvous is needed, take one anyway. A little romantic getaway never hurt any relationship. Actually, it will only enhance it.

Planning a romantic getaway can help to strengthen your relationship. For many couples, the problems they face on a daily basis are due to not being able to communicate easily between each other. A getaway for just the two of you enables you to talk with one another without the distractions of daily life. And, if you have children, some adult time alone can help you remember what attracted you to each other in the first place. We are all busy facing the every day challenges of our lives: from family commitments and career pressures, to getting to the next soccer match on time. I've found three places that I love for a getaway.

One thing, too, is that I always try to smartly pack one bag to carry on, or Fex Ex a bag ahead so I don't have to worry about it. It saves time, is efficient and it's nice to arrive having packed lightly or have your bags waiting for you.

Where might you consider taking this romantic getaway? Here are a few of my personal favorites I recommend you try, or try again.

The British Virgin Islands

There is something about a tropical island that whispers romance into my ear. Maybe it is the azure blue water. Maybe it is the golden sun. Maybe it is tenderly applying suntan lotion on each other. When you hear the word island, most people think of going to the US Virgin Islands destinations like St. John's and St. Thomas. However, I have discovered that the British Virgin Islands are a little less touristy and ultra romantic. The most popular destinations include the islands

of Tortolla, Jost Van Dyke, and Virgin Gorda. The most luxurious one of all is the super exclusive Peter Island. It is a private adults-only resort with beach front rooms that come complete with their own palm tree and swinging hammock. The capacity is only for 200, there are two staff members for guest, and the service is five star. I guarantee you and yours will not be disappointed.

The Greek Islands

The Greeks have a word for it. Sexy. When considering what islands to visit in Greece, many think of Santorini, Mykonos, Crete and other well-known ones. I would suggest a more private, exclusive destination like the island of Rhodes. The largest of the twelve Dodecanese islands on the Aegean's eastern edge, Rhodes is also its most adored. The well-preserved medieval city of Rhodes sits at the north of the island of the same name. High-rise hotels line the northern and eastern coastlines. Small villages and resorts dot the island's other shores. Whether your interests are beaches, bars or ancient sites, Rhodes offers an abundance of all three. Authentic Greece can be found in the hilly interior of the 50-mile-long island. It also was the winner of the 2012 Travelers Choice Award, so I love a Mediterranean jaunt like this to rekindle the relationship.

Paris

It's called the City of Love for so many reasons. You've seen couples kissing each other on street corners in broad daylight like I have and Paris certainly is a favorite destination for couples wishing to enjoy their honeymoon. You can visit some of the world's most

dazzlingly historic and dramatic places and minutes later, stroll over to sit on a quiet bench while watching the Seine river's water cascading by. Paris, as any other exotic location, dazzles for so many reasons. The beauty of Paris and the contrast of it from one's own home city creates a feeling of excitement and experience that one has not felt before. It is an ideal venue to spark romance and fall in love again because the city tends to lend itself to the spontaneous adventure rather than the routine.

Remember, a relationship sometimes needs a little tending to help keep it romantic. A romantic getaway helps. You can also keep the romance alive after your getaway by planning your getaway together in advance to create the anticipation or you can decide on a Thursday night for a long weekend jaunt. Whatever you choose, a romantic frame of mind will heighten the romance beyond your wildest expectations. 📍

For more information on Julia McCurley of Something More, visit [Trysomethingmore.com](#)





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Good Vibrations

LET'S FACE IT: ENTRAINMENT AND RESONANCE are laws. Entrainment is really how one actually "syncs up" with another. What you entrain with determines how your reality shows up. It is true that entrainment is a concept that comes from what is commonly referred to as "new physics" that tells us that we are all pulsating fields of energy at different vibrations. Where our vibration, or our frequency, is positioned has a very profound effect on how we live our lives and how we look at ourselves and our world.

When we are entrained with another we are basically "on the same wavelength". In new physics' wave theory, we are told when the crest and trough of one wave syncs up with the crest and trough of another wave, the result is that amplitude and strength are doubled in both waves. So when we are entrained with another person of high vibrational frequency, we have more; more love, more joy, and more hope.

This is why our spiritual teachers constantly speak to us about the company that we keep. When we are in the presence of good company, we entrain to the vibratory frequency of the good and we come from that place ourselves. And, when we are in the company of those whose vibratory frequencies equal that of distrust and dishonesty and other forms of negativity, we can, unfortunately, entrain to those frequencies, too.

Our bodies are also a group of parts that when entrained come together to create a whole and healthy individual.

This is why it is essential for us to keep ourselves spiraling up into higher and higher frequencies. This, of course, takes a certain amount of work and commitment to ourselves. It is basically our responsibility to make sure that we are in entrainment with the higher qualities of our human condition.

Swiss physicist Christian Huygens did an experiment with the Law of Entrainment where he hung 25 pendulum clocks on a wall. These clocks were of all different sizes and times and rhythms. Guess how long it took for all of the pendulums to be oscillating together? One hour. What this tells us is that there is tremendous implication for being in the orbit of an angry alcoholic parent for 18 years or so and with what we may potentially entrain from a vibrational perspective. We

Austin holographic repatterning expert Mary Schneider knows how crucial vibrational frequency is for healthy relationships and life-impacting decisions. Here she weighs in with how to resonate vibrationally to create your best life ever.

may find ourselves attracted to an angry person with a fundamental lack of knowledge as to why we are feeling this way. This is because we have entrained to our alcoholic parent's anger and frustration and we actually carry these frequencies in our body-mind systems with negative consequences for our own decision-making and actions. That can be resolved with attention to the issue.

Resonance is the frequency at which a person or an object most naturally vibrates. Every organ, every cell, and every tissue in the human system has its own resonant frequency. These all come together to create one whole composite frequency – essentially our own

certain situations in your life that mirror that negative belief about yourself; such as choosing a partner you feel really doesn't love you or choosing a partner you don't really love. Changing the resonance with this belief not only opens the space for receiving the love others give you, most importantly; it opens the space for you to love yourself. And, when you resonate with loving yourself, the sky is the limit.

In addition, because of this phenomenon, things can become more interesting when we enter the arena of getting our own needs met and/or meeting the needs of another. If we never got our needs met as children, we do not even think about what it is that we really need,



let alone ask for it. If we don't resonate with getting our needs met, we may be with someone who is actually meeting our needs and we do not recognize it or, more importantly, we do not feel it. Resonating with having one's needs met can change our situation in relationship without having to change the person we are in relationship with - which is often the only solution that we can envision. Of course, if we enter into another relationship without having changed that resonance with not recognizing when our needs are met, we won't recognize if the new person is meeting our needs either. So we'll have to find someone else and the cycle continues with, generally, great pain and suffering as the result.

notes. What you resonate with determines how you live your life; your thoughts, feelings, tendencies, and your beliefs. When you resonate with the great virtues like truth, justice, kindness, humility, etc., then the results you experience in your everyday interactions with others have greater potential for positive outcomes.

In Holographic Repatterning which is the work I do, we literally uncover the sub-conscious negative thoughts, feelings and beliefs that a person resonates with and change that resonance. For instance, if you resonate with the frequency of "I am unlovable" even though you may have many individuals in your life who really do love you. It might be difficult for you to believe it or even feel the love given. As a result, you will choose

It is our responsibility that we entrain and resonate with the higher qualities gifted to us as human beings. It is very possible starting here, starting now. If we entrain and resonate with the positive qualities in ourselves and others, we will positively affect our own lives and the lives of the people around us. That is because those around us will entrain and resonate with our own positive way of being. And, this can only mean good news for the world. 🌍

For more information on Mary Schneider, please visit Repatternit.com

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Get On Point



Acupuncture has been a holistic healing method for several thousands of years and here **Austin-based acupuncturist Andra Millian, L.Ac.** shares her insight on the benefits of the ancient technique of aligning balance, energy and healing.

MOST PEOPLE KNOW THAT

acupuncture is a type of medical treatment within Oriental medicine, which involves gently inserting very fine, sterile needles into the skin to stimulate specific energy points, called acupoints, along the surface of the body. Traditional Chinese acupuncture focuses on restoring a balanced, harmonious energy flow and in doing so, helps the body to heal itself.

In Chinese theory, a key principle governing radiantly good health is the unobstructed flow of energy known as Qi (pronounced Chee) between our organs along a series of pathways called meridians. When your Qi becomes blocked, insufficient or built up, it can lead to illness or imbalances in the body. One can liken this build up or blockage of Qi to rivers that flood and cause disasters or, in the case of insufficient Qi, to an electrical grid short-circuiting and causing blackouts. Western science reasons that acupuncture needles interact with our nervous system, triggering the release of hormone-like chemicals that affect our mood, perception of pain and immune response.

How Does Acupuncture Feel?

Acupuncture needles differ altogether from the hypodermic needles we are familiar with. In western – (allopathic) medicine, hypodermic needles are used to perforate flesh in order to administer medicine or take blood samples. The filiform acu-needle, on the other hand, is a thin hair-like strand needle. Filiform, means “shaped like or resembling a filament or thread.”

Filiform acupuncture needle is designed to gently push the skin and flesh aside when it is inserted, without tearing or breaking the flesh. Imagine that! The results are not painful and if patients are treated by well-trained, licensed practitioners, only rarely cause any minor bruising or bleeding.

How Does Acupuncture Assuage Physical Challenges?

In 2003, the NIH (National Institute of Health) World Health Organization published reports that cite acupuncture as a safe and effective treatment for disease, symptoms and conditions ranging from smoking addiction to tennis elbow. Many types of pain, including headaches, back and dental pain, carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis, fatigue and stress, as well as digestive problems including Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and morning sickness comprise the most frequent complaints successfully treated by your local licensed acupuncturist.

How To Look And Feel Younger

Try a cosmetic acupuncture session to help relax facial muscles, smooth facial wrinkles and prevent new lines from forming, as well as reducing baggy eyelids and dark circle under eyes. Facial acupressure and acupuncture can reduce signs of aging by strengthening and stimulating circulation blood flow and natural collagen production, resulting in younger looking skin.

It is a safe, chemical-free way to postpone wrinkles and tucks. This type of cosmetic acupuncture is considered a specialty and requires special training, so be sure to go to a licensed expert. Find out if acupuncture can successfully address your wellness needs by going to a thorough consultation session with a state licensed acupuncturist.

In Texas all licensure is provided through the Texas Medical Board. Many acupuncturists and doctors prefer to consider acupuncture as complementary therapy rather than an alternative. Using acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine, for wellness and Western (allopathic) medicine for illness are very effective when paired together. A 2008 review suggested that treating fertility and reproductive problems with a combination of acupuncture and conventional infertility treatments such as In-vitro Fertilization can improve the success rates of such medical interventions by as much as 50%.

There are abundant health benefits that acupuncture and other modalities within Oriental medicine can offer may gently help restore your good health and get you feeling your best. ☺

More on Andra Millian MTCM, L.Ac., C.H., licensed acupuncturist expert, can be found at AustinOnSiteAcupuncture.com

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Diversifying With Alternative Investments

While so-called “alternative investments” come in many shapes and forms, they share one common element: They can serve as a portfolio diversifier, helping to offset the volatility of equities.

PROLONGED STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY has caused many investors to question how much of their portfolios should be allocated to equities. The world of investing isn't solely about stocks and bonds.

There are alternative investments, many of which are available only to certain qualified high net worth and ultra high net worth investors, that may provide ways to diversify¹ your portfolio and potentially maximize your portfolio's risk-adjusted return.

Alternative investments can help protect purchasing power, acting as a hedge against inflation. Additionally, they tend to have very low correlations with stocks and bonds. However, it's just as important to understand that alternative investments are not for everyone as they are often speculative, involve a high degree of risk, and you can lose a substantial amount or all of your investment.



Alternative investments take many forms. Here is a look at several common investment types...

Commodities²

These investments include metals such as gold or silver, oil and agricultural products. The advantage of commodities is that they exhibit a low correlation to both equities and bonds. Consequently, when the stock market is experiencing weakness, commodities tend to hold their own. However, commodity prices are volatile, thus there is more risk. In the case of gold or silver, there are dealers who trade these precious metals. If you take physical possession of gold or silver, you will need to arrange for storage and insurance. Because many investors do not want to make these arrangements, investment vehicles such as exchange-traded funds (ETFs) are one way to access commodities.

Hedge Funds³

The term hedge fund is a catch-all phrase describing funds that often follow aggressive investment strategies such as intensive use of derivatives, selling short and proprietary computerized trading. Hedge funds typically are engineered to seek a more favorable risk-adjusted return than their investors might obtain from an investment vehicle that follows a standard market benchmark. By law, hedge funds are restricted to a low and limited number of accredited investors and are primarily organized as limited partnerships. As a result, the vast majority of hedge funds target institutions and wealthy individuals.

Private Equity⁴

Major categories of private equity include venture capital, leveraged buyouts, managed buyouts and mezzanine financing. Investors participate in private markets through collective vehicles such as partnerships that actively manage the investment assets on the investors' behalf. Once a particular partnership has reached

its target size, the partnership is closed to new investors, including new funds from existing investors. Private equity firms frequently require investors to make commitments ranging from \$5 million to \$10 million or more. Successful investing in this area requires the ability to assess complex financial structures, assume outsized risk in pursuit of superior reward and tolerate extended periods of illiquidity.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) And Real Estate⁵

REITs invest in groups of professionally managed properties such as office buildings, apartments, warehouses or hotels. To qualify as a REIT, a company:

- Must invest at least 75% of its total assets in real estate
- Must derive at least 75% of gross income from rents or mortgage interest
- Must pay at least 90% of its taxable income in the form of shareholder dividends

REITs trade on major exchanges and can be bought or sold as you would trade a stock.

Another option is to invest directly in real estate, which allows you to gain total control over your investment. Decisions on leasing terms, amount to charge for rent, expenses to incur and selling price are all at your discretion. All investing involves risk, including loss of principal; and alternative investments by themselves can be highly volatile. But when used in combination with stocks or other assets, they may help to smooth out long-term returns and provide an alternative when stock returns are choppy.

Which alternative investments may best complement a portfolio will depend on a number of factors, including one's existing holdings, financial situation and appetite for risk. 6

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Alternative investments can be highly illiquid, are speculative and not suitable for all investors. Investing in alternative investments is only intended for experienced and sophisticated investors who are willing to bear the high economic risks associated with such an investment. Investors should carefully review and consider potential risks before investing. Certain of these risks may include loss of all or a substantial portion of the investment due to leveraging, shortselling, or other speculative practices, lack of liquidity in that there may be no secondary market for the fund and none

risk due to concentration of trading authority when a single advisor is utilized, absence of information regarding valuations and pricing, complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting, less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds, and risks associated with the operations, personnel

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1

2

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4 Investing in private equity funds carries risks such as: Liquidation Risk – they generally will invest in securities that are not readily marketable and

investment – the investment strategies used may include highly speculative investment techniques, highly concentrated portfolios, control and non-control positions and illiquid investments.

5

estate investments are illiquid and are not listed on any exchange.

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LOVE Happens

It is no secret that Lindsey Love is considered to be one of the most stylish women in Texas. She is also one of our favorites. As a style and social editor for the Houston Chronicle, she is a girl on the go, and covering fashion and the social scene are a way of life for her. So is living a beautiful life. Here, Love shares her own loves: a few of her favorite things and advice to inspire your own lushly stylish life.

By Mira Milla Portrait photography by Omar Mejia



My style icon is . . .

