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A close-up photograph of a horse's mane, showing the texture of the hair. A soft, rainbow-like glow is visible, particularly on the left side, suggesting a sunset or sunrise setting. The background is a blurred, warm-toned landscape.

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*Garden Room*

FIG. 01

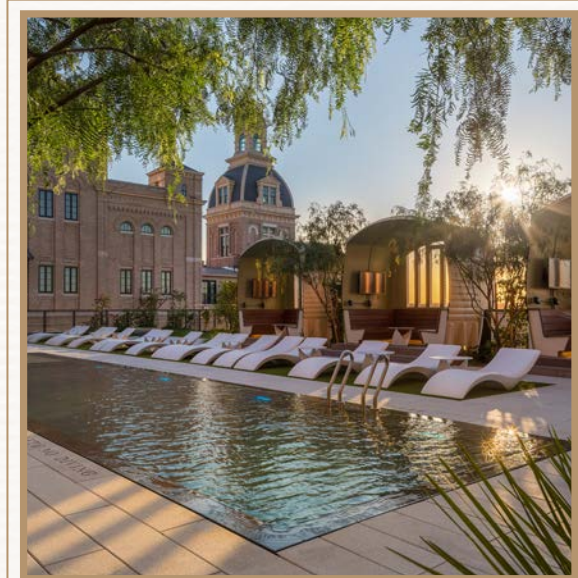


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## 106. BECCA'S MECCA

Did someone say party? There's always a party with a purpose when Houstonian philanthropist and perpetual stylesetter Becca Cason Thrash is on the scene. Enter her rarified world with an insider's look at her latest galas in Paris and Venice.

**By Lance Avery Morgan**  
**Photography by François Goizé (France)**  
**and Matteo de Fina (Italy)**

## 116. THE RICHES OF THE SEASON

We love to give *and* receive, especially this time of the year. Always merry and bright, we are ready to dazzle with this curated selection of unique holiday gifts that are sure to make a big impression.

**By Jake Gaines, Tori Johnson**  
**and Jonathan Spindel**

## 124. HOLISTIC HAVEN

Welcome to paradise in Thailand. At Chiva Som, the chic jet-setting spa to the famous and fabulous, you'll enter a resort like no other. Just say Om.

**By Lance Avery Morgan**  
**Photography courtesy of Chiva Som**

*Becca Cason Thrash's dinner at Scuola Grande Della Misericordia, Venice. Photography by Matteo de Fina*





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## DEPARTMENTS



Comet Bobsled at Utah Olympic Park

64



56



Holly Mills-Gardner  
Photo by Austin Ryde

74

### 38. CONTRIBUTE

It takes a village to create this magazine and our digital media platform at [TheSocietyDiaries.com](http://TheSocietyDiaries.com). Here's a look at some of the many talented dynamos who make it happen this holiday season issue.

### 42. EDIT

Editor-in-Chief and Creative Director Lance Avery Morgan is looking back and also looking ahead at year's end.

### 44. CURATE

Looking for more culture as things cool down? Take a look here at some of our state's finest museums in the country, according to our active arts arbiter Jonathan Spindel.

### 48. SEEK

This great big fabulous world, according to on-the-go guy Jonathan Spindel, has all the international happenings that we recommend you enjoy.

### 50. DISCOVER

Our editorial style setters Jake Gaines (Austin), Cynthia Smoot (Dallas) and Eleanora Leeper Morrison (Houston and San Antonio) are always on the scene with their favorite new finds across the state.

### 54. BEHAVE

We love that our Ms. Modern Manners Sharon Schweitzer, JD has all the answers to holiday season conundrums as we seek to have more continued social success.

### 56. BEAUTIFY

It's getting gorgeous in here for the holidays. Our beauty insider Ana Bribiesca chooses the wintry glam looks we love the most.

### 58. READ

We love a good book. More than most, in fact. That's why we've searched the best of the best new tomes to give and receive this time of year.

### 60. REFLECT

Native Texan Paul Bradshaw looks back with 80s nostalgia with how his stylish paths led him to where he is today.

### 64. RETREAT

The insider's ski paradise these days is Park City, Utah, according to winter enthusiast Jonathan Spindel.

### 68. SAVOR

Winter appetizers and cocktails are the perfect way to stay warm when entertaining family and friends, according to our chic cuisine contributor Josie Rees.

### 72. RECALL

Texan Helen Corbitt was an entertaining luminary before the chef celebrity culture was even a thought. Here Lori Duran shares insight on this five-star legend.

### 74. REVEAL

Austinite T.V. personality Holly Mills Gardner is equipped with both brains and beauty. Here Lance Avery Morgan learns about a few of her favorite things.

### 76. PROMOTE

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

### 96. WED

The nuptials of Iva Tomova and Javier Medina, as well as Greta Kuper and Cory Stehr are celebrated in this issue.

44



50

Austin Film Society Cinema  
Photo by James Minnis

N A T O R I



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*Julian Gold*

## ENTRANCE · ARRIVAL

BALLET AUSTIN



82. AUSTIN, Cord and Anne Shiftlet



79. SAN ANTONIO, Ana Leah and Sergio Montemayor



84. SAN ANTONIO, Julie Zacher and Kelly Weaver



86. DALLAS, Dean Fearing and Wanda Gierhart

## THE VERY BEST EVENTS ACROSS TEXAS & BEYOND

### INVITE

79.

Mr. McGregor's Secret Garden Party event

### ENTRANCE

82. AUSTIN

The Ballet Austin Fete and Fete\*ish events

84. SAN ANTONIO

The San Antonio Botanical Garden gala

86. DALLAS

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra gala

88. HOUSTON

The Houston Big Brothers and Big Sisters gala

90. AUSTIN

The ModXMan launch event

92. HOUSTON

The Junior League event

94. SAN ANTONIO

The Hurricane Harvey Relief event

### ARRIVAL

132. AUSTIN

The Imagine A Way gala

136. SAN ANTONIO

The Landa Library event

138. DALLAS

The TACA gala

### ARRANGE

152.