I am always intrigued by Brits Kate Moss and Daphne Guinness. Even though their style preferences greatly differ, they both manage to stay true to their mode while being “of the moment” which is quite a fashionable feat. Historically speaking, I adore Elizabeth Taylor’s fashion choices through the decades and, of course, her jewel box.¹

My personal style signifier is . . .

If ladylike Dior married Boho Isabel Marant it would be a juxtaposition of 1950s classic silhouettes paired with unexpected elements.

The thing I am eyeing next is . . .

A man’s Jaeger-LeCoultre pocket watch from the 1940s that has been converted into a wristwatch. I love anything historical and one-of-a-kind.²

An unforgettable place I’ve traveled is . . .

Between being an only child and having an Auntie Mame growing up I was fortunate to travel far and wide and usually off the beaten path. Places that I still hold dear to my heart are St. Barth’s beaches, Paris’ romance, Napa Valley’s peaceful setting and the Sergenti’s sunsets.³

The best souvenir I have brought home is . . .

A single pour, wine decanter from Montepulciano and bespoke letter seal from Florence.

The site that inspires me most is . . .

Aerial shots anywhere. The thinner air and distance from reality opens my mind.⁴

The last meal that truly impressed me was . . .

I’m constantly on the look out for the best all-time burger and I have yet to find one that beats the Corono Club’s recipe.

The people I rely on for grooming and style are . . .

Ceron for my hair, Isle Pedi Spa for nails, Tanja D at Neiman Marcus, and Dr. Jennifer Segal for my skin.



A recent find is ...

Cicalfate Restorative Cream by Avène. It truly is the only product that brings relief to my sensitive skin.⁵

Favorite charity is ...

I'm a board member for KickStart Kids and an advisory board member for Dress For Success.

The last thing I bought and loved is ...

A Jil Sander trench coat.⁷

The last music I downloaded is ...

I'm a Spotify app fan, so today I was feeling 90s nostalgia and downloaded Jay Z's Hard Knock Life album.⁷

If I had to limit my shopping to one neighborhood in one city ...

Paris is such a hard decision but if forced I'd have to say any shops on or off the Rue Saint-Honore.

The last item I added to my wardrobe is ...

Michael Kors' tropical print short ensemble.

The best gift I have given recently is ...

Gift cards. You'd have to ask the recipients.

The best gift I have received is ...

My Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Oona.⁸

The book on my bedside table is ...

1Q84 by Haruki Murakami. Just kidding. I'm currently reading Dating For Dummies. Just kidding. I'm currently reading 1Q84 by Haruki Murakami.⁹

My favorite room is ...

At home it is my cave-like bedroom and beyond that, my mother's dressing area.

An indulgence I would never forego is ...

Bubble baths.¹⁰

My favorite street in the world is ...

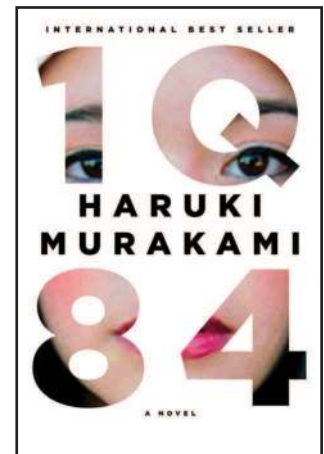
Mount Street.

I read ...

Us Weekly for the mind-numbing entertainment, David Sedaris for his sarcastic wit, and Fitzgerald for his beautiful descriptions.

On my tombstone it will say ...

Ideally I'd like for my epitaph to read "She made God laugh by telling Him her plans" but most likely it will say "And finally, Silence."



Desert's Inn



The desert has long been known for its spiritual and restorative properties. We agree. A weekend in Scottsdale is just a plane ride away and certainly a weekend you won't soon forget its W Hotel hipster allure and the scores of attractions the area offers.

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography Courtesy of W Hotels, Scottsdale Convention and Visitors Bureau

SURE, SOME CALL SCOTTSDALE A desert version of Miami's South Beach. I emphatically agree for good reason. Also known as "the West's most western town", it is also a grounded retreat that prides itself in its rich Western history with an undeniably hipster vibe.. How does this mix of old and new work so beautifully together? It's simple. It is the region's friendly and welcoming essence that attracts both youthful entrepreneurs and retirees alike.

For sports enthusiasts, it is interesting to note that the city is the spring training home of the San Francisco Giants, who practice at Scottsdale Stadium in Downtown Scottsdale. Scottsdale Stadium also hosts the Scottsdale Scorpions, a minor league baseball team in the Arizona Fall League. The Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks began sharing a new spring training facility, Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, located on the city's eastern border with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. So, the vibe of the city evolves during that time. Year 'round there is always something to discover and embrace in this desert getaway.

STAY

Take for example the newish W Scottsdale. It is at once both old West and as few-minutes-from-now hip as a new Tom Ford ensemble. And, it fits just as well with its deserty feel of architecture and style aesthetic. Both sizzling hot and sparkling cool simultaneously, the hotel reflects the fore-frontier of exhilarating arts,

sophisticated shopping, destination golf courses, world-class spas and indulgent nightlife, where you can well, resort to world-class culture in what is surely one of country's most livable city.

Upon the first steps in the lobby inspired by the arid surroundings, the W Scottsdale offers a go with the low sensibility. It's no mirage. The hotel is infused with natural water elements throughout: where you can glide through with the W Scottsdale's meditative energy, set adrift on waves of perfectly balanced luxury and comfort, or make a splash in the cool WET pool, the centerpiece of the hotel's desert oasis just up from the rocking lobby-turned-nightclub, the Living Room, where its visitors live life to the fullest. The bar, which runs the entire length of the space, rocks day or night.

Sexy is as sexy does at the W Scottsdale. My two bedroom, three bath WOW suite was a recently converted condo that whispered quite chic which offered a glam respite in between the rejuvenation treatments at Bliss® Spa and the activities around the area. The hotel offers 230 Guestrooms including 27 Suites, 5 WOW Suites, and one Extreme WOW Suite. Need I say more on why, with so many choices nearby, that this is the place to be, do and stay?

DO

Old Town Scottsdale is the area with many old-fashioned stores, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and western art galleries that represents the town's charm. The city's

main cultural district is also in this area, which includes the upscale Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall and it is also one of the twenty largest malls in the country. Shopping for art? There are many choices from which to choose. Scottsdale's galleries, studios and museums that are open to the public are in downtown Scottsdale. Besides Old Town, the Scottsdale Arts District can be seen in two other areas: Main Street, home to the largest and most diverse collection of art genres and the more contemporary Marshall Way Arts District. It is an outdoorsy city and it also offers many gallery tours to help navigate the arts scene and the Scottsdale Artwalk is held every Thursday evening, so maybe leave a day early for your jaunt to enjoy that.

Treat yourself to a feast for the design senses. The legendary estate of Frank Lloyd Wright and his apprentices in the 1930s was constantly expanded and modified by the architect until his death in 1959. "Finally I learned of a site twenty-six miles from Phoenix, across the desert of the vast Paradise Valley," said Wright retrospectively. "On up to a great mesa in the mountains. On the mesa just below McDowell Peak we stopped, turned, and looked around. The top of the world."

A tour of it is like knowing the man himself. Crafted from the essence of the desert by literally gathering rocks from the desert floor and sand from the washes to keep the design in balance with the surrounding environment, you might feel inspired to create a little more



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Ballooning over the desert



Living Room Lounge



modernism in your own domain. The site is considered among foremost experts to be one of the Wright's greatest creations since it was designed by a live/work/play space; Wright's personal home, studio and architectural laboratory. The 90-minute guided tour is the oft-recreated Taliesin West Living Room, called the "Garden Room" by Wright, and the recently renovated Wright living quarters. I recommend tour guide Weiss Kelly, whose prolific knowledge of the estate and its surroundings is insightful and engaging.

Want to fly high? Look no further as you hop into one of the city's myriad hot air balloons and see the view from the top. You will see firsthand why the Sonoran Desert is a uniquely beautiful place from upon high in its expansiveness and grandeur. The sunrise and sunset flights can provide magnificent vistas of desert terrain and towering mountain ranges. I did the sunrise tour and completely recommend it and the view from the balloon's handcrafted wicker basket is virtually unobstructed. Landing back to earth happens in the traditional manner with toasts of champagne and breakfast, a custom dating back more than 100 years. There are numerous ballooning services, yet I recommend Hot Air Expeditions.

DINE

At the W, Sushi Roku is known by insiders in Los Angeles and Las Vegas for its flawless cuisine. It is a seen-and-be-seen eatery that delivers both a wonderful meal and a big city dining experience. Saunter from there to the where the hotel's guests and locals feel like insiders when socializing in Shade, the destination nightlife lounge. Then there is the recessed oasis in the sun; indulging poolside at Sunset Lawn that offers glimpses of high fashion as well as hijinks

The next recommendation nearby is downtown at the city's wildly popular Citizen Public House and its upstairs bar, Citizen R+D, the speakeasy vibe, complete with sexy banquettes and ottoman and low tables make the drinks and those who enjoy them the main focus. Want a dramatic new twist on a cocktail? Pull up a chair. Take, for instance, the classic G & T (that's a gin and tonic to those who may be far more knowledgeable in wine). The master mixologist blends premium vodka that's boiled at the table with secret botanicals to produce a tasty gin. The show is worth every penny. Then there's the Paint Can Punch, which includes Bois Genever, falernum syrup and fresh citrus that's shaken with ice using a vintage paint can. Enticed? Uh-huh, thought you might be. Know that the bar is a tough entry. You first have to be granted access.

The entrance to the exclusive 30-seat Citizen R+D is through a mysterious alleyway staircase on the back of the building. When you arrive, you have to call the number displayed on the door and request entry.

It is worth the effort, though, and after you have wetted your whistle, saunter downstairs to the delectable dining experience at Citizen Public House. One glance is all it takes to realize this caters to the city's hoi polloi who love to dine among their own, as well as newcomers to share the experience. You'll enjoy starters like gorgonzola-emmental mac-n-cheese and entrees like pan-seared scallops served over roasted sweet corn grits, snow pea greens, bacon, and cola gastrique. Craft beers and more classically contemporary cocktails make this a home-run evening in Scottsdale.

Actually, everything you may choose to do in Scottsdale will be a homerun and with all the choices of activities this desert oasis offers, you'll soon be planning additional trips there because of the long list of sun, fun and frolic to be had. 9



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Dining CONFIDENTIAL

The Capital City's cuisine scene is undergoing a renaissance. The new book, *Austin Chef's Table* by Crystal Esquivel with photos by Aimee Wenske, explored here by Mira Milla, lifts the lid on some of your favorite restaurant's epicurean creation.

WANT TO PRESENT SOME OF AUSTIN'S best delicacies at home for your next dinner party or family gathering? Look no further. From East Austin's taquerias and barbecue joints to the best Vietnamese and Korean cuisine in North Austin and everything in between, *Austin Chef's Table* is the first cookbook to gather the capital's best chefs and restaurants under one cover.

It is more than just a cookbook, though. This tome is an ode to Austin's distinct culinary culture that gives readers an intimate tour of the city's top eating establishments and introduces them to the city's best chefs. At the heart of the book are 50 tasty make-at-home recipes for home chefs of all skill levels, including Chef David Bull's White Lobster Bisque and Lobster Ricotta Fritters (Congress); Chuy's Deluxe Tomatillo Sauce; Contigo's White Bean Dip; Fried Chicken with Redeye Gravy (Foreign and Domestic), and many more.

Here are a few of our favorite dishes to entice your palate...



Sopa de Elote (Corn Soup), from Fonda San Miguel (p36)

Fonda San Miguel's Sopa de Elote has been a staple on the menu for years. The simplicity of the freshest corn and chiles mixed with savory toppings makes it irresistible. Recipe courtesy of Executive Chef Miguel Ravago.

Serves 6

- 4 cups fresh corn kernels, cut and scraped from 5 or 6 ears of corn, or about 2 (10-ounce) packages frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 4 1/2 cups milk, divided
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 2 poblano chiles, roasted, peeled, seeded, and diced
- 6 tablespoons shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 6 corn tortillas, cut into thin strips and fried crisp, for garnish

Combine corn and 1 cup milk in a blender. Puree at high speed until smooth; set aside.

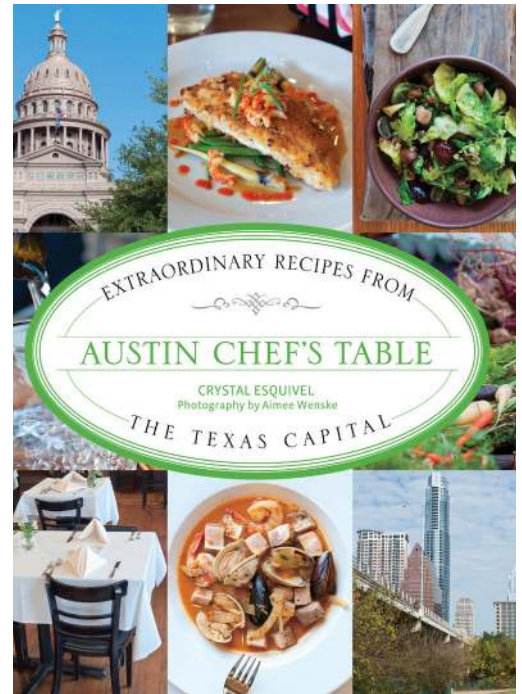
In a heavy, 3-quart nonreactive stockpot, heat the butter over medium heat until melted and bubbly. Add the corn puree and cook over medium heat for about 6 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the remaining 3 1/2 cups milk and the salt; bring the mixture to a boil.

Reduce heat to low and simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring to avoid sticking.

In each of six warm soup bowls, put 1 tablespoon each of the diced chiles and shredded cheese. Ladle the hot soup into the bowls and garnish with a few tortilla strips.

Blue Bramble, from East Side Showroom (p121)

This cocktail is light and refreshing, and the blueberry-infused gin imparts a beautiful pink color to the drink. The gin will take a total of six weeks to infuse – the berries are added in two batches – but afterward, you will have the infused gin as well as gin-soaked



blueberries, which would be great made into a jam. Recipe courtesy of Head Barman Chauncy James.

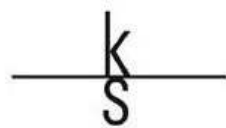
Serves 1



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Piperade from Justine's Brasserie (p24)

potatoes, and chorizo. It is a versatile Basque-influenced sauce that can also be served with fish, grilled asparagus, roasted squash, chicken, or strongly flavored small fish such as sardines or mackerel. Recipe courtesy of Executive Chef Casey Wilcox.

Makes about 1 cup

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup sliced shallots
- 1 cup sliced red bell peppers
- 8 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 6 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon Espelette chile pepper (piment d'Espelette), available in specialty grocery stores; hot paprika can be substituted
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons white wine
- 3 tablespoons water

1 ounce Spanish chorizo, thinly sliced

In a medium saucepan, combine olive oil, shallots, bell peppers, garlic, tomatoes, salt, Espelette pepper, and black pepper. Bring heat up to medium and sauté until the vegetables start to break down and begin to brown.

Add wine and water, and stir continuously as the liquid reduces. The oil will emulsify and thicken slightly. If the emulsification breaks, add 1 teaspoon hot water and stir vigorously to re-emulsify.

Finish the sauce with parsley leaves and chorizo and cook for just a minute to heat through. Serve immediately.

Grilled Polenta, also from East Side Showroom (p122)

The final brushing of lemon juice, olive oil, and salt brightens up the polenta before grilling. This versatile side dish can also be topped with anything from a vegetable ragout to braised meats. Recipe courtesy of Executive Chef Sonya Coté.

Serves 8–10

- 1 1/4 cups whole milk
- 1 1/4 cups water
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup mascarpone cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil

In a medium saucepan, bring the milk, water, salt, and white pepper to a low boil over medium heat. Slowly

whisk in the cornmeal, then reduce heat to low and cook for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

When the polenta is tender, remove from heat and stir in butter, mascarpone, and Parmesan.

Line a 9x13-inch baking dish with parchment paper. Pour the polenta on to the parchment and spread into a smooth, even layer. Cut another piece of parchment paper the same size, and press it on top of the polenta, smoothing it out evenly. Refrigerate until the polenta is firm, at least 1 hour.

Preheat a grill to medium high.

Cut firm polenta into circles, triangles, or other desired shape.

In a small bowl, combine lemon juice, olive oil, and salt to taste. Brush this mixture on both sides of each polenta piece and grill to create sear marks on both sides.

To serve, drizzle the polenta with the remaining lemon/oil mixture. Serve hot. 🍴



Crystal Esquivel chronicles her cooking and dining adventures at <http://poco-cooaa.com>, and writes about food for various publications, including Remedy Quarterly. A registered dietitian, she is also the author of the Food Lovers' Guide to Austin (Globe Pequot).

For the blueberry-infused gin:

- 1 (750 mL) bottle Death's Door Gin
- 6 cups blueberries, divided

For the cocktail:

- 1/2 ounce simple syrup (see how to make it on page 24 of Austin Chef's Table, or use your own recipe)
- 1/2 ounce fresh lime juice
- 2 or 3 drops sarsaparilla bitters (such as Bad Dog)
- Ice
- Basil leaf, for garnish
- Lime zest, for garnish

To prepare the blueberry-infused gin:

Combine the gin and 3 cups blueberries in a large container. Seal and let sit at room temperature for 3 weeks.

After 3 weeks, strain the blueberries from the gin with a fine-meshed sieve. Add the remaining 3 cups fresh blueberries to the gin, and repeat the 3-week infusion. After the second infusion, strain the blueberries out of the gin. Store the infused gin in a resealable bottle. Save the berries for another use, if desired.

To prepare the cocktail:

Combine the simple syrup, lime juice, and bitters with 1 3/4 ounces blueberry-infused gin in a cocktail shaker. Add ice and shake vigorously to chill, then strain into an old-fashioned glass filled with crushed ice. Garnish with a basil leaf and lime zest.

Piperade, from Justine's Brasserie (p24)

A smooth emulsion of oil and roasted red peppers, Justine's piperade is served with seared scallops, gingerling

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The Very Best

* Reported in the San Antonio Business Journal, March 2013





LUXE

Be A Lady Tonight

It's good to be rich, and it is good to be rich in Paris at the American Friends of the Eiffel Tower gala weekend is in full bloom, as seen in this excerpt from [Lance Avery Morgan's book, The Society Chronicles](#).

It is better to live rich than to die rich.
Samuel Johnson

"DARLING, YOU SHOULD WEAR WHITE every day," Sabrina enthused about my black-tie alternative for summertime (my bespoke tux was getting embarrassingly threadbare), as she grasped my hands with her own, cold as a New England clam. Must be nervousness for the big evening.

"And Kit, you look absolutely precious," Sabrina says to my companion, who catches my eye with one of her overly arched ones. Being damned with faint praise does not amuse her, but really, Kit needs to lay off the Botox for a few months like everyone else there.

I, on the other hand, arrived in good spirits - Sabrina's errant brother Joshua's mobster exploits were taken into account and having kicked off the festivities last night at Ambassador Hammond's mansion, where some of the best examples of American art are displayed on magnificent French walls. Diplomats are the most party-giving people of us all, but it is amusing to know that Sabrina's guests have better artwork in their downstairs

ceilings - a state gift from Portugal to spirit things up a bit. Someone needs to tell the State Department that Philippe Starck is alive and kicking around the corner and could modernize this fossilized shell of a former palace... tell them diplomatically, that is.

As the shocking news of Joshua Miller's polo exploits with mobsters continued to spread and sink in, most of us awakened to the memory, groggy and terribly hung-over with "The Girl From Ipanema" pestering our pounding brains and the elegant rowdiness of the Ritz bar as we had re-gathered. It was Alexandra Medford's favorite tune and Zeke had spotted the band a hundy every time they played it wherever we went.

Nevertheless, we fell in line mid-morning at the home of the commanding chief executive of the House of Hermes, taking a tour of the home, with many glasses of Dom Perignon gulped in between rooms, and finally, receiving our parting gifts of lovely orange and black boxed reminders of our visit; equestrian-themed desk

powder room than what is displayed here above the French ambassador's replace.

Don't get me wrong. It's classic Continental swank. Gilded gold furnishings. Peau de soie and gros de Londres drapes that puddle at the door and

ornaments for the men, and the signature \$700 scarves for the women. As the hostess, Sabrina was gifted with a specially commissioned scarf. Little did she know how much of a presence the scarf would have her last day on this planet at her tour de force, the American Friends of the Eiffel Tower ball.

Iconic and powerful as the Egyptian pyramids or the Taj Mahal, the Eiffel Tower's twisty metal is the epicenter for countless lovers doing their passionate deeds. It's also a cultural racket that practically mints Euros for the French, but that symbolism is lost on our hostess.

This weekend, there's no such thing as excess, with the thousand-dollar-a-bottle bubbly and gowns that cost the annual wage of the average American worker. All that and 81 stories of the Eiffel, lit up like an octogenarian's birthday cake: to be expected at this rare social altitude.

Here at a party like this is where marriage is as much a business as anything else, and certain social mores must be observed. High black tie was required for men, which meant only long gowns for ladies. A dashing but down-on-his-luck viscount with a Hungarian accent, Hans von Friedlander, greeted guests at the check-in table, looking over Alexandra Medford as she rushed in late, her dress train gathered up to show a sizeable amount of leg real estate. An actual count was late, too,



explaining that vineyard business kept him in Bordeaux and he missed an earlier train.

Friends and frenemies alike were in the receiving line at the entry of the lush gardens at base of the tower, most breathless at the thought that Sabrina might possibly receive an ambassadorial appointment like the one attained by her professional hero many decades before, Claire Booth Luce. Luce who was once described as the ideal female, both a woman's woman and a man's woman, was the kind of gal Sabrina and I would have wanted as a pal.

Media scion Trip Forrest, Brandon and Bunny Jamison (in vintage Bob Mackie), were in from La Jolla with Ivan and Rachel Kohler (she was in a brand spanking new Kenzo). Victoria Baron Magee was next, still ready to sign any random autograph as the real person behind the Erin Rosswell role in the Oscar-nominated *Im* about the covert arms movement in Libya, repurposed her mother's cream chi on John Anthony of New York couture gown - there's nothing tonier in the fashion world now than a fabulous vintage piece.

Marquessa Sloan and her husband, Hampton (son of 1950's western star Shep Sloan) were in line behind Mrs. Magee, she in a navy sequined Ellie Saab, who had also designed her Crillion Hotel's Cotillion Ball gown several years back. Her mother in law, Laurette Sloan,



French by birth and goddess by earned reputation, was with them since she lived in her Paris apartment six months out of the year. She looked resplendent in her Philip Treacy hat of spun cashmere and lame' to match her brand new Phillip Lim 2.0 o the shoulder gown of black and turquoise. Laurette's guest, Princess Tita von Kohlenberg, in a vintage Charles James gown her mother had made during the early Eisenhower years, was standing on one foot and then the other, her eagerness to walk in the party barely uncontainable. For her the term professional guest had been coined decades before.

Behind them were Alexandra and Zeke Medford, she in Alexander McQueen as a tribute to the fallen fashion icon and close personal friend. They stood in line in front of box office stars, iPhone app millionaires, and of all people, Brie Sorenson, with a post teen vampire co-star who had much more bark than bite in *Young Hollywood*. Her stylist apparently didn't get the memo about glamour, and whatever raggedy Melrose Avenue

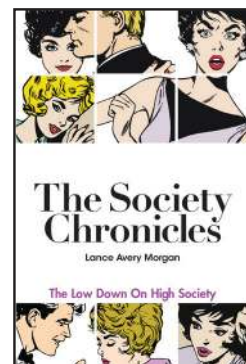


slip dress she packed for the occasion was way too junior, and most assuredly short on taste. The shoes were worse. But at 18, she was irrelevant and clueless, and in nitely better dressed than Sabrina's own o - spring would have been had they attended.

Everyone is pretty much the same, naked, Sabrina thought to herself while welcoming her guests and looking them over as astutely as one could in a receiving line. For their sakes, thank God, most of the women are covered in couture. It was over a year of planning; through her brother's maddening decline, her husband's affairs, the divorce mess and her dirty little secret that, if all goes well, the evening would stay dirty and little. Here's hoping.

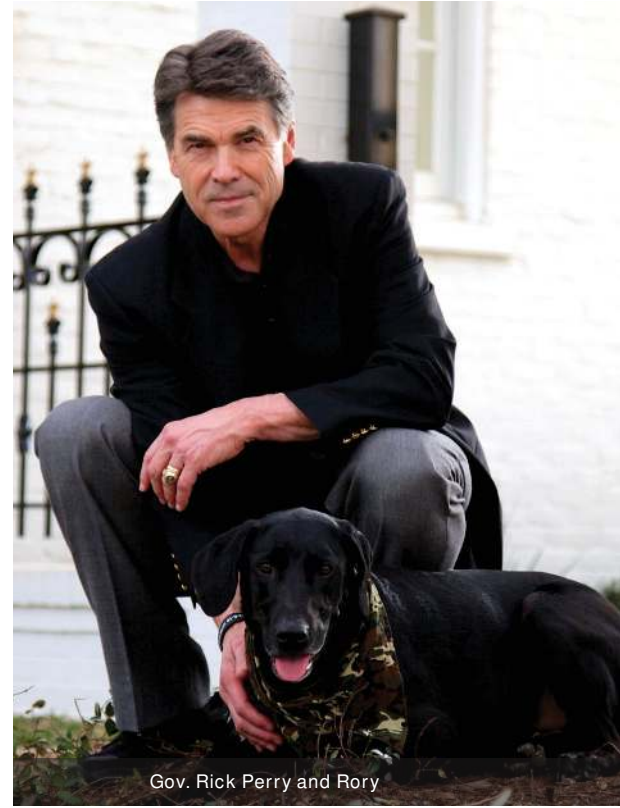
Let's get this party started. "Take me up, Pierre. I want to get a good look below at what I created tonight before my party starts," Sabrina said to the Eiffel Tower's white-gloved elevator operator. 

For more reading and to buy *The Society Chronicles*, please visit Societychronicles.com and Amazon.com



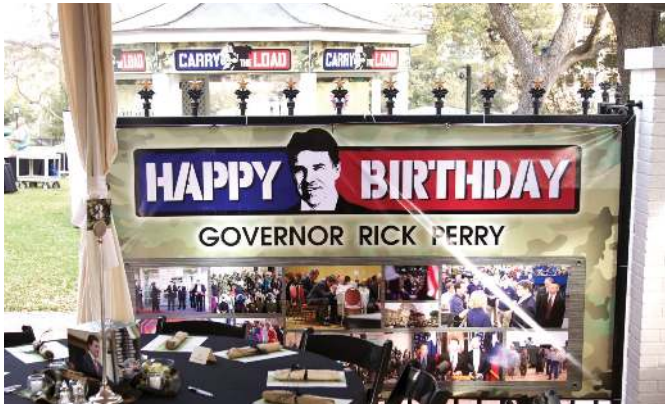
Happy Birthday, Governor

Gala Supports Carry The Load At State's First Residence



Gov. Rick Perry and Rory

UNDERSTANDING WHAT A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF THE MILITARY FIRST LADY Anita Perry is, a friend, former Marine Captain Blake Sawyer recently asked her to champion a military cause in Austin, Carry the Load. The First Lady eagerly agreed to help bring the cause to Austin for an event at the Governor's Mansion. With her husband's birthday approaching, Mrs. Perry had the perfect venue and theme to raise awareness and raise funds for the organization. With the organization in mind, the First Lady planned it to be celebrated with a birthday party to honor her favorite veteran, Governor Rick Perry.



welcomes guests





Gov. Rick Perry and Pat Green



Carry the Load is a movement founded by two former Navy SEALs, Clint Bruce and Stephen Holley, and its goal is to restore the honor and dignity to Memorial Day. The cause was founded to help celebrate a meaningful Memorial Day by partnering with communities to hold local events to honor veterans and active duty service members, law enforcement officers, firefighters and their families. The truth is, there is a disconnect between what Memorial Day means and how it is actually observed today.

The event's military theme was reflected in nametags which were shaped like dog tags and the cuisine serving lines that were dubbed the "Chow Line" and were complete with military-style, metal serving trays. Camouflage bandannas were incorporated into the centerpieces that all featured Carry the Load's beneficiary logos, along with photos of the Governor visiting veterans.

More than 300 guests enjoyed entertainment by Texas music favorite Pat Green in the First Couple's garden setting. Lake Hills Church's Mac Richard gave a benediction following a hugely successful live auction for the memorable evening offered a view of the state capitol throughout the evening's festivities. 📍



Mac and Julie Richard, Gov. Rick Perry and friends



Pat Green performs



Gov. Perry and guests

Love, Laredo

The Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant & Ball Wows South Texas Region

By Jake Gaines Photography By Greg Harrison



WHEN YOU THINK OF A PARTY, think of South Texas, why don't you? The memorable party this year was Laredo's festive Washington's birthday celebration and debutante ball. Cocktails were poured, champagne was popped and hors d'oeuvres were passed as thousands of Laredo's most esteemed denizens arrived en masse. They were there to celebrate the decades-old tradition in the South Texas region for the Society of Martha Washington Colonial Pageant & Ball that continues to thrive and grow more popular every year.



Julia Jones and Margaret Jones Hopson

La Reserva Bar & Grill

salutes the participants of the
2013 Society of Martha Washington
Colonial Pageant and Ball



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Event photo courtesy of Greg Harrison

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Kristelle Martin



Irma Lourdes Ramirez

The Colonial Ball, where the girls in grand dresses debuted, was held in the city's Civic Center. It is part of a citywide festival of Washington's Birthday Celebration, which takes place each year near the first US president's special holiday. Not only does the Society of Martha Washington help Laredo present an image of "racial and national harmony" by working in conjunction with the Princess Pocahontas Council and the Abrazo Children 2013 (Edward Maddox, Isabella Gibson, Maria Resendez and Emilio Lerma), but it also boasts attendees who are notables from all over Texas.



Epitacio Resendez and Esther Solis



Anna, John Roman and John Galo



Aria Lerma and Sara Bazan



Carissa Rodriguez and Christian Moreno



Stephanie Levy, Janice Reed and Ale Martinez



Octavio and Irma Salvidar



Jimmy Jones and Kay Booth



Piti Casteneda and Graciella Alarcon



Eddie and Cristina Alderete



Erin Bowman, Joe Healy and Linda Leyendecker Gutierrez

In addition to its philanthropic aspect, the organization chooses two prominent members of Laredo society to don costumes to portray President George and Martha Dandridge Washington. This year President George and Martha Washington were portrayed by Tad Deutsch as George and Niti Volpe as Martha. The debutantes and their escorts who are presented have family in the Society or are invited guests. Membership into the Society is exclusive, yet there are no racial or ethnic discriminations and Laredo's elite consists of bi-cultural residents. Margaret Jones Hopson is the 2013 President of the Society of Martha Washington and she and all the committees worked tirelessly to produce this year's extravaganza. 📍



Elizabeth Leyendecker and Beto Gutierrez



Medals Of Honor

Texas Medal of Arts Showcases State's Artistic Talents

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Chris Caselli

WHAT DO A FORMER MISS CORPUS CHRISTI, THE OWNERS OF AMERICA'S TEAM AND A "TUNA" HAVE IN COMMON? THAT would be Eva Longoria, the Jones family who own the Dallas Cowboys and Greater Tuna who were among the well-deserving recipients of this year's biannual Texas Medal of the Arts awards, recently held in a dazzling ceremony and performance at Austin's Long Center for the Performing Arts.