Laura Villagran-Johnson and Kevin Smothers of AustinSocialPlanner.com recommend the very best events across the state for you to support.



86. DALLAS, Rhonda and Fraser Marcus



92. HOUSTON, Bethany Buchanan, Christina Fredrick, and Selby Bush



94. SAN ANTONIO, George Strait, Miranda Lambert, Chris Stapleton, Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen



88. HOUSTON, Cal and Hannah McNair

Inspired by you, created by Nicole Mera.



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Becca Cason Thrash of Houston wearing Giambattista Valli Haute Couture at the Petit Palais, Paris. Photography by François Goizé

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**PAUL BRADSHAW**

Paul Bradshaw is a writer and director. A frequent contributor to *The Society Diaries*, he divides his time between London and San Francisco, and his beloved Woodshed Farm in west Sonoma County. He is currently working on his first novel, *We Missed You Last Sunday*.

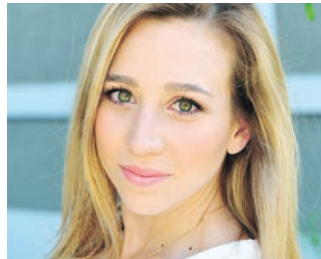
**LAURA VILLAGRAN-JOHNSON AND KEVIN SMOTHERS**

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



**ANA BRIBIESCA**

Writer and enthusiast of all things beauty, fashion, travel and healthy living-related, our *Beautify* contributor Ana Bribiesca is currently working in the higher education non-profit sector and in launching AnaBribs.com, a lifestyle blog where she plans to share her passions, experiences, tips and sneak peeks inside her life hoping to share large doses of inspiration.



**TORQUIL DEWAR**

Torquil Dewar is the founder of October Custom Publishing. Originally from Scotland, he can claim to be the world's first-time traveler after moving from London, England in 2001 to Peoria, Illinois in 1978 (at least that's what it felt like). As an art director for a wide variety of magazines and books, he also publishes a current events magazine for the Austin area called *The Austinite*. His long-time colleague Shelley Lai is the only reason deadlines are actually met on time.



**TORI JOHNSON**

Our stylish contributor Tori Johnson is the owner of sTORIbook Public Relations and is a fashion and lifestyle blogger of The sTORIbook.com. She is also a successful commercial and editorial stylist. In 2015, Johnson was voted San Antonio Fashion Blogger of the Year and has worked with a bevy of top names including Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Lancôme, Armani Exchange, and many more.

**LORI DURAN**

With a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master's Degree, that combined Latin American Studies with Masters of Business Administration classes from the University of Texas, Lori Duran researches interesting historical stories about social changes. This has been her life-long passion and her past research has been contributed to other writer's published articles and books. Lately she is writing free-lance articles for publication and is writing a pictorial book about the history of Austin's Travis Heights neighborhood.



**ELEANORA MORRISON**

A founding contributor for *The Society Diaries*, Eleanora Leeper Morrison has been an Associate Editor and writer since the magazine's first issue covering events, culture, and travel. She is also *The Society Diaries TV's* co-creator, co-host and Digital Director. Morrison writes and manages her own life and style website OhEleanora.com that encourages and empowers women to create the lives they want to lead. This month she lends her event-attending expertise to helm most of our wedding stories.



**ROB GIARDINELLI**

Certified professional life coach and branding expert by day, social commentator by night and author of his new book *Being In The Room* (available at Amazon.com) and chronicled in this issue as a feature story, *The Personification of Texas*, Senior Social Editor Rob Giardinelli is a man of many interests. What may appear seamless actually takes hours of research, interviews, and photo gathering to accurately chronicle the state's charitable event stories. Giardinelli himself is involved several philanthropies and loves sharing how Texans so generously and passionately give back to the community they love, while he weaves interesting social commentary that showcases the many who work tirelessly to raise awareness toward important issues in the state.



**JOSIE REES**

Our newest member of the team, who will be contributing to our Savor department, is Josie Rees, a freelance food photographer based in San Antonio. She is a two-time recipient of Foodelia's International Food Photography Awards and documents her culinary journey on her blog, JosieRees.com which showcases some of her favorite recipes and spots around town.





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CONTRIBUTE



## JENNIFER ROOSTH

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

## SHARON SCHWEITZER

Sharon Schweitzer, J.D., is a cross-cultural trainer and modern manners expert. In addition to her accreditation in intercultural management from the HOFSTEDE Centre, she serves as a Chinese Ceremonial Dining Etiquette Specialist in the documentary series Confucius was a Foodie, on Nat Geo People. She is the resident etiquette expert on two popular lifestyle shows: ABC Tampa Bay’s Morning Blend and CBS Austin’s *We Are Austin*. Her Amazon #1 Best Selling book in International Business, *Access to Asia: Your Multicultural Business Guide*, now in its third printing, was named to Kirkus Reviews’ Best Books of 2015. She’s a winner of the British Airways International Trade Award at the 2016 Greater Austin Business Awards. Photo by Korey Howell.



## CYNTHIA SMOOT

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

## JONATHAN SPINDEL

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



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# CELEBRATE & ELEVATE

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US, AND WITH THE warmer days in the recent past, I recall long hot summers staying with my grandparents on vacation. After hours of playing outdoors, making mud pies and owning the block since I was the only youngster on a bike, I would come into the cool for a respite of reading. I loved perusing the decades-long canon of *Reader's Digest* on hand (*laughter is the best medicine* is still a mantra), from where I learned to see a curated look at the world through magazines, to my grandmother's etiquette book, copyright 1922. In a recent conversation with our very own Ms. Modern Manners Sharon Schweitzer regarding the timeliness of etiquette, she illustrated how much manners and etiquette have changed over the years. In fact, the most enduring etiquette guideline is to add a little flexibility to manners as the situation calls for it.