Emcee Chris Harrison



Eva Longoria



Michael Galbraith and Jack Massing



Lindsey Love



Charlotte Jones-Anderson, Gene and Jerry Jones



Laura Matz



Steve Miller



Karen Oswalt

is year's event co-chairs, Marita Fairbanks and Kelli Blanton of Houston, deserve praise for providing a cavalcade of honorees who showcase Texas' diverse and enormous contributions to the arts, not just in Texas, but around the world. is year's A-List honorees included Multimedia Award recipients, *Desperate Housewives* star Eva Longoria for her contributions to television, art and philanthropy and the Individual Arts patron award presented to Gene Jones Charlotte Jones-Anderson by Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, husband of Gene and father of Charlotte. e centre Award recipients were Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, whose *Greater Tuna* theatrical play series has gained legendary status around the world. Other well-deserving individual award nominees include Music Award recipient Steve Miller (of the Steve Miller Band), Visual Arts recipient James Surls, Arts Education Award recipient Big ought's Gigi Antoni. e Houston Ballet was also honored with the Dance Award, while the Kimbell Art Foundation was the recipient of the Foundation Arts patron award.





Jack and Ginger Blanton



Amy Barbee and Jennifer Ransom Rice



Jaston Williams and Joe Sears



Autumn Rich and Emcee Chris Harrison



Shy Anderson, Patricia Southall and Emmitt Smith

e evening began with the red carpet arrivals and cocktail party where old friends were reacquainted and new friends were made, followed by the main event of heart-warming tributes to the honorees, and concluded with the Starlite after party, where recipients mingled and celebrated the night away, capping o the perfect way to honor those who have given so much to Texas and the beyond. 6



Russian Rhapsody

Gala Helps Celebrate Houston Symphony's 100th Birthday

By Jen Roosth Photography by Jenny Antill, Jeff Fitlow and Michelle Watson



OVER 650 HOUSTON MUSIC LOVERS donned white ties, coat tails, and glamorous ball gowns at this year's annual Houston Symphony Ball's Russian Rhapsody a White Night Salute to Hans and Margarita Graf. Chairs Phoebe and Bobby Tudor welcomed arriving guests with champagne and Russian vodka as they gasped at the scenery, an opulent expression of Russian cultures designed by Dallas design dynamo Todd Fiscus at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. Following a special tribute performance honoring Hans Graf's twelve-year tenure as music director of the Symphony, eager attendees led through a red velvet draped hallway, past the awe-inspiring James Turrell Skyspace, and into an extravagant ballroom.



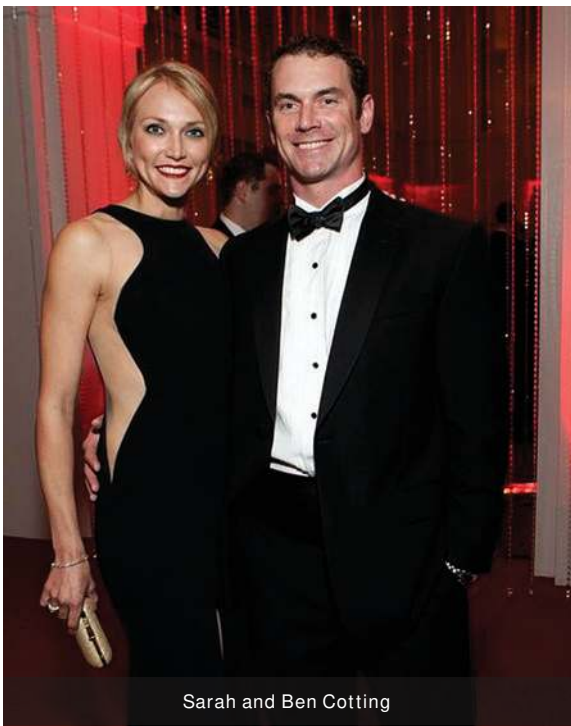
Elizabeth Petersen



Margaret Alkek Williams and Joanne King Herring



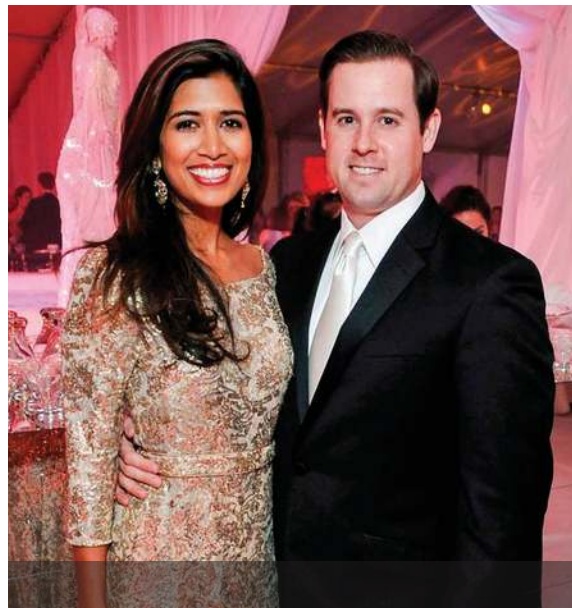
Lindley and Jason Arnoldy



Sarah and Ben Cotting

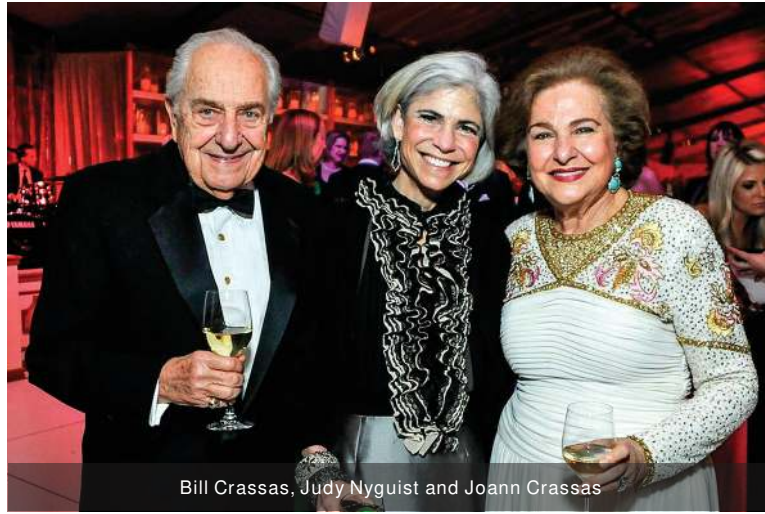


The extravagant Russian theme took center stage at the event. There were ivory velvet settees, topped with raised platforms that featured live dancing ballerinas from the Houston Ballet Academy, seven Swarovski crystal chandeliers, 12,000 roses and orchids, 4,000 cherry love red roses and 4,800 feet of crystal draping. A "living fountain" by performance artist "Pearl" entranced guests with streams of water elegantly flowing from her fingertips. Talk about over the top.



Christina and Mark Hanson





Bill Crassas, Judy Nyquist and Joann Crassas

The decadence continued with dinner designed by Jackson and Company, and silent auction packages celebrating arts festivals around the world (auction bidding was done on iPads roaming the ballroom). The evening concluded with dancing to the sounds of New Orleans jazz virtuoso, Jeremy Davenport. A younger generation of Symphony supporters joined for the after-party, "Club Russe" chaired by Lindley and Jason Arnoldy. The dance floor of this posh Russian nightclub scene was at full capacity rocking to the sounds of NYC DJ Zone, down in for the luxe occasion. The event successfully raised almost \$1.3 million for the Symphony's education and community engagement programs, Music Matters! 🎵



Margarita and Maestro Hans Graf



Nancy and Bob Peiser



Ed and Lorraine Wulfe



Pearl, the living fountain



Ralph Burch and Beth Madison



John Eddie and Sheridan Williams

Belles Of The Ball

San Antonio Symphony League Debutantes Bow For The Arts

By Ellie Leeper Photography By Greg Harrison



Sedley Clark, Louisa McCarty and Embrey Nichols



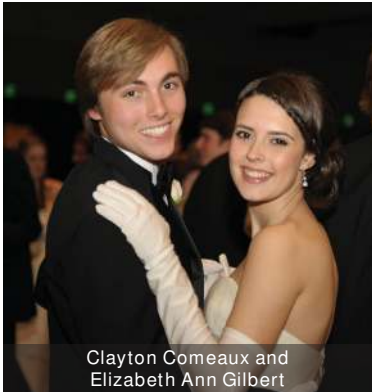
THE ANNUAL FAIRYTALE-LIKE BALL FOR 40 LADIES IN white in San Antonio came to life with the San Antonio Symphony Ball, an elegant evening at the JW Marriott Hill Country Resort, during which some of the city's finest families presented their young women to society. Hosted by the San Antonio Symphony League and supporting the San Antonio Symphony, the 43rd annual ball's "An Evening in Imperial Saint Petersburg" honored the 2013 Symphony Belles.



Lizzy, Margaret and Annie Massari



For several decades, the Symphony League has proudly presented young ladies into San Antonio society who are the children or grandchildren of the members and participants of former Symphony Balls. These young ladies, or “Belles,” are part of a program that introduces them to the community with various service projects throughout high school, eventually leading to their senior year debutante presentation.



Clayton Comeaux and Elizabeth Ann Gilbert



Elizabeth Uhl and Blake Resenthal



Jay Lucas and Brindall Lucas



Lauren Brockwell, Linda Rubiola, Sarah Beth Krenger, Anna Curl and Jenna Marshall



Bryan Holtsworth and Marielle Holtsworth

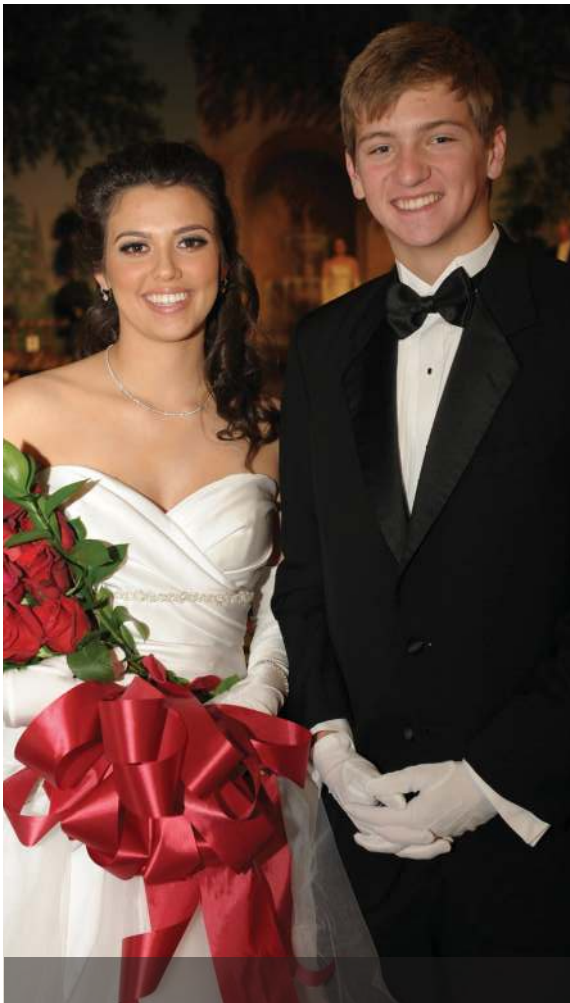


Harry J and Alicia Brusenhan



Lori and Arthur Uhl

One hundred percent of the annual contributions from the Symphony Ball are donated to the San Antonio Symphony to support their ability to continue producing and playing wonderful performances. This year's gala co-chairs were Vickie Kinder and Kelly Strange. Patti Anderson was Belle Chair and Danny Cuellar of Trinity Flowers provided the floral design for the evening.



Mollie and Greg Massari



Claire Prichard and Adam Garza





Lauren Shaffer, Anna Louise Judson, Paige Gross, Olivia Leeper and Lucy Stevens



Rusty, Claudia, Nita and Michael Kiolbassa



Elizabeth, Jenna and John Marshall



Joe and Sherrill Rubin



Steve and Randell Hayes

We love a great ball and this one tops the list of favorites... until next year's Symphony Ball, of course. 🍷



Emily, Samantha and Richard Heard



Jill Rosenthal, Karlos Anzoategui and Sandra Rosenberg



Crysta B D s Take A Bow

70th Annual Helping Hand Society Crystal Ball Presentation and Brunch Wows

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

RECENTLY THE HELPING HAND SOCIETY hosted its 70th annual Crystal Ball at Palmer Events Center in Austin where 35 lovely debutantes took their bows, accompanied by their escorts and junior escorts.

The festivities were comprised of the brunch with an elaborate Julian Gold fashion show produced by Sue Webber of Webber Productions and attended by 1300 guests. The black tie presentation gala at night, themed Blue Danube, was attended by 1900 guests who bid on a wide variety of silent auction items, danced to the music of Suede and enjoyed the debutante presentation with dinner served by Catering by Rosemary.



Paige Gaston and Winn Scott



Callie Ann McConnico and Jr. escort Hudson Kriger





Brunch Emcee Jim Spencer



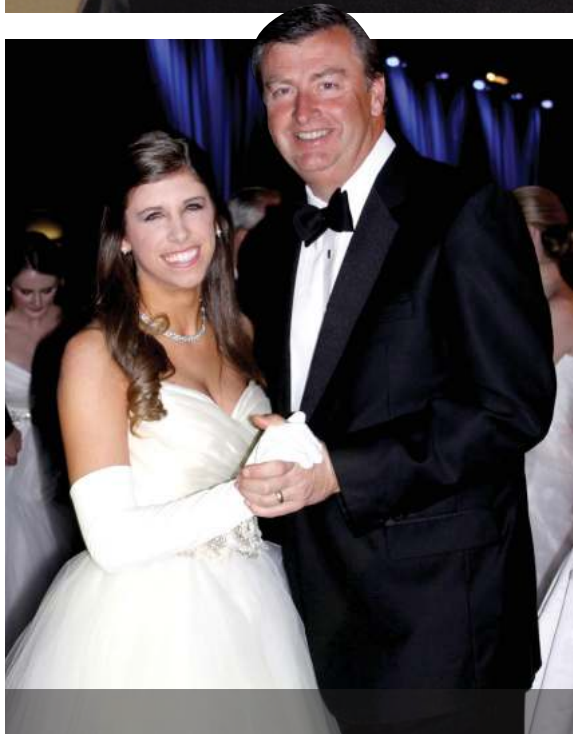
Caroline Rogers, Sarah Ballard, Mackenzie Cowan, Chloe Melear and Caroline Biggar



Baker Howry, Louisa Ehrlich, Caroline Campbell and Markley Ehrlich



Katherine Kelin with escort Ryan Ramirez and Jr. escort Chandler Pace



The 2013 Helping Hand Crystal Ball debutantes presented were: Shelby Madison Albrecht, Katerina Blaire Barnes, Sarah Jane Bible, Elizabeth Ann Black, Sarah Caroline Brown, Emily Patricia Bury, Sarah Burke Butler, Caroline Francis Campbell, Anne Francis Clark, Tess Anne Coates, Hannah Katherine Coon, Elizabeth Hollins Crowley, Elizabeth Markley Ehrlich, Louisa Simms Ehrlich, Caroline McLean Furst, Emily Paige Gaston, Ella Grayson Glade, Ryleigh Helene Gorman, Velda Kathryn Harvey, Baker Nicole Howry, Elizabeth Painter Hur, Katherine Frances Klein, Callie Ann McConnico, Catherine Anne Prideaux, Sallie Gayle Saunders, Mary Claire Brumley Sayers, Claire Leslie Smith, Kendall Barnes Smith, Charlotte Elizabeth Talley, Alexandra Leah Timmerman, Sarah Elizabeth Vollman, Morgan Elizabeth Wenske, Caitlin Ann Whiteley, Kendle Marie Windham and Anna Elizabeth Zodin. One-hundred 9th grade Helping Hand Girls and Boys and 33 1st grade Helping Hand Princesses also participated.



Hannah Coon with escort Patrick Wroe



Laura McBride and Blair McBride



Co-chairs Carrie Brown and Vanessa Wolfe announced that proceeds, expected to surpass \$1million, will benefit the Helping Hand Home for Children and will specifically support therapeutic treatment services, education and enrichment activities for the children living at the Home. Laura McBride, President of the Helping Hand Home, pointed out that the gala provides funding for a residential treatment center for abused children who are severely emotionally disturbed; a Charter School for these children that is managed by the University of Texas; and a foster care program for abused children who are able to function in a family setting.



John, Kay, Rob, Whitley and Katherine Braziel



Thanking the Crystal Ball chairs, committee, HH Society and community volunteers, patrons, and Helping Hand Home for Children professionals and staff, she highlighted the Home's mission, "Hope Happens Here".



Kendle Widham with escort Jaques Babel and Jr. escort James Wieland



The Rite Of SPRING

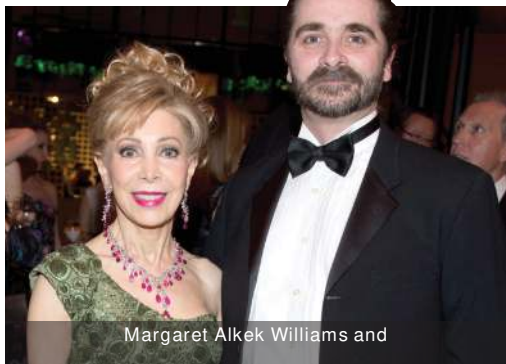
Houston's Ballet Ball
Honors Lynn Wyatt

By Jen Roosth

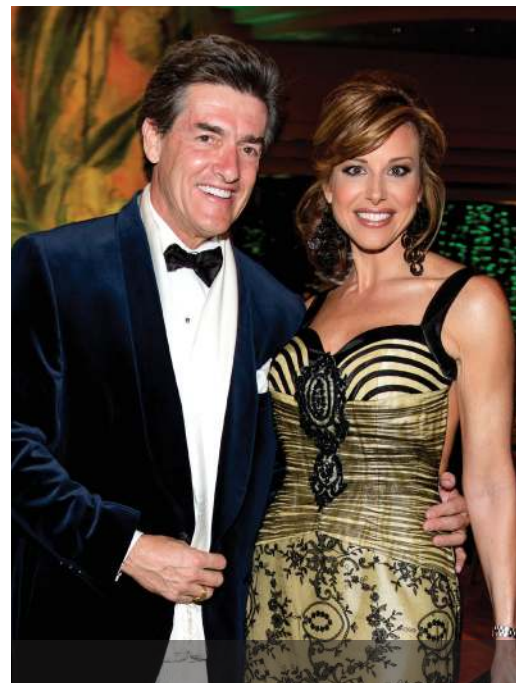
Photography by Fulton Davenport

Lynn Wyatt waiting for her dance with Stanton Welch

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND IT HAS NEVER looked so glorious as the line between fashion and art was blurred once again when designer Carolina Herrera attended the 2013 Houston Ballet Ball to honor her friend, Lynn Wyatt for her dedication to the Houston Ballet. The event, chaired by Martin and Kelli Cohen Fein (who was wearing a gown from Carolina Herrera's not yet released pre-fall 2013 collection) and also honored long-time corporate supporters, Vinson & Elkins, LLP.



Margaret Alkek Williams and





Cathy and Giorgio Borlenghi



Richard Flowers and the Events Company captured the Rite of Spring theme with thousands of decorative green and pink LED lights draping over the balconies and tables in the soaring, six-story Grand Foyer of the Wortham Center. The tribute to Wyatt is well-deserved, noted Carolina Herrera on Wyatt's laughter, love, loyalty and friendship, while former ambassador Edward Djerejian, founding director of Rice University's Baker Institute for Foreign Policy, toasted Wyatt for her unmatched hospitality, wit, and stimulating conversation.



Pat Breen



Lynn Wyatt and Carolina Herrera



Shawn Stephens and Jim Jordan



Stanton Welch and Lynn Wyatt



Rose and Harry Cullen



Among the 500 guests, who helped to raise \$760,000 in support of the Houston Ballet, were the Houston Ballet's artistic director Stanton Welch and 17 ballet dancers in tails who led Wyatt (also dressed in Carolina Herrera) onto the dance floor for a rock-inspired, special tribute performance to a recording of Beyoncé's "Halo". It was a memorable weekend for both the Houston Ballet and its home base city. [📍](#)



Soraya and Scott McClelland



Marvin McMurrey and Martha Rocks

The Gala That *Heals*

Bexar County Medical Society Foundation Honors Twelve Local Physicians At Sold Out Fundraiser

By Jake Gaines Photography By Greg Harrison



Richard and Monty LaPierre

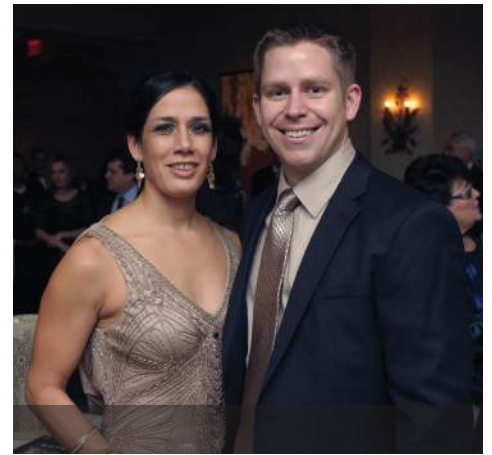


IT WAS AN ELEGANT BLACK TIE VALENTINE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S BEXAR County Medical Society Foundation that honored outstanding physicians in their field while simultaneously raising funds for the next generation of health care professionals. The sold-out event was held at the Eilan Hotel Resort and Spa and is the primary fundraiser for the Foundation's medical scholarship program. It featured a silent auction, raffle, and entertainment by Frank Sinatra stylist, Paul Salos and the Let's Dance Band.





Georgiana Gross and Merti Wood



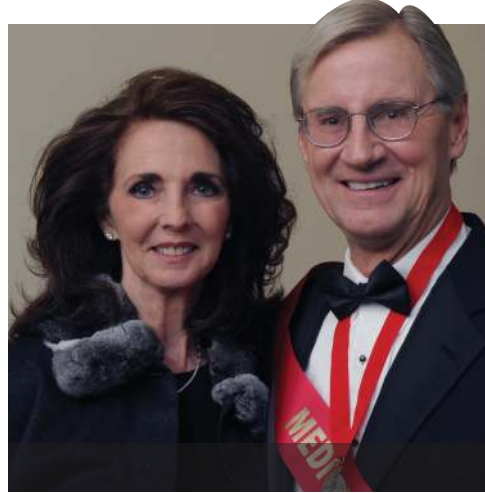
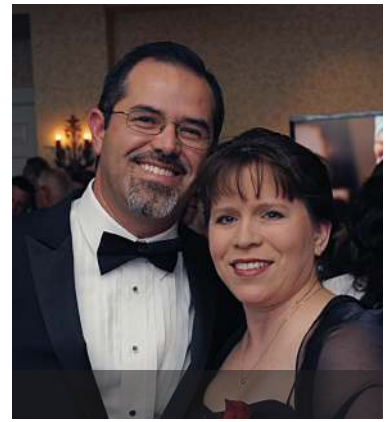
Honorees were welcomed to the event at a VIP reception, complete with a modern lounge area created by Roche Bobois with bubbling champagne, and delicious hors d'oeuvres, masterfully prepared by the house chef. Each physician was recognized with a medical honors sash and medal, and presented a plaque for their achievements. The gala was chaired again this year by the foundation's board member Monty La Pierre, COO of Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio. The event's top sponsors included WellMed Medical Management, Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio, PlainsCapital Bank, Baptist Health System, and many more.

Guests were treated to a cocktail hour during the silent auction and were able to participate in this year's Roses and Diamonds Raffle for a chance to win the \$2,500 Circle of Support Diamond Pendant generously donated by Americus Diamond. In an interesting twist, Bregget Rideau (who sings with Paul Salos in the Let's Dance band) was asked to draw the winner of the necklace and drew her own ticket. Lucky lady! Attendees enjoyed an incredible four-course dinner with a special dessert that served as an interactive centerpiece complete with a selection of mini pastries, cakes, cheesecake, and cookies.



and Suzanne Wilkenson





e physicians were nominated by their peers in their specialties and voted on by physicians in, and outside of their specialties. BCMS Foundation Executive Director Lisa Robertson coordinated the event and this year the foundation was proud to honor: Dr. Diana Burns-Banks; Pediatrics, Dr. William Gordon; Otolaryngology, Dr. David Green; Hand Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Dr. Frank Ledford; Infectious Disease, Dr. Gerardo Ortega; Vascular Surgery, Dr. Robert Rice; Ophthalmology, Dr. Robert Schnitzler; Cardiovascular Disease, Internal Medicine, Dr. Ian ompson; Urology, Oncology, Dr. Gregory ompson; Dermatology, Dr. Elliot Wesser; Gastroenterology, and Dr. Allan White; Gynecology, Gynecological Oncology. [5](#)



THE FAME GAME

Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards Kicks off South By Southwest

By Rob Giardinelli Photography by Gary Miller



EACH YEAR SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST kicks off its ten day entertainment-palooza with the 13th annual Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards, benefiting the Austin Film Society. Harkening back to its venue roots, this year's star-studded event was held at the Austin Studios.

This year's list of honorees included Michael McKean of *Spinal Tap* and *Best In Show*, who was presented his award by actress Annette O'Toole. Robin Wright, star of classic movies such as *The Princess Bride* and *Forrest Gump* was presented an award by film director Rob Reiner, whose credits include *When Harry Met Sally* and *Stand By Me*. Additionally, several cast members of the 1990's cult-classic *Dazed and Confused* accepted an award honoring the movie's footprint in the history of cinema.



Robert Rodriguez and Rob Reiner



is year's awards show, co-chaired by film director Richard Linklater and Marc, Eli and Alex Winkelman, began with a vibrant cocktail party where guests posed on the red carpet and enjoyed signature drinks made especially for the event. Guests then gathered for dinner and a delightfully entertaining program honoring the many contributions Texas has made to film.



Robin Wright



Ray Benson and Chris Adams



Joey Lauren Adams and Richard Linklater



Justin and Wendy Harvey



Upon conclusion of the program, guests enjoyed an after-party that kicked off yet another spectacular South By Southwest, where Austinites mingled with Hollywood players that night. The evening re-affirmed why Austin is such an amazing place to be – it is the one city in the world outside of Hollywood and New York that can draw people the world's top film and musical talent for a one-of-a-kind evening. 🎵



Julie Hagerty

Thinking Outside the Box

San Antonio Children's Museum Hosts Annual Luncheon

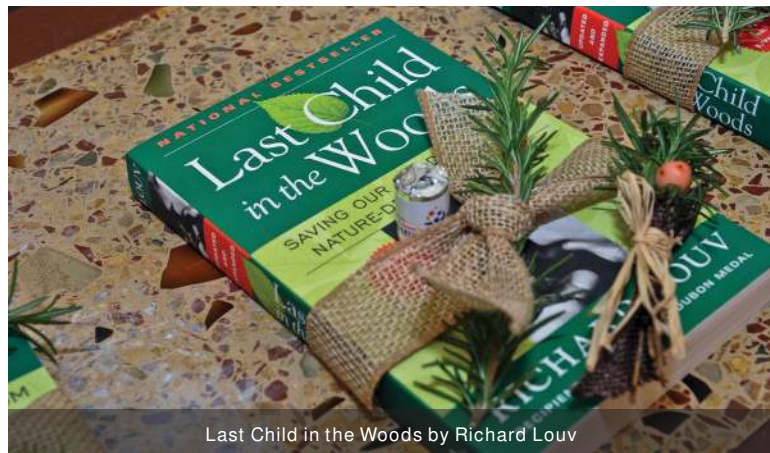
By Terran Duhon Photos Courtesy of Greg Harrison

AN ENTHUSIASM FOR THE OUTSIDE world is indescribably necessary for a child's growth and development. Children crave this kind of positive interaction with the natural world, which is why the San Antonio Children's Museum successfully hosted its second annual Outside the Lunchbox luncheon.

This year's recent luncheon paid special tribute to renowned author and journalist Richard Louv who wrote *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, which emphasizes the power that nature has to reconnect children with their environment. Along with Louv as a key speaker at the event, the San Antonio Children's Museum also unveiled its plans to install a brand new 5.5-acre site near Broadway that focuses on outdoor play and environmental interaction.

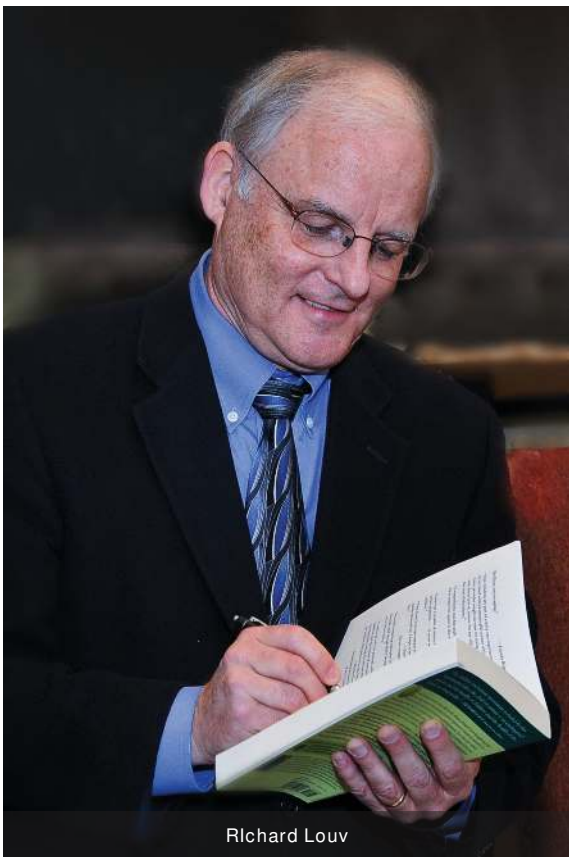


Saint Mary's Hall Head of School Jonathan Eades and SMH faculty and staff



Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv





Richard Louv



Meg Culp and Elizabeth Cox



Nancy Kelley and Lynda Strieby

The proceeds from the Outside the Lunchbox Luncheon go directly to the SACM's dream of giving children innovative and creative places to learn and grow. Like it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to host a successful gathering like this. The luncheon's chairs were Jordan Arriaga and Daniela Serna, while the Executive Director of the museum is Vanessa Lacoss Hurd and the facility's architects are Lake Flato. 9



Joci Straus, Connie McNab and Charlene McCombs



Amelita Mauze and Sonya Medina Williams



Babylon's Revisited

This season's film release of *The Great Gatsby* has the style world eagerly looking to the 1920's fashion favorites as it comes roaring back to inspire future design trends. Here, let the Jazz Age era's glamour and sparkle transport you as a modern-day Daisy Buchanan and Jay Gatsby on your estate, planning your bright future ahead.