*Etiquette* by Emily Post (also known as Mrs. Price Post) offered as diverse a spectrum of possibilities for living in a grown-up world than any syndicated sitcom ever could. The tome was a range of how-tos, why nots and here's-how-that-works, as intriguing as the photos and advice that Emily Post would advocate to guide modern manners. Succinct chapter titles like: *Making One's Position In The Community* (how to give back and create a presence), *Modern Dinner Giving* (still quite perfect tips on hosting), *The Country House And Its Hospitality* (how to visit friends and love it), *In Official Washington* (not used so much these days), *How To Address Important Personages* (perfect for encountering mayors to ambassadors) and *The Code Of A Gentleman* (more mantra-worthy insight for this fellow) are just a few examples of how the remnants of the *Downton Abbey* era can still be relevant today.

Which got me to thinking, like the a-ha eureka moment Archimedes had in the bath. In fact, it got me to thinking vigorously: How can we do our best and follow the guidelines to helping live happier lives—all while keeping up with changing times and modern manners? How can we make our most confident choices through this year and into the next? How, *really*?

And that a-ha moment revealed...satisfaction. Seeking satisfaction within ourselves by not holding our lives to others' yardsticks, supporting others without any ego of how it will benefit us, allowing family and friends to live their true essence no matter what their choices, and enjoying more of every moment, from the boardroom to the ballroom, savoring the best life has to offer. At this time of year, and well beyond these sentimental end-of-year months, really creating and seizing the cherished moments is a mindset we can all use more of, right? As Goethe said, *A man sees in the world what he carries in his heart.*

Around here we believe in the magic of how giving back to the world profoundly affects those it benefits, as well as fulfilling ourselves. It's *The*



*Society Diaries*' honor to provide that in every issue with you and for you. From the latest fashion, people profiles, lifestyle trends and not-to-miss cultural moments to savor, we're on the scene to bring you more, more, more that represents this great state.

As you turn these pages, we also invite you to count the hundreds upon hundreds of guests and dozens of charities supported in the many cities that make up this state. Get an insider's glimpse of this world with Houstonian Becca Cason Thrash's Paris and Venice galas that we share as our cover story to see how you, your friends and colleagues see the world because of what you carry in your hearts.

Everyone knows we love a great party and Thrash hosts it like none other. We met for a long lunch together in Houston recently, where she shared her latest triumphant feat of helping raise funds to preserve cultural institutions and we couldn't agree more. "Everyone told me it was sublime and amazing, yet we all know how much work goes into doing these," confided Thrash in our look at her philanthropic endeavors over the years. She, like we, are adamantly *Houston Strong* and want to help fortify that city in every way, along with the cities of all our readers into a better 2018 and beyond.

We look forward to seeing you at all the holiday festivities and celebrating a Happy New Year with gusto like never before, so enjoy the warmth of the season, as we celebrate and elevate *you* now and in the bright and shiny future ahead. **S**

**XO Lance Avery Morgan**  
Editor-In-Chief  
[lance@thesocietydiaries.com](mailto:lance@thesocietydiaries.com)



Photography by  
Megan Kyle Bennett



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# SEASONAL SENSATIONS

The holiday spirits are high, and so are the artistic happenings all around Texas. Our erudite explorer Jonathan Spindel leads the way to the most distinguished destinations.

## AUSTIN



### READ MY PINS

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was known to express diplomatic messages with her selection of distinctive brooch pins, ranging from fine antiques to whimsical costume jewelry. View her collection at a special exhibition at the LBJ Presidential Library, as well as a collection of jewelry worn by the President and Mrs. Johnson. Until January 28, 2018. At [LBJLibrary.org](http://LBJLibrary.org)

### AMERICAN'S SPIRITS

Step back in time to an era of flappers and suffragists, bootleggers and real-life legends like Al Capone and Carry Nation. Immerse yourself in the history of America's most colorful and complex constitutional hiccup: Prohibition. This unique exhibition includes rare artifacts and immersive experiences of those roaring years. Until January 7, 2018. At [TheStory-OfTexas.org](http://TheStory-OfTexas.org)

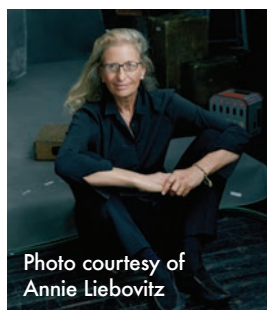


Photo courtesy of Annie Liebovitz

### THROUGH HER LENS

Annie Liebovitz, one of the great photographers of the contemporary world, captures iconic and intimate portraits of American life and global personalities.

In an exclusive Austin event, she will present a selection of works from her newly published book. November 13. At [TheLongCenter.org](http://TheLongCenter.org)

## DALLAS/FORT WORTH



### SYMPHONIC CELEBRATIONS

The season for celebrations is here, so enjoy the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Pops, The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and the tradition New Year's Eve performance and champagne toast. Through December 31. At [MyDSO.com](http://MyDSO.com)

### SCENE AND BE SEEN

Have you visited the Dallas Contemporary lately? Inside its enormous exhibition spaces, you'll find rotating features including collaborations with local museums, as well as artists from around the world. Check out the scene. At [DallasContemporary.org](http://DallasContemporary.org)



### TWELVE TRIBES

The extraordinary paintings of Francisco de Zurbarán depicting Jacob and his twelve sons reside in the royal enclave of Auckland Castle, but they are now on view at the Meadows Museum. Don't miss this rare opportunity. Until January 7, 2018. At [MeadowsMuseumDallas.org](http://MeadowsMuseumDallas.org)

## HOUSTON



### TOUR DE COUTURE

Get a close personal view of the exhibition with a private tour with an expert curator. November 6. Exhibition on view until January 28. At [MFAH.org](http://MFAH.org)



### ARTISTIC ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate their thirtieth anniversary, eminent Menil Collection curators have selected thirty pieces from the permanent collection that tell the story of the de Menils' relationships with artists and their enduring contribution to Houston's artistic landscape. Until January 28, 2018. At [Menil.org](http://Menil.org)



### HALLELUJAH FOR HANDEL

Celebrate the season with a Houston holiday tradition. Acclaimed for its harmony, excellence and virtuosity, conductor Paul Agnew and the Houston Symphony Chorus deliver Houston's premier performance of this Baroque masterpiece. December 14. At [HoustonSymphony.org](http://HoustonSymphony.org)