Photography by Mark Oberlin

Styling by Andru

Make up by Klexius Kolby for Fusionhair.com using Ethocyn Skin Care and Kevyn Aucoin Cosmetics

Hair by Cyndi Vellmure Make up assistant: Shauna Thomas

Models: Sarah Van Niekerk & Matt Poeschl, NEXT Model Management, LA

Sittings Editor: Lance Avery Morgan



FLAPPERS AND PHILOSOPHERS

On Her: Lace Mandarin collar cocktail dress by Sue Wong at SueWong.com. Fringe Gloves by Maggie Barry at MaggieBerry.com. Hosiery by Kate Spade. Jeweled Clutch by BCBG. Earrings by Tebazile at Tebazile.com.

On Him: Black Suit with leather lapels by Anthony Franco at AnthonyFrancoDesigns.com. Black shirt by John Varvatos. White necktie by Ted Baker London.



BERNICE BOBS HER HAIR

Gold Lurex coat with black leather panels by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfrancodesigns.com. Gloves by PRB Private Studio, Beverly Hills. Earrings by Tebazile at Tebazile.com. Black cocktail headpiece with vintage rose netting and layered with silver studded teardrop head dress by Ava Stez for L'Ecole Des Femmes at Lecoledefemmes.com.



THE BEAUTIFUL AND DAMNED

On Her: Lace cocktail dress with fringe trim by Sue Wong at Suewong.com. Hosiery by Kate Spade. Ankle strap sandal by Proenza Schouler. Floral Ring by PRB Private Studio, Beverly Hills. Earrings by Tebazile at Tebazile.com.

On Him: Gray cotton silver Lurex suit by Anthony Franco at AnthonyFrancoDesigns.com. White shirt by Calvin Klein. Necktie and pocket square by Turnbull & Asser. Shoes by Hugo Boss.



TALES OF THE JAZZ AGE

On Her: Headdress by Ava Sfez for L'Ecole Des Femmes at Lecoledefemmes.com. Black Suit with snakeskin detail by Anthony Franco at AnthonyfrancoDesigns.com. Vintage fur shrug is stylist owned. Jewelry by Tebazile at Tebazile.com

On Him: Three-piece white suit by Anthony Franco at AnthonyFrancoDesigns.com. White shirt by Calvin Klein. Black bowtie by Turnbull & Asser. Feather necklace shown as pocket square by Micha at Michadesign.com



THE RICH BOY

Charcoal cashmere windowpane plaid suit by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfrancodesigns.com. Navy polka dot shirt by Hugo Boss. Black necktie by Hugo Boss.



THE GREAT GATSBY

Three-piece white suit by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfranco.designs.com. White shirt by Calvin Klein. Black bowtie by Turnbull & Asser.



THE LAST TYCOON

On Her: Black beaded cocktail dress with French lace trim by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfrancodesigns.com. Hosiery by Kate Spade. Garter belt by Agent Provocateur. Ankle strap shoe by Dolce Vita. Gold Cuff by Tebazile at Tebazile.com. Ring by PRB Private Studio, Beverly Hills. Earrings by Tebazile www.tebazile.com. Black head piece with vintage diamond brooch by Ava Sfez for L'Ecole Des Femmes at Lecoledefemmes.com.

On Him: Charcoal cashmere windowpane plaid suit by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfrancodesigns.com. Navy polka dot shirt by Hugo Boss. Black necktie by Hugo Boss. Shoes by Cole Haan.



TENDER IS THE NIGHT

Hand-beaded ombre fringe dress by Anthony Franco at Anthonyfranco.designs.com. Black gloves by PRB Private Studio, Beverly Hills. Hosiery by DKNY. Garter belt by Agent Provocateur. Gold cuff and earrings by Tebazile at Tebazile.com. Feathered headpiece by Ava Sfez for L'Ecole Des Femmes at Lecoledefemmes.com.



THE ICE PALACE

On Her: Rose and black beaded lace gown by Sue Wong at Suewong.com. Black leather gloves by PRB Private Studio, Beverly Hills. Gold cuff by Tebazile at Tebazile.com. Earrings by Kenneth Jay.

On Him: Suede sport coat by Hugo Boss. Black shirt by John Varvatos. Suede black bowtie by Turnbull & Asser

The Ways

Like Bill Cunningham of *The New York Times*, Austinite Robert Godwin has been a fixture on the social scene in Austin since 1976. Shooting Austin's elite for *The Society Diaries*, *Austin American Statesman* and the *West Austin News*, among others, has endeared him to so many for decades. Lance Avery Morgan catches up with Godwin about his new book, *Austin Faces of Philanthropy*, a collection of not only his best, but also his favorite subjects: people who do good.



“WITH AUSTIN FACES OF Philanthropy, I want to show not only the wide variety of philanthropic people, but also those people maturing as they continue to serve,” confides Robert Godwin about his social photo tome, *Austin Faces of Philanthropy*. “As they rolled through the decades, they drew new people to them who likewise drew new people. What was at best a meandering stream of a few hundred thousand donated dollars in 1976 is now a coursing river of tens of millions a year.”

Austin in 1976 had a population of around 300,000, a third of its current growth that hovers near a million.

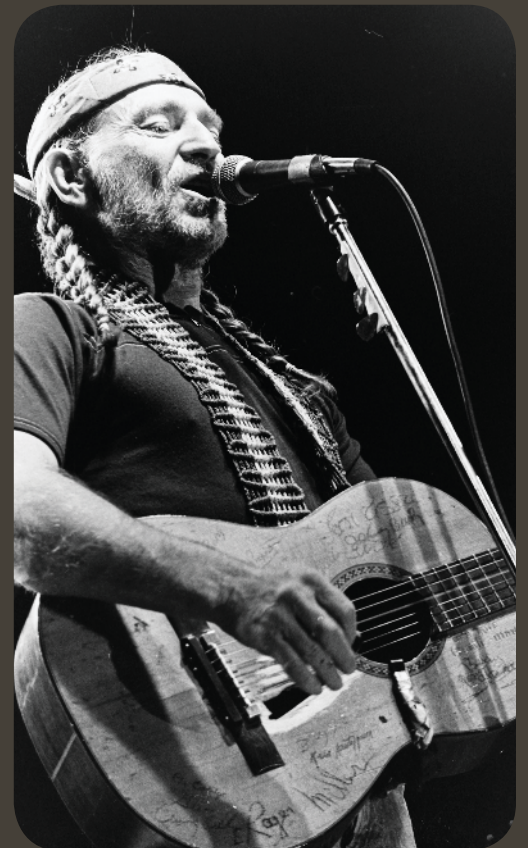
The town was known for academics (the University of Texas) and politics with the Capital being the main source of industry before it also became known as Silicon Hills to rival Silicon Valley. It was a middle class town that was both conservative and progressive way before Keep Austin Weird and the Live Music Capital of the World monikers infused its culture.

Godwin's book has a social scope that encompasses photos from 1976 to the present, so it was a career in the making. “In the beginning years a backyard barbeque was a fairly common theme for fundraising events. While still popular, that barbeque now shares time with haute cuisine from nationally renowned chefs. Austin

has grown into a town that can support such chefs and the plethora of causes now operating in town,” states Godwin. He goes on to say, “There are sufficient black-tie events that it is now more economical to purchase a tuxedo than to rent one. Invitations now reference attire ranging from the black tie to business casual to ‘Austin chic’ which is anything goes.”

Godwin reflects, “Over the time period of the book, Austin has experienced three significant economic downturns, a delightful “tech bubble” and periods of overall growth.” He notes, “As one goes through the book, however, it is apparent that community citizens found a way to support charities. The book is an

We Were

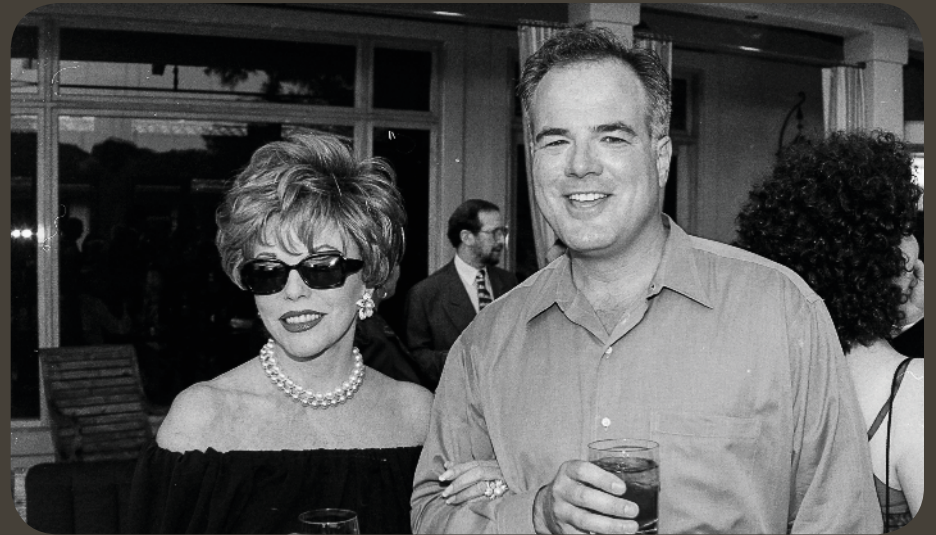


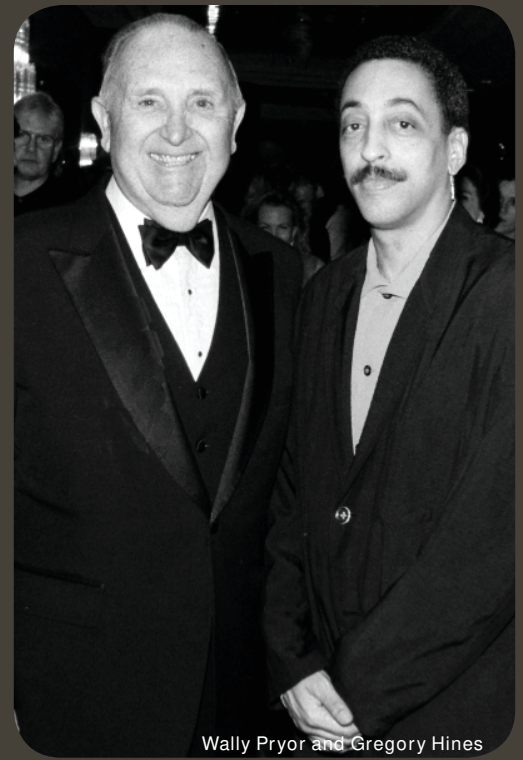


deb Weston Lipscomb at the Bachelor's Ball



Gray Hawn





Wally Pryor and Gregory Hines

opportunity to celebrate four decades of victories and philanthropic participation.”

And celebrate it does. From the left over hippie-dippy 1970s to the Dynasty-esque 1980s, the clothes may have evolved, yet the city’s social elite never wavered in their cause to help the plethora of causes for those much less fortunate.

“When I started covering the non-profit scene in 1976, the big four were already in place—Admiral’s Ball in August, Symphony League Jewel Ball in September, Bachelors Ball (which was in the Fall, but moved to January) and the Helping Hand Ball in February,” remembers Godwin. He goes on to say, “These are all still charging along. Joining them now in either size and/or community impact are Dell Children’s Gala,

Literary Gala with the Texas Book Festival, Seton Development Board Gala, Dancing with the Stars Austin Gala (Center for Child Protection), Bandana Ball (Ronald McDonald House), A Christmas Air (Junior League of Austin), Red, Hot and Soul (Zach Scott Theater), E A Seton Evening Under the Stars, Rodeo Gala, Cattle Baron’s Ball (American Cancer Society) and one of my favorites, the Settlement Club Garage Sale. Just starting is the Perfectly Pink Party (Susan G. Komen Foundation). These are all evening events, but there are some significant lunch events as well benefiting the Girl Scouts, Ballet Austin, Breast Cancer Resource Center, People’s Community Clinic and more. At my busiest times, I was covering over 600 events a year—primarily between September and May. And yes, that means an average of three-a-day Monday

through Sunday. My personal record is 11 events in one day. The timing and geography all worked out.”

“A favorite memory for me was the year Ben Crenshaw was being awarded the Harvey Penick Award as presented by Caritas,” states Godwin. This was about 2000 or 2001. The ballroom at the Four Seasons Hotel had been sold out for quite a while for the event. About two hours before the start, an absolute monsoon hit Austin. The wind was blowing so hard that the sheets of rain were coming in sideways. I managed to get from North Austin to downtown only as a result of journalistic pride. Once there, I joined 150 (more or less) people that had managed to get through the rain. Gary Farmer, serving as emcee, had the best line of the night when he welcomed everyone to the “first ever all-you-can-eat”





Susan Lubin and Walter Cronkite



Harvey Penick Award Dinner. There were enough meals prepared for everyone to have thirds."

Godwin realizes that charity is serious business. "Philanthropy is a thread found throughout the fabric of everyday life in Austin. I've documented that thread running through three generations of families and am beginning to see the initial efforts of the younger fourth generation," muses Godwin. "As that fabric is woven, it extends to cover friends, neighbors and draws in those newly arrived. As it grows to shelter those in need, those clients add their own stitches to the fabric to create a cloth that is uniquely Austin. It is a patchwork quilt of

different colors, different hopes and different dreams—but a common desire to be of service to others."

When asked about some of his favorite social incidents over time, Godwin remains tactful. "There are certainly a lot of stories from over the years. Some I won't tell as I don't want to embarrass the subjects. Some I don't remember unless my memory gets triggered by a similar happenstance, and some I can tell. My mentor in this field was Carolyn Bengtson. We worked together for 14 years. It was she who told and showed me that volunteers give up about a year of their time to create a major event." He continues, "Their hearts are willing and their

efforts are earnest, but sometimes things just don't work. It was Carolyn's rule, and then mine, to highlight the effort made and the non-profit's cause rather than mention the unfortunate result. Time and again, I have seen organizations bounce back just one from a less than successful event."

You can count on seeing Robert Godwin enough in the future to fill up another book of photos for his audience of admirers. That book will also reflect the current styles that will garner a head shake and wonderment, as well as warm memories, in years to come. 5



Cindy and Greg Kozmetsky



Brian Maguire and his grandmother.



Bud and Robin Shivers



Bill and Regan Gammon



Charles Betts, Neal Spelce and John Hill



Neal Kocurek



George Christian, Elizabeth Christian and Jo Anne Christian



Jerry Earl on piano, Barbara Jordan and Bill Moyers (sitting) sing for their supper at Liz Carpenter's house



Sister Gertrude Levy and Gene Attal



Sue McBee



Sarah Weddington and Mary Pearl Williams



Kyle Chandler, Actor

Austin Said

We ended up moving out to Texas. We live outside of Austin. We've got a couple horses, we've got three miniature donkeys, we've got four dogs. Miniature donkeys are very warm, loving animals.