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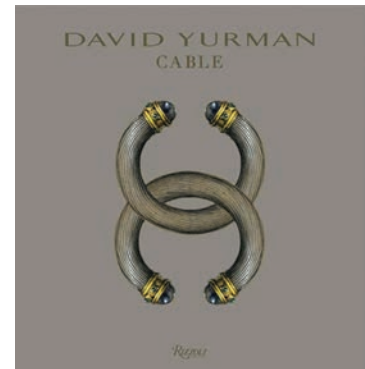
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CURATE

## SAN ANTONIO

### DESIGN DETAILS

Artisan David Yurman's new tome *Cable* highlights his perspective and commitment to designing must-have jewelry items. His book signing at Neiman Marcus San Antonio will be an occasion to meet the master as well as to pick up a few of his newest pieces that are exclusive and one-of-a-kind. November 15th from 1-3 PM. At [NeimanMarcus.com](http://NeimanMarcus.com)



### AUDACIOUS UNVEILING

Three global artists have been hard at work in the ArtPace International Artist-In-Residence program, and they are finally unveiling their work on November 9th. See the visions they've been cultivating. Until December 31. At [ArtPace.org](http://ArtPace.org)



### SETTING THE STAGE

Have you ever wondered about the art behind the beloved film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*? See the sculptures and sets used by Tim Burton to craft the groundbreaking film with his unique vision. Until December 31. At [McNayArt.org](http://McNayArt.org)

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# HEIGHTENED & ENLIGHTENED

This season is the time to treat yourself to the world's most exclusive experiences, as our audacious adventurer Jonathan Spindel reports.



## APRÈS, ANYONE?

Vintage ski art, from art-deco glamour to pop art, is seeing a surge in popularity and value. With early 20th century poster artists' talent coming onto the art world's radar, you can now find some beautiful and chic original pieces to make a unique addition to your art collection. At Christie's Auctions—and, check out original vintage posters at Galerie123.com



## SHALL WE DINE?

The private member's only dining club hosting chic soirees all over the country has attracted movie stars and mover-shakers across the social scene. Yes, please. Join the ultimate nexus of extraordinary food, craft cocktails, entertainment and networking. At TheSupperClubInc.com



## CHÂTEAUX DE BORDEAUX

Long closed to the public, many of Bordeaux's most prominent châteaux have begun welcoming visitors to experience an insider's view of the premier wine region. Try Château Pape Clément, once home to a pope, where you can stay overnight and dine like royalty. At Bernard-Magrez.com

## CUISINE CENTRAL

They say the best restaurants are worth crossing continents to experience, and you'll love visiting the stunning coastal city Lima, Peru to visit Central Restaurante, recently named #1 chef's choice of *The World's 50 Best Restaurants*. Recently featured in the Netflix original *Chef's Table*, chef Virgilio Martínez crafts incredible dishes inspired by the coastal Pacific environment. At CentralRestaurante.com.pe




## FASHION X TEN

Austin Fashion Week celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2018, and they can't wait to share the upcoming reimagining of the Fashion X events. Experience a peek of the future at the upcoming fashion brunch on November 12. Tickets at FashionX.co



## GREATER HEIGHTS

Experience Hawaii like never before – with a helicopter tour of the amazing Volcanoes National Park, including access to previously off-limits areas of the island. Combine with a stay at the Four Seasons Rainforest Cottage on the slopes of Kilauea for the ultimate island adventure. At FourSeasons.com 




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# STATEWIDE SAVVY

Around the state we find there's something new and interesting happening on every block, according to our go-go team of Jake Gaines (Austin), Tori Johnson (San Antonio), Eleanora Leeper Morrison (San Antonio), Jennifer Roosth (Houston) and Cynthia Smoot (Dallas).

## AUSTIN

### CINEMA'S SHOWCASE

AFS Cinema, the Austin Film Society's first ever two-screen art house theater, recently opened after an extensive renovation by the architect team of Michael Hsu Office of Architecture. It offers full-schedule runs of the best in international and independent films that are new in theaters. A full bar and fresh, unexpected food offerings make it amazing, too.



Photography courtesy of Austin Film Society and David Lowery

### LONGHORN SALUTE

A favorite for performer Dale Watson to croon, Ginny's Little Longhorn is the insider's insider place. Named one of the best dive bars in the country by the *Washington Post* and CNN, check out the surprise it has in store on Sunday afternoons.



Photo courtesy of Ginny's Little Longhorn



Photography courtesy of Big Top Candy Shop

### SWEETEST TREAT

Want to feel transported to your inner child again? Look no further than Big Top Candy Shop, a mainstay on South Congress. Every kind of vintage candy can be found, as well as ice cream. Our favorites sweet selects? Nik-L-Nips' wax cola bottles, Pixy Stix and the Rainbow Coconut Bar, to name only a few.

## DALLAS

### STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

Avant Garden recently relocated its floral studio to a new 3000 sq. ft. home at The Shops of Highland Park. The store's design has transitioned through the years to its current iteration of a dramatic aristocratic dining room with a modern twist. Owner Todd Fiscus says that in addition to the stunning floral creations he has come to be known for, new offerings include luxury home goods, unique antique finds, textiles and customized containers. At AvantGarden.com



Photography courtesy of Avant Garden

Photography courtesy of Revision Skincare



### IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME

Designed to address aging skin of the neck and décolletage, Nectifirm® has already been lauded as the #1 neck product recommended by medical professionals. Dallas-based Revision Skincare® is now

expanding the Nectifirm® collection with the introduction of Nectifirm® ADVANCED, the first age-defying neck product to harness the power of the Microbiome. Turkey gobble, be gone. At RevisionSkincare.com

### STONE COLD DELICIOUS

"From our traps to your tables in less than 24 hours" is the claim of Trulucks' Florida Stone Crab Season. The restaurant keeps a fleet of boats outside of Naples, Florida, where it brings in enough crab to provide their locations with fresh crab claws throughout the season. These post-worthy, emoji-worthy and OMG-worthy delicacies are available at all Truluck's locations now through May 2018 in Dallas and other locations. At Trulucks.com

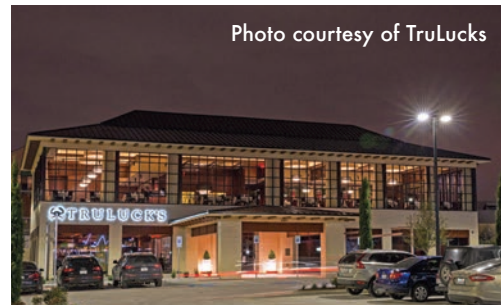


Photo courtesy of Trulucks

*May Your Season Be Bright*

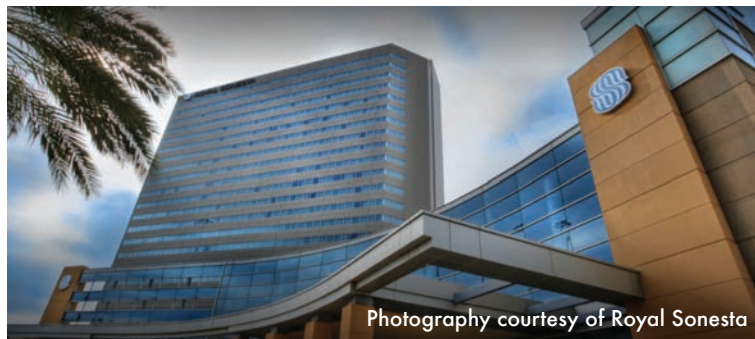


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## HOUSTON



Photography courtesy of Royal Sonesta

### A REGAL STAY

Royal Sonesta hotel, the Uptown landmark, features 50,000 square feet of premier function space with three ballrooms and is a preferred location for many of the season's most important social events. Additionally, recently hired Robert Graham is bringing new acclaim to catering offerings with a pedigree that spans from Manhattan's Tavern on the Green to a number of Ritz-Carlton properties and prestigious clubs.



Photography courtesy of LeColonial

### INDOCHINE INSPIRATION

Inspired by 1920's French Colonial Indochina, Le Colonial architect Mark Knauer has designed a chic and multi-textured oasis brimming with beautiful surfaces and fabulous finds in this escapist atmosphere it creates for guests. The River Oaks District views are with an open-air veranda outfitted with louvered shutters and soft seating vignettes with a perfect vantage point to watch the area's coming and goings.

### LET'S DO LAUNCH

In a city that has long buoyed the bigger is better mantra, Houston's Hotel Alessandra aims to reverse tradition with intimate intrigue. The twenty-story, 223-room building, which occupies a prime site – formerly a restaurant pad – in downtown Houston's pedestrian oriented Green-Street development, is now open and entertaining her adopted friends and visitors in a home that incorporates opulent, keepsake reminders of her gilded past into thoroughly modern surroundings.



Photography courtesy of Valencia Group.

## SAN ANTONIO

### IF WE COULD JUST BOTTLE THAT

Bottling Department's Food Hall at the Pearl is built on the original site of the brewery's bottling department, which turned out beer bottles even before the Pearl name was adopted in 1886. The robust Food Hall's vendors include something for everyone: Bud's Southern Rotisserie, Fletcher's Hamburgers, Maybelle's Donuts, Tenko Ramen, The Bar At Bottling Dept. and The Good Kind. At BottlingDept.com



Photography courtesy Bottling Department



Photography courtesy of Eat At NOLA.

### THE BIG EASIER

Enjoy New Orleans-style brunch six days-a-week. From Oysters Rockefeller to Blue Crab omelette to shrimp and grits, these signature dishes are no longer reserved for when you're in New Orleans. We love that their beignets are made in-

house, from scratch in small batches, and served stuffed with either lemon curd or coffee + chicory pastry cream alongside a cup of chicory coffee or café au lait. At EatAtNOLA.com

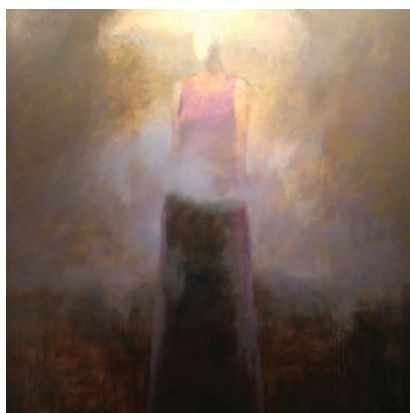
### LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE

A trendy coffeehouse that's always buzzing with the energy of entrepreneurs and nearby creative business folk, Rosella Coffee is in a former warehouse and provides great quality coffee, food, beer and wine and endless inspiration in its industrial atmosphere, for those needing a power meeting location or a quiet spot for their latest project. **S**



Photography courtesy of Rosella Coffee

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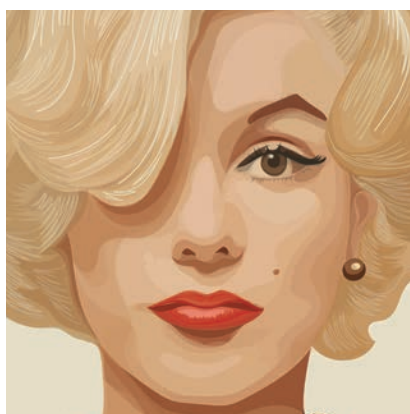
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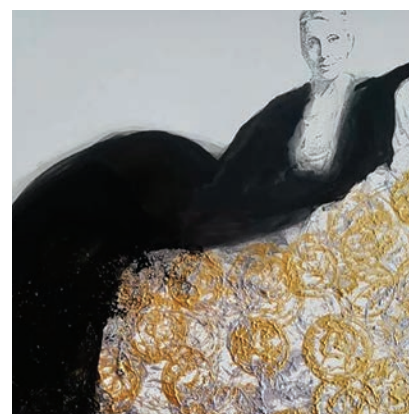
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# HOLIDAYS ON NICE

The holidays require extra kind behavior as a courtesy to our family, friends and colleagues.

Here our resident etiquette expert, Ms. Modern Manners Sharon Schweitzer, JD is on the scene to streamline the awkward process.