Kyle Chandler,
Emmy-award winning Actor,
Friday Night Lights

We played in Texas about a year ago, at Emo's, the famous country and western club in Austin. And I figured, well, if I'm really gonna die onstage, that's where it's going to be!

Alan Vega,
Musician, Suicide



People don't live in Austin to work, they work to live there.

Robert Rodriguez,
Film Director

In cities like New York and Austin, there's much more of a social context for music than in other places.

John Cale,
Musician,
The Velvet Underground

The Austin music scene is the reason why so many of them moved here.

Bob Livingston,
Veteran Singer-Songwriter



John Hawkes, Actor

I do all kinds of roles - nerd, psycho, nerd, psycho, nerd, psycho - and occasionally someone kind of normal. It's weird, when I lived in Austin I was always cast as pretty normal people. But when I moved to Los Angeles I was immediately branded a psycho.

John Hawkes,
Actor

Vintage Austin

The Chief Drive-In movie theater

The original airport of Manor Road and Airport Blvd with six gates and an observation deck, along with the FBO's near it like Browning and Ragsdale

Armadillo World Headquarters

Night Hawk steaks on Riverside Drive and South Congress Ave.

2-J shakes and hamburgers on North Lamar Blvd.

Joske's and Scarborough's department stores in Highland Mall (and downtown)

Hancock Center's outdoor fountains

Fiesta at Laguna Gloria on Lake Austin

The Uncle Jay and Packer Jack Show kiddie TV show on KTBC every afternoon

Food and music at The Pier on Lake Austin

Flower and jewelry hippie vendors on the Drag near campus.

Aqua Fest's evening lake parade and its ethnic nights. "Kiss Me, I'm German"

El Rancho when it was downtown

Oscar Snowden's Appliances T.V. tagline: "If you didn't buy it from the Big-O, I know you paid too much"

Fine dining at the Villa Capri or Terrace Hotels

School field trips to the Butter Krust bakery

Media celebrities Cactus Pryor, Mel Pennington and Penny Reeves

Ellie Rucker's how-to column in the Austin American Statesman

The Gentry section of the Austin Citizen newspaper with Gray Hawn's photographs of debutantes

Carolyn Jackson's "Women's World" before "Austin World Turns" daily on KTBC/CBS

KNOW AM and Disco 98 FM

The Americana movie theater that seated 1000 and had a 70 MM screen

Special thanks to Gregg Ronald Geil and his song lyrics, "Do You Remember Austin (Back In the Good Old Days)"



Kiddie Audience at The Uncle Jay and Packer

Always, Adler



One of today's top design talents is a creative machine. Part genius, part style re-interpreter, Jonathan Adler's hip and cool aesthetic is perfectly suited for not only right now, but also for the future. Join us for an exclusive look into the mind of the man behind one of the most pristine points of view in the design world today.

By Lance Avery Morgan Photography Courtesy of Jonathan Adler Design





Jonathan Adler



IF DON DRAPER AND SAMANTHA STEPHENS had a love child, it would surely have been Jonathan Adler. You'd almost have to be living under a rock if you haven't seen the meteoric rise of this lad whose wit, charm and a specific point of view helped this potter-(yes, potter)-turned-designer reach international design acclaim. I'd met Adler with his partner, Simon Doonan, at the Barney's Northpark store opening in Dallas years before, was immediately charmed by them, and beyond having several mutual friends in common from coast to coast, I'd kept track of Adler's solid reputation in the world of otherwise transient design trends.

His eponymous stores, 19 and growing, are a culmination of a body of work for this 44-year-old leader in his field. Sitting down with him when this magazine helped launch his Austin store, I knew it didn't just happen over night. It had to begin somewhere for this robust man-about-globe who, upon greeting, is both like an old friend and a new acquaintance who has the potential to be the most dazzling guest at a dinner party you want to host for him.

"My parents were so incredibly encouraging and my whole aesthetic sensibility comes from them," recounts

Adler. "I grew up in a groovy, modern house that was also about Knoll furniture and rigorous modernism... while at the same time was full of Marimekko textiles. You know, modern mixed with colors and patterns. As much as I like to think that I am original, it can all be directly traced to my parents. It was in the blood."

With an Adler-designed piece, one immediately gets his right-now sensibility, yet it's evident everything he puts his name to is about quality that is built to last. Much like his childhood influences of furniture maker Knoll and 60's pop Marimekko, he and his brand are built to last, too. While giving credit to his parent's influence, Adler is quick to point out other idols to whose design alter he worshiped. "My greatest design influence? It's easy," he states, "the holy trinity is Bonnie Cashin, David Hicks and Alexander Girard. They are all my muses, yet all have very different styles. These unique and idiosyncratic styles are not only unimpeachably chic, but also incredibly playful." He is quick to note, "I strive to achieve that same thing... a distinct style that can be chic and playful at the same time."

Chic and playful, yes. And very grown-up, too. His stores (with another one that just opened in Houston) are a combination of a late 1950's Lana Turner movie

set (think turquoise and just enough bling to be considered tastefully sophisticated) meets an Alfred Hitchcock television series set that is top of the line modern with a certain edge to keep the eye's interest. Whether it is Jonathan Adler-created table accessory or a piece of furniture that begs to be touched and used, the common denominator between his mid-century influences and the product he creates from it are simple. "I am obsessed with quality," Adler is quick to admit. "As a potter, I am a craftsperson and I do this fancy stuff, but it all comes back to craft because that is my passion."

That passion that he has brought his Austin store opening was also inspired by a film synonymous with a late 80's film made in the Capital City. "I've loved Austin ever since seeing the movie *Slacker*," gushes Adler. "After seeing that I was obsessed. I love your city's slogan, *Keep Austin Weird*. As a potter and a reformed slacker myself, I never dreamed I would have this. Now I am an irate whirligig of a retailer."

That irrepressibly energetic nature has come in handy while creating his empire. Jonathan Adler's guiding motto is succinct. "If your heirs won't fight over it, we won't make it," about his relentless commitment to high style quality. In addition to the stores, he and his







'It All Starts With A Conversation Pit'

Jonathan Adler

team helm an e-commerce site and a wholesale business with over 1,000 locations worldwide. His decorative objects, tabletop collections, bedding, bath accessories, gifts, candles, furniture, rugs, pillows, lighting, and most recently handbags, hats and men's accessories still wow as boldly as they did when he first rose to acclaim.

It's not surprising that he redesigned the Parker Palm Springs hotel and Mattel asked him to design the modern-glam interiors for the "real" Barbie™ Dream House as part of Barbie's 50th anniversary. As a bonus to his success, good fortune, and hard work, he shares, "I am extremely proud of the minimal lines of many of our pieces."

I asked Adler to do a little time travel. If he had to go back in time and choose a US president that he would have loved to have designed for, which one would it have been. He is quick to answer as if it was already top of mind. He quips, "It has nothing to do with whether he was a good president, but Richard Nixon had the grooviest taste. I use a pattern throughout my collection called Nixon that was inspired by his ranch

in California. Lousy president, great taste." Once again, Adler knows great taste when he sees it.

Does Adler have a favorite decorative object this year of which he is especially proud? "I happen to love everything I make. It's embarrassing to say it, but it's true," he candidly offers. "I am completely obsessed with my brass peacock table. I have brass items sprinkled throughout and they patina with age and become really rich. I also found the people who made the C. Jere (Curtis Jere) originals and now we are remaking it. Listen, brass is jewelry for the home."

Adler has written three books that should be in every style library that also include his own homes: *My Prescription for Anti-Depressive Living* and part of the *Happy Chic Book series*, *Jonathan Adler on Happy Chic Colors* and *Jonathan Adler on Happy Chic Accessories*. His third book in the series, *100 Ways to Happy Chic Your Life*, was published recently and he was on hand to sign copies for the standing-room-only crowd of over 400 guests at our party celebrating him and the

Austin store opening. Attendees also recognized him as the design expert and the lead judge on the Bravo TV series, *Top Design*.

Let's face it: Adler's life is one that is well-lived and well-learned. In his books he's offered his know-how and describes the obstacles that challenged his career, shares photos of some of his signature interiors, and pays tribute to the designs and artists that inspired him. He says that writing books are not easy. "They are all from the heart. My favorite tip is that It All Starts With A Conversation Pit and I believe that is true."

Never one to take himself too seriously, as we wrap our chat, I feel compelled to ask Jonathan Adler if he has any tips for success for an up and coming designer. He becomes serious, with a sparkle in his eye and says, "Marry a rich husband. Decorating isn't for the weak and clients can be hell. I wish when I started that I was a lot of richer because there are so many jobs I would love to have walked away from. But it all got me to here." 🍷



Globe

In a dream, around-the-world trip that rarely happens, Austinite Wes Marshall shares his dynamic insider happenings in Australia and Asia. We think they will inspire your own round trip experiences to see the globe like never before.

By Wes Marshall Photography Courtesy of Wes Marshall, Archival Photography



Trotting



WHEN LAST WE MET, I WAS sharing the story of our trip around the world. We had started in Barcelona, home of Gaudi's fabulous architecture, the best Spanish cuisine, the richest Cava and the most opulent red Priorat wines. From there we traveled to India, where we had the chance to wander the back alleyways of old Delhi with our extraordinary guide, Srinivasan Rajendran, aka Raj. We also discovered what was in our experience one of the best hotels on earth, the Aman. After a life-transforming experience in the town of Agra visiting the Taj Mahal, we jetted off on the next leg of our tour. Our destination this time: Australia and Ho Chi Minh City, better known in America as Saigon.



Jonahs, Sydney



Our transport to lunch, Sydney



Seals resting after the hunt, Kangaroo Island



Sydney Harbor



Sydney guide



Lobby of the Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island



Kangaroo Island More

AUSTRALIA: HEAVEN ON EARTH

First, Australia. But before we get to the glories of one of the world's great countries, let me extol the virtues of the best airlines of the trip. The flights we had between Barcelona, New Delhi, Saigon and Australia were sheer luxury. Singapore Air especially, but also Thai and Swiss airlines, offered supreme service and excellent accommodations. Everything from their clubs to the on-flight cuisine and wines were well-considered and worthwhile. We flew Qantas all over Australia, but I don't recommend them. Do yourself a favor and fly Virgin. Our flight home on United was uninspiring, especially when you can fly Emirates or Korean Air.

Australia was to take the lion's share of the trip because we had three major stops. The single most important to me was Kangaroo Island, my version of Heaven on Earth. Little did I know that it would be several days later that I almost made a phone call to the family with the simple instruction to sell everything because I was going to stay forevermore in my new favorite city. But that story ensues.

Kangaroo Island is a short 200 km from Adelaide. It is a well-protected area abundant with kangaroos, Tammar wallabies, koalas, penguins, New Zealand Fur seals, Australian Sea-lions, and (yummy) earth's last known pure Ligurian honey bees. It is also the home of the giant crayfish the size of Maine lobster called the Marron. More importantly for our needs, Kangaroo Island is also where you will find the most delightful small luxury hotel in my experience, the Southern Ocean Lodge. There are just 21 suites and the happy, friendly staff outnumbers the relaxed occupants. Once ensconced, virtually everything is included in the price of admission, including a very nice collection of Australian wines to drink at your abandon.

Each room has been designed to have a massively private view of the Southern Ocean and the entire hotel is a juxtaposition of both modern and rustic art. Kangaroo Island is also the home of guides, Exceptional Kangaroo Island. I've worked with two, Craig Wickham, its owner, and Ron Swan. Now, to get an idea, imagine Clark Gable in Great White Hunter attire, zooming up in some big Jeep. Only they know all about all the flora and fauna, and they cook you a gourmet lunch on white table cloth out in the sticks. They can also take you to some incredible wineries, my favorite being Hazy Blue and the Islander. Don't miss Kangaroo Island.

Adelaide is a delightful town with excellent restaurants and no good hotels. It is, however, surrounded by some of the world's great vineyards. The prosaically named Life's a Cabernet provides a good guide named Ralf Hadzic to take you to the best of McLaren Vail, Barossa and the Adelaide Hills and since he's driving, you don't go to jail. He was also a long time resident of Texas and was friends with Roy Orbison, so he is got some fun stories.



We ended our trip in Sydney, and this is where I almost had the family sell everything and ship the proceeds to us. Yes, it was that great. To get an idea Sydney's magic, imagine the beauty of a city with so many beaches and cliffs, and still with such a gorgeous, sprawling urban center.

Like Barcelona, I wanted to try two distinctively different hotels. We started at the Darling (love that name), the luxury hotel at the Star Casino. Even the small rooms are glorious and if you are feeling billionaire-ish, the penthouse suites will live up to your expectations. Of course, it was appropriate that Leonardo DiCaprio was ensconced in one of those suites while in Sydney filming the Great Gatsby. We ran into him at dinner in the hotel at Black by Ezard, something that lit my wife's rockets. I found it even more fascinating that we were seated next to 14 members of the Court of Master Sommeliers, who, like me, thought Black a more interesting place to dine than the vastly more famous Momofuku which is also in the hotel.

Our next hotel was the Establishment. This place is ideally located right downtown. It is very hip and modern with fun bathrooms and platform beds in the middle of the rooms. Unfortunately, the only rooms with king sized beds are the penthouse rooms. Warning: The dinner establishment, EST, is quite famous, but, to mirror its use of caps, it is awful and expensive. Oh well....

But now, hand over heart, I must tell you about one of the top dining experiences of my life. I am a food and wine writer by trade, so I have more experience in fine dining establishments than most people. I've eaten at dozens of Michelin 3-star restaurants all over the world. Yes, famous winemakers have taken me to their favorite little out of the way treasures. I'm not trying to brag, I just want you to know that I have some experience when I tell you that if you are ever anywhere within Southeast Asia or Australasia, it will be worth your while to travel to Sydney just to eat at Marque. I won't even endeavor to describe Chef Mark Best's magic other than to say he uses French techniques on

Australian food. Every single course surprised me and every single course was better than its predecessor. I left feeling it was among the top five meals of my entire life. I now believe it is among the top three. Perhaps I hit the restaurant on a particularly good night. Just to make sure I'm not putting too delicate a point on this, if there is better food being made in the world right now, please, someone, let me know where.

We had another fantastic food find in Sydney, Jonah's Whale Beach, which has been one of Sydney's top luxury destinations for 80 years. For a decadently extravagant touch, we took a chartered classic Beaver seaplane operated by Sydney Seaplanes as our limousine service from Sydney's seaplane base to Jonah's Palm Beach dock. This allowed us stunning views of the city, its famous opera house, and its many beaches and craggy cliffs. We arrived to a window-side table, inventive seafood, a great domestic wine list, and a happy three-hour lunch. If we had chosen, like many a rock star and movie legend, to just stay planted, we would have been happy to know we were in the only Relais & Chateaux hotel in Sydney.

A final note on guides. One might think that guides wouldn't be necessary in a city as thoroughly covered as Sydney. After all, there must be a thousand guidebooks, right? Well, not so fast. We found three worth your time. Tops was Isobel Johnston of Sydney Art Tours. Instead of merely showing us museums, Isobel took us to all the private galleries. After ascertaining our tastes, she took us to several galleries. In each case, she knew all the owners and was able to get us private showings of their best pieces. Her introductions were priceless and we never once were put under the slightest pressure to buy a single thing. We also enjoyed a thoroughly offbeat trip with Richard Graham from My Sydney Detour in a classic EH Holden auto going to coffee shops, architect studios and other unexpected treats. We capped the night with Simon McGoram, also known as the Booze Braggart from Sydney Bar Tours, who walked us through several of Sydney's underground craft bars which were places even most natives don't know about.