**Dear Ms. Modern Manners,**

*DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR, WE ATTEND SO MANY HOLIDAY EVENTS and many occur on the same evening. How's the best way of attending them all without seeming rushed and party hopping?*

**Party Pleaser**

**Dear Party-Goer:**

While it's tempting to party-hop the night away, resist that urge because 'making an appearance' is so passé. Instead, ask yourself a few questions. If you are bringing your significant other to these parties, consider who else may be attending. Will you both mingle well with that crowd? Are you both looking to network, or just chill with BFFs and quaff adult beverages while catching up? Your answers will help you decide. If you're going solo, consider how you'll interact with guests at each party attend the parties. RSVP to each invitation no later than the 'reply-by date' or within 48 hours as a courtesy to the host.

**Dear Ms. Modern Manners,**

*We were planning to share Thanksgiving dinner at a friend's home since we're unable to travel to our families this year. My parents just informed us they are now instead visiting us. Should I ask my friends if my parents may join?*

**Giving Thanks**

**Dear Thankful Guest,**

As a guest at your friend's home, contact the host and explain that you must unexpectedly change your plans and decline the invitation, with the specific explanation that your parents just advised they are visiting you as unanticipated out-of-town guests. Don't expect an invitation for your parents, unless your friend knows them well and can accommodate additional guests for their holiday dinner table. Your explanation will provide the host with an opportunity to make a decision. If your friend graciously invites your parents, plan to arrive with an extra special personal gift your hostess will appreciate.

**Dear Ms. Modern Manners,**

*It's that holiday tipping time again, any quick guidelines for friends, family and colleagues?*

**Great Gratitude**

**Dear Giving Tree,**

In the U.S., Americans use the time between Thanksgiving and the New Year to

express gratitude with a gratuity or a holiday tip. In Canada, there's Boxing Day on December 26th, a holiday that many Canadians use to tip those who make their lives easier.

In Mexico, there's *Aguinaldo* (Ah-gee-nahl-doh), an annual Christmas bonus equivalent to at least 15 days of wages that companies are required to pay their employees before December 20, just in time for the holidays. The *Aguinaldo* may be pro-rated if the employee has been with the company for less than a full year.

There's no designated U.S. American holiday for end-of-year tipping, nor is there a federally-required monetary holiday bonus for employees. However, this time of year in November and December, tipping is standard across dozens of sectors.

Drafting your holiday tipping plan can be daunting, but fear not if you remember there's no hard and fast rule about how much, or who to tip in the U.S., so start with these five suggestions:

- 1. Start with a budget:** Calculate how much you're willing and able to spend on 2017 holiday tips. Remember, holiday tipping is not an obligation. Consider alternatives to big spending to soften that January blow to the account balance.
- 2. Make that list:** Create a list of those you wish to tip, placing those who help you most frequently at the top. Your trusted housecleaner, nanny, or daycare center staff may receive more than an infrequent provider.
- 3. Factor in routine tipping:** For those you tip regularly at the time of service, consider offering a small present or a gift card to their favorite spot or a nearby café. Keep in mind local and regional customs, service quality and frequency, and relationship length.
- 4. Creative alternatives:** Handmade cards reflect genuine thoughtfulness. Shop for colorful cardstock and calligraphy pens. Specialty baked goods, luxury candles and soaps, fine tea or coffee, and floral arrangements are excellent alternatives to cash.
- 5. Encourage child participation:** They may want to make a gift for a babysitter, *au pair*, or nanny. Encourage them to make a drawing, card, or craft. Suggestions to pair with your child's gift:
  - Live-in nanny or *au pair*: a week's pay
  - Babysitter: evening's pay
  - Day care center staff: week or a month's pay **S**





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# LONDON CALLING

FALL 2017 COLLECTION

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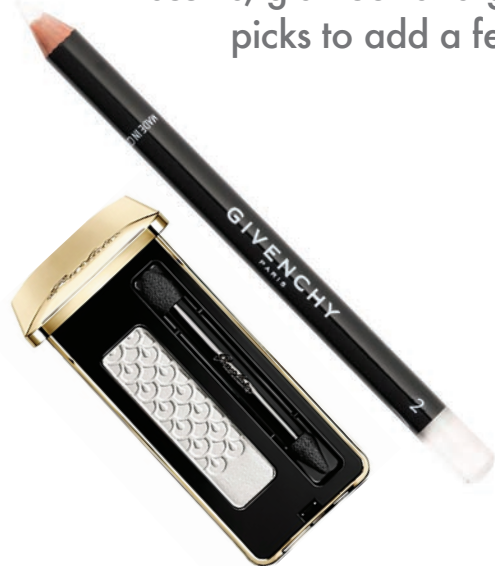
**EXTREMELY LASHED**

2017 taught us the elegance of minimalism, however, lash maximalism takes over this holiday season with a nod to 60s Twiggy inspiration. Choose from the TARTÉ Tarteist Pro Cruelty-Free Lash collection for a dramatic look and try Jane Iredale's Longest Lash Mascara for epic length and volume in a few strokes. Eyelashes \$12 At Sephora. Mascara, \$33. At Neiman Marcus.



# THAT HOLIDAY GLOW

We begin the countdown to the most wonderful time of the year with warm vanilla scents, glamour and glitz fill the air this holiday season. Find inspiration in these top picks to add a festive spin to your elegance from *our beauty expert Ana Bribiesca*.



**SNOWFLAKE EYES, ANYONE?**

A look that will brighten your eyes until the wee hours of the morning. Apply Givenchy Magic Khól Eyeliner Pencil in white along the water rim of your eyes for breathtaking simplicity. \$27. For a tinsel twinkling effect add a dab of Guerlain Mono Eye Shadow in Silver White in the inner corner of the eye. \$34. Both at Neiman Marcus.



**GLOWING CHAMPAGNE**

Glitz up your makeup by dusting gold highlighter onto your cheekbones, cupid's bow and nose. Try Bobbi Brown Highlightening Powder in Bronze Glow for high-impact, light-reflective glow. \$48. At Saks Fifth Avenue.

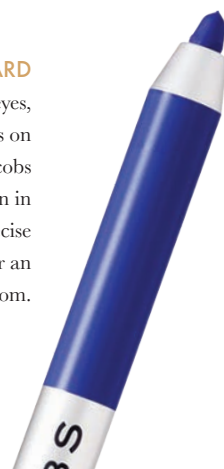


**SMUDGED & SMEARED**

Dust off the sparkly dresses and glam up your look with this season's smoky eye. Try Surrat Beauty Prismatic Eyes in Scandal Eyes, a powerful duo with a creamy matte texture that create a powerful effect. \$38. At Sephora.

**WINTER BLUES STANDARD**

Electric blues transform this season's bold eyes, creating gazes that raise the temperatures on the coldest of wintery nights. Try Marc Jacobs Beauty Highliner Matte Gel Eye Crayon in Out of the Blue for an intense color and precise application to define your eyes or smudge for an instant smoky look. \$25. At Nordstrom.



# 2017 Holiday Gift Guide For Her



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Italian Dream Weddings



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DESIGNER OF DREAMS



LOUIS VUITTON  
CABINET OF WONDERS



# HOLIDAY ESCAPADES

It's the time of the year...to give from the heart and soul. Here are a few selections of new reads we think will entertain throughout the New Year, as recommended by our own bibliophile *Lance Avery Morgan*.

**ITALIAN DREAM WEDDINGS** BY ENZO MICCIO This internationally renowned wedding planner provides flawless examples of fairy tale weddings come true all over the romantic landscapes of Italy. From the dinner to the dress, it is an essential guide for planning picture perfect nuptials. \$45. Rizzoli USA

**BESPOKE, THE MASTER TAILORS OF SAVILE ROW** BY JAMES SHERWOOD The skilled tailors of Savile Row in London have dressed kings, movie stars, rock legends, billionaires, and even a few regular guys. Here we see the best of their talents. \$40. Thames & Hudson USA

**CALVIN KLEIN** BY CALVIN KLEIN Nicknamed Calvin Clean for his sleek designs, this volume presents a stunning archive of images that reveal his timeless influence as a designer, as well as the ground he broke with romantic, rebellious, sexually charged advertising campaigns the likes of which had never been seen before. \$150. Rizzoli USA

**TINA BARNEY** BY TINA BARNEY In the Slim Aarons vein, this volume covers three decades of the artist's provocative yet intimate large-scale color images capturing the domestic life and private moments of the American and European elite. \$100. Rizzoli USA

**EXPEDITION: FASHION FROM THE EXTREME** BY PATRICIA MEARS Here's a look at fashion at its most extreme. A dazzling array of designers have been inspired by the Arctic region, Gaultier, Yamamoto, Mizrahi, McQueen, and Altuzarra among them. \$50. Thames & Hudson USA

**HOUSE STYLE** BY LAURA BURLINGTON AND HAMISH BOWLES The Chatsworth manor in England is renowned as much for its fashionable history—its majestic dresses and tiaras, magnificent lace and splendid uniforms—as its unrivaled collection of art, palatial gardens, and celebrated family dynasty. \$45. Rizzoli USA

**CHRISTIAN DIOR, DESIGNER OF DREAMS** BY FLORENCE MÜLLER For the 70th anniversary of Dior's New Look launch collection, this showcases seventy of the most memorable looks created by the master and his successors. \$65. Thames & Hudson USA

**THE STORY OF THE FACE** BY PAUL GORMAN Here's a look at the inside story of what was every 80s hipster's go-to icon of "style culture," the benchmark for the latest trends in art, design, fashion, photography, film, and music being defined by a thriving youth culture. \$50. Thames & Hudson USA

**CABINET OF WONDERS** BY PATRICK MAURIÈS The extraordinary compendium of rare objects collected by Gaston-Louis Vuitton, grandson of Louis Vuitton, the founder of one of the world's most famous luxury brands. A treasure trove for any collector. \$95. Thames & Hudson USA

**STUDIO 54** BY IAN SCHRAGER Now, in the only official book on the legendary club, here's a spectacular volume teeming with never-before-seen photographs and personal stories from the greatest party of all time, providing a behind the scenes' view and putting into context a story that was so 70s. **S**



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# THE PERFECT FIT



Growing up in the 80s in Texas, it seemed like anything was possible if you tried hard enough and paid attention. *Our pop culture social chronicler Paul Bradshaw reflects on his East Texas upbringing, and how his lifetime quest for style and substance helped direct his aspirations further.*

AS A YOUNG MAN GROWING UP IN RURAL EAST TEXAS, style wasn't often on the menu. Homogeneity was the standard, and if you couldn't buy it at JC Penney or Montgomery Ward, chances were it wasn't in your repertoire. Fortunately for me, I would encounter some remarkable people on my life journey, who opened hidden doors, showed me new vistas and introduced me to invigorating information and experiences.

## EURO ADVENTURE

At the ripe old age of sixteen, I had the good fortune to be sent on a six-week art history tour of Europe. Our chaperone and fearless leader was Marjorie Shepherd, the wife of the mayor of our small town, and a true force of nature. She kept her hair dyed Lucille Ball henna red. She wore bright colors in layers and was always bejeweled and bangled. It was effortless and sophisticated. It was worldly, in the literal sense of the word. I was in awe. Of course, in our small town, she was often gossiped about and called "different"—that lovely word we use in the South, never in a positive way. I thought she was magnificent.

Everywhere we went on that *grand tour*, she would run into people she knew on the street. I was agog. I couldn't imagine that level of coincidence. Now, of course, having a few more stamps in my passport, and having made dear friends scattered across the globe, I've had the same experience—a familiar face in a far-flung place. The greeting of "What are *you* doing here?" always brings a smile to my face and the memory of that magical Marjorie to mind.

I really wanted to bring something special back for my mother. I knew she loved rings. She was never much for earrings or necklaces, but she always has collected the most beautiful rings. Emeralds and diamonds and opals and turquoise, each with a story she loved telling about them.