SAIGON'S FRENCH GLAM

Saigon looks nothing like the dusty, dead Communist camps portrayed in so many 1950's cold war scare brochures. Instead, it is a vibrant combo of early Twentieth Century French Indochine exoticism and 21st century Parisian opulence. Arriving in Saigon, the first thing you will notice is thousands of people on small motorcycles. Often, you will see whole families on a single motorcycle. These bikes cost about \$1,000 and are treated with the same pride we treat our cars. It is funny to see hundreds of the vehicles pulled up at every stop light, some with five or six people aboard. But that is their culture. Don not be surprised if some cute young thing pulls up next to you on a hot red Honda wearing an equally hot piccalilli Miu Miu pant suit. It can happen.

We chose the InterContinental Asiana Saigon Hotel. It is lovely, centrally located and quite luxurious, with suites up to 2,200 square feet. Like its sister hotels scattered throughout southeast Asia, it caters to a clientele that seeks to be coddled without being overcharged. It has Mercedes limos and all the modern conveniences, but it's lacking the castle-like entrance of the Sheraton or the Apocalypse Now history of the Caravelle. What the Intercontinental has is a secret weapon that is worth more than any fancy lobby: it has the best concierge staff in town.

Here's the proof. I mentioned in our last installment that sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Purely by accident, I had booked us into Saigon during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year celebration, is their biggest holiday of the year. When we arrived at the airport, our limo snaked us through the city streets.

Everywhere we looked there were celebratory lights, monumental tower arrangements, woven dragons, and festive natives. The next night was akin to our New Year's Eve and was to culminate in a huge fireworks display over the Sông Sài Gòn river. The A-list spot in town for the pyrotechnics was at the penthouse balcony at one of Saigon's most chichi restaurants, Shri on the 23rd floor rooftop of the Centec building overlooking the river. To say this was the hardest reservation to get in the country is an understatement. One day before, we got an 11PM outdoor balcony-side table, looking directly at the fireworks. The explosions were amazing in the way only Asians can do. It was breathtaking, phantasmagorical, and simply magical.

That is why we stayed at the Intercontinental. Of course, when I made the reservations, I only knew that the head concierge was a foodie and knew every good restaurant in town. Now, I can tell you, they work miracles there. Never underestimate the power of a good concierge. We could spend this whole article on the remarkable restaurants they guided us to, but two require a mention. The Temple Club is a holdover from the French Indochine days. Besides great food, it was so classic, I kept expecting to see Catherine Deneuve at the next table. The other was Hoà Túc, a back alley place that was a foodie haven.

Despite its cosmopolitan exterior, Saigon's back streets still remain an Asian city filled with intrigue and exoticism and just like New Delhi, I wouldn't recommend trying it without a guide. After scouring the possibilities, I chose Loc Nguyen Viet Bao (he goes by Loc,

as in that which secures a door). He is 31, a college graduate, self-employed, and a full time guide. His English is accented but impeccable. After he understood what I wanted – food, history, to see how the common folks live, and to get away from tourists – he designed a perfect two-day program just for us. Yours will be different, but our highlights included happening upon a bridal party in full majesty on those pesky Honda cycles and an incredible day-long boat ride up the Mekong Delta that sailed back into the jungle for a feast on delightful elephant ear fish and an opportunity to see how both rich and poor lived. It was fascinating.

A quick word about the war. They refer to it as the American War and most of them have no feelings about it at all. The young people only know what they are taught in school, and apparently, their grandparents don't talk about it at all. There are a good number of American men in the 60-70 year age range safely wandering the area, mostly with far younger Vietnamese wives, and the Communist Party's policy seems to be to allow capitalism to thrive. The streets were safe, other than a reported pick pocket or two in the crowded markets. In a city three times the size of Houston, that is not too bad.

At this point, more than a month had passed on our global jaunt. We had managed to cram a lifetime's experiences into one trip around the world. My wife and I were both still healthy and happy. But we also craved a little Texas air, an icy Cerveza and a slab of Franklin barbecue brisket. It was time to come home. Until, of course, when the next adventure beckons. ⑤



Note family with groceries, luggage and child all on one Honda, Saigon



A *Royal* TRIBUTE

UT Coach Darrell K Royal Honored at Alzheimer's Gala

By Rob Giardinelli Photography by George Brainard

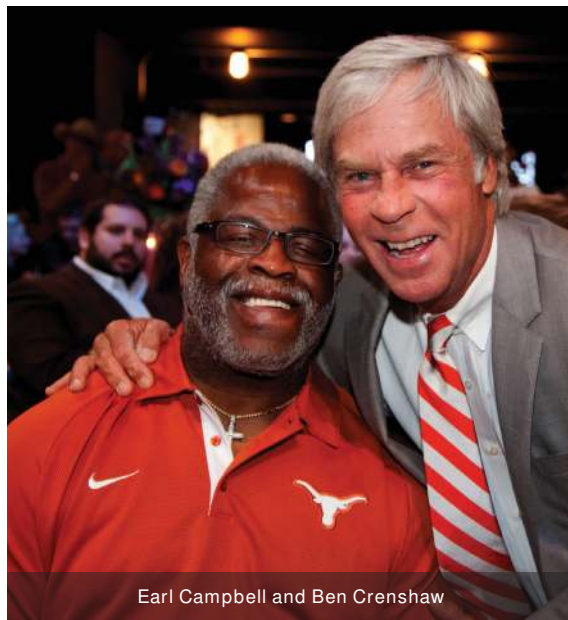


RECENTLY, AT THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS/MOODY THEATRE, CLOSE TO A THOUSAND people attended the 4th and Goal Gala, which not only honored a Texas legend, but also raised over a million dollars to help find a cure for Alzheimer's, an illness that touches many families in Texas and beyond.

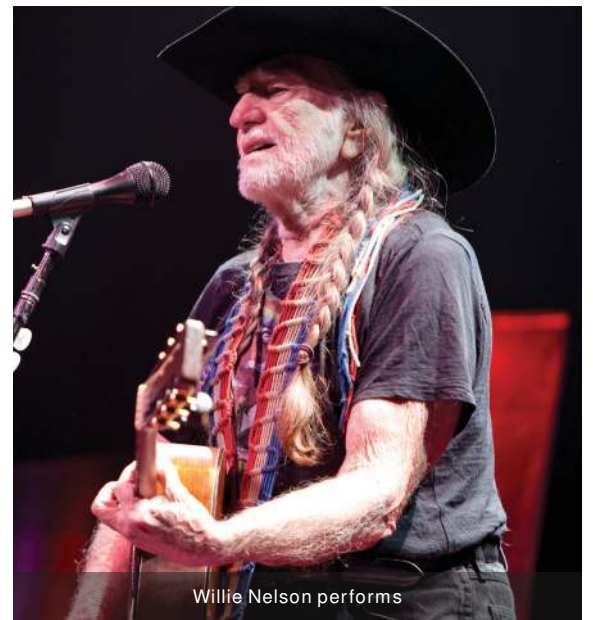




Edith Royal addresses the audience



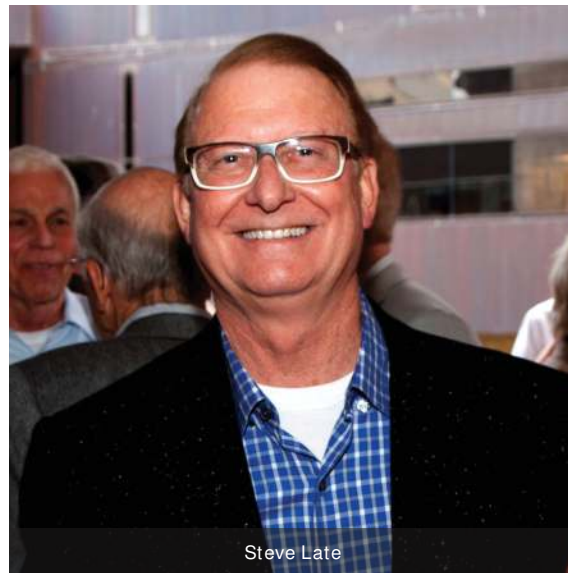
Earl Campbell and Ben Crenshaw



Willie Nelson performs



Attorney General Greg Abbott



Steve Late

e Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease Board, who worked tirelessly championing this great event, created a memorable evening to celebrate the life of the esteemed University of Texas coach who, under his leadership, lit the UT Tower orange three times for national championship wins during his 20 year tenure as UT Coach. e evening began as attendees were greeted by UT's bovine mascot Bevo on the corner of Second and Lavaca streets while guests ascended the Mezzanine level, which were anked by the UT Cowboys service organization, and treated to photographs on the red carpet.



Ava Late and Julie Crenshaw





Emcee Larry Gatlin

Once inside the gala, guests were treated to a cocktail hour as they shared their favorite Darrell K Royal stories. As the theatre doors opened, guests poured inside where they found a delicious meal waiting for them before a tribute program to a Texas legend began. Master of Ceremonies Larry Gatlin effortlessly lead the program, which included a parade of past UT legends including Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell, personal tributes from golfer Ben Crenshaw and Attorney General Greg Abbott. Current UT Coach Mack Brown and his wife Sally then introduced Edith Royal to the crowd, followed by a touching tribute to the legendary coach. Radio personality Ed Clements then helmed a successful live auction and donation period before the evening concluded with multiple Grammy award-winning artist Willie Nelson, accompanied by Ray Benson belting out country tunes and capping off an evening that did Texas royalty justice. 🍷



Ed Clements



John and Kim Mansour



Scott and Julie Sayers



Ray Benson performs



Clint and Susan Hackney



COMMERCE, *Meet* COMMUNITY

North Star Gives Charity Fundraiser Celebrates Eight Women

By Terran Duhon Photography Courtesy of Greg Harrison



WOMEN ARE CAPABLE OF EXTRAORDINARY THINGS. Whether it is the many little victories battled and won throughout the day, to starting their own charitable foundation assisting those with specific needs, eight women were recently honored for their talents at North Star Gives for being extraordinary in their own right.



Holly Hein and Bryson Brooks





Gilda Canavati and Mary Beck



Jeni Jaffe and Juliana Huff



Juliana and Sandra Balido

The event, presented by the Volvo Center of San Antonio, in partnership with Saks Fifth Avenue, honored Gilda Canavati, Lynnette Embrey, Amanda Graybill, Margie Kramer O'Krent, Patricia Pratchett, Michelli Ramon, Cari Breakie Richardson, and Liz Tullis for empowering the potential of others. Their goal, through each of their individual charities, is to give a voice to those that otherwise would not have the ability to speak.



Cari Richardson, Angela Obriotti, Katy Mimari, Ginger Riddle and Becky Canavan



and Nora Garza



Margie O'Krent and Hilton Rabb





Shannon Gillenwater and Emily Spicer



Elba Gonzalez and Cristina Saldivar



The night filled was with food, fashion, and fundraising. The hard work these eight women have put in to making a difference in people's lives continues to be celebrated. Michelle Robertson, the senior marketing manager for North Star and The Shops at La Cantera, stated, "What inspires me most about these women is that despite balancing households, families and careers, they also find time to contribute their talents, grace and grit to life-changing organizations."



Amanda Graybill and Jana Bounds



Michael Quintanilla and



Alicia Bloom and Celia Iriarte



North Star Gives Awards

Glamour *Doing Great*

DIFFA Dallas Celebrates With Dazzlingly Fashionable Gala

By Jake Gaines Photography by Shana Anderson and Ben Leal



THE DIFFA/DALLAS BOARD OF TRUSTEES and the Joule Hotel and Retail presented the Collection 2013 House of DIFFA at the Hilton Anatole and our very own Lance Avery Morgan, who is one of this year's selected members as DIFFA Style Council Ambassadors, took to the catwalk for this cause with a strong provenance in the Dallas social swirl. The event was helmed by honorary chair and the Dallas television star Linda Gray along with event chair Clint Bradley and Collection chair Brittanie Buchanan Oleniczak. Jan Strimple Productions gloried the runway all evening and Greg Haynes Johnson's contributions to the gala were many, too. The Style Council Ambassadors this year, along with Morgan are John Bobbitt, Marty Collins, Peter Dauterman, Stephen Giles, Tommy DeAlano, Deanna Dipizio-Johnson, Daniel Lewis, Malcolm Gage, Kandis Hutchinson, LeeAnne Locken, Simona Beal, Vivian Lombardi, Tom Mason, James Shackelford, Troy Schiermeyer and Paige Westho.



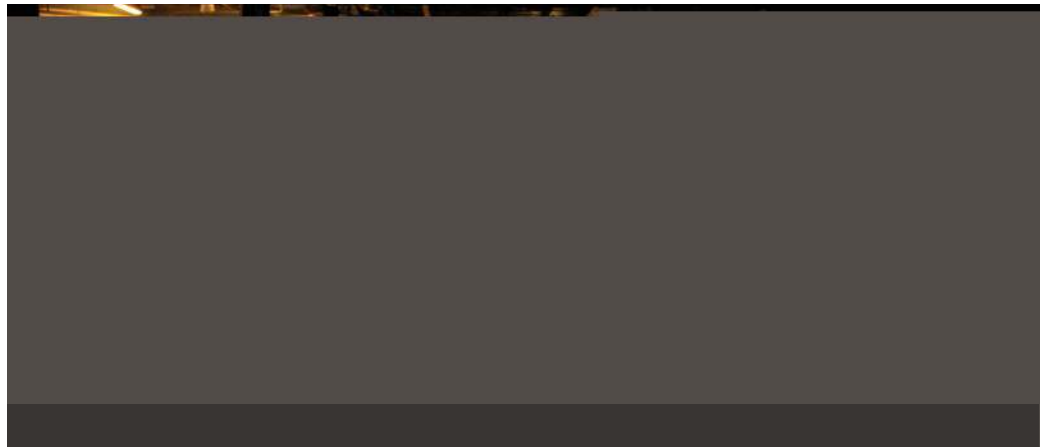
Loren Wilson and Nathaniel Whitsett

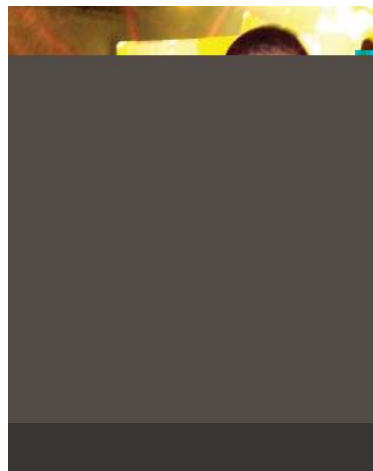


Brad Beard and Holly Reed



Brandon Wall and Nicole Seanor





ere were a plethora of fashion collections presented by Tra c Los Angeles, Ten Over Six and many more runway spectacles that also featured Austin's own Stephen Moser. A surprise musical guest, Kazaky, a Ukrainian synthpop dance group, energetically danced their way into the audience's heart during the event.



John McGill and LeeAnne Locken



Collection Chair Brittanie Buchanan Oleniczak



Rob Giardinelli, Angie Barrett and Lance Avery Morgan



Chuck Steelman and Scott Kehn

With almost 1500 guests, close to \$1 million was raised this year at the gala, thanks to the one-of-a-kind live auction packages that raised \$200,000 for the organization. Joining the high fashion black-tie celebration of fashion and design meant experiencing a dazzling silent auction including designer jackets, the live auction, dinner, and a burlesque-themed after party in a way that only DIFFA Dallas could deliver. All bene ting North Texas HIV/AIDS charities, the organization continues to ride high since its founding in 1984. [S](#)



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 Fellow of The American College of Surgeons
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JORGE L. MENENDEZ, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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