I came across a loose Alexandrite stone in a shop in Cairo. The deep purple color called to me, the light playing in the awkward cut of the stone. It was perfect. When Mom opened the box and beamed at the stone, my nascent instincts were reinforced. Choices didn't have to be expected to be chic. She worked with a local jeweler to design a completely modern setting in gold. She called it a dinner ring. And, lo these many decades later, she still loves and wears that ring.

## I'LL TAKE THAT IN BURNT ORANGE

The University of Texas provided my next great leap forward. This was 1980; I was finally an "adult" and my curiosity was boundless. Disco was dying and preppy was *everything*. I was certainly an avid participant, but in my own way, letting the style take me to new places. I was mad for madras plaid—the intense, vivid colors so delicately applied to the cotton, intersecting to create deeper hues.

My first year introduced me to the concept of the "formal." Previously, I had only ever worn a tuxedo to a sibling's wedding or to my high school proms. Rental was really the only option. But here at college, I had a hunch that I ought to own. My hunch paid off. Between fraternity and sorority formals, debutante balls and charitable functions, that first tuxedo gave me a fantastic return on investment. My friends and I would try to outdo each other in the cummerbund department. My all-time favorite was a Mola, a traditional quilting done by the Kuna Indians of Panama. The folk art quality juxtaposed with a formal tuxedo resonated with me, and in fact I still own and wear it.

Of course, one begins college with the hope of fitting in, and ends it having tried on a variety of persona, searching for the best fit. By the time I graduated, I was ready for a whole new level of discovery.

*more...*



H A U T E  H O R N S

ART BY ANNLYN OSBORN  
HAUTEHORNS.COM



Starck Club, Dallas, 1980s



New York club kids, 1980s

### NEW YORK'S STATE OF MIND

Throughout my young adulthood, frequent visits to New York had begun adding elements of New Wave and Punk into my repertoire. A motorcycle jacket. Some Doc Martens. A ripped jean here, a torn tee there. And I began to take an interest in my environs. Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine, with its brightly illustrated covers, Bruce Weber's stunning, subtly homoerotic photo essays, and Greg Gorman's spectacularly fresh LA Eyeworks ads showed me a creative world I wanted to join.

So, I let a New York bound jet engine blow the ink on my diploma dry. A roommate from college got me hired at a trendy restaurant in Tribeca, where I dove into the downtown scene. Waiting on visionaries like Willi Smith, his sister Toukie, Robert DeNiro, Harvey Keitel and other notable New Yorkers, I had a front row seat to these people who were carving out their own niches in a very glam world of which I yearned to be a part.

Falling into the club scene, I began to notice how some people tried way too hard, and others seemed to effortlessly own a room. Their style seemed innate. I window-shopped for ideas, the actual items far out of reach of my meager waiter's wages. But the New York streets provide so much for the style-hungry. A black cashmere topcoat became a staple in my wardrobe, its secret thrift store history hinted by its ragged lining. A dented, slightly tarnished silver champagne bucket became my totem to a louche life. In my fantasy, one always had a bottle of champagne at the ready.

Keith Haring's activist graffiti was still omnipresent on subway surfaces and downtown buildings. I bought art on the street from NYU students struggling to make ends meet, even as I was trying to solve the same puzzle. I met amazing, vibrant people... artists, musicians, actors, writers, photographers...each swimming upstream, finding inspiration and using their gift to inspire anyone willing to pay attention. I paid close attention.

### TEXAS, OUR TEXAS

Soon the siren's song of Texas called me back. Dallas was starting to happen. The Starck Club was the epicenter of cool. My job at a big advertising agency, writing copy on an IBM Selectric typewriter, was hopelessly romantic. The place crackled with an electric energy. When you are surrounded by co-workers with the literal job title "Creative," you are in a world of constant inspiration. In fact, your profession offers added justification to your thirst for all things new and different.

Where downtown New York had a rough-edged energy to it, Dallas was all slickness and gloss. Especially at fun-fueled nights at The Starck Club that brought five star nightclubs to Texas. I began to feel the pull of a more Bohemian vibe and settled back into Austin. I met Liz Lambert through a good mutual friend, but had no idea what was about to transpire with her seeming folly of buying the old San Jose Motel on South Congress. That story is well told now, but for me, seeing such an amazing synthesis of one's personal aesthetic fully realized... I can't overstate the influence.

To reference Yoda, there was no "try". She just did it. It was effortlessly cool. It redefined what chic could look like. It took me all the way back to Marjorie Shepherd. And, it finally sunk in: Anyone with a certain level of means can buy stylish things. In today's marketplace, we are well-taught about brands and labels. But to truly find style is to find reflections of one's hopes and joys on a magical journey of life.

Today, whether I'm soaking in the laid-back vibe of west Sonoma County at my farm, or the beautiful collision of tradition and visionary thinking in London, my senses are on high alert. I've been lucky enough to meet the most amazing, creative people. And they've been kind enough to let me tag along. **S**



# Holidays at the Tobin!



## THE NUTCRACKER\*

H-E-B PERFORMANCE HALL  
Ballet San Antonio  
Nov. 24-26, 30 | Dec. 1-3  
Tickets: \$35<sup>00</sup>, \$57<sup>00</sup>, \$85<sup>00</sup>, \$114<sup>00</sup>



## HOLIDAY POPS

H-E-B PERFORMANCE HALL  
Dec. 15-16, 8:00 PM | Dec. 17, 2:00 PM  
Tickets: \$25<sup>00</sup>, \$41<sup>00</sup>, \$56<sup>00</sup>, \$70<sup>00</sup>



## RIDERS IN THE SKY

CARLOS ALVAREZ STUDIO THEATER  
Nov. 25, 4:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Tickets: \$45<sup>00</sup>



## SISTER'S CHRISTMAS CATECHISM

CARLOS ALVAREZ STUDIO THEATER  
Tobin Edge Series  
December 19-20, 7:30 PM  
Tickets: \$34<sup>50</sup>



## PEACE FOR ALL

H-E-B PERFORMANCE HALL  
Childrens Chorus of San Antonio  
Dec. 3, 7:00 PM  
Tickets: Go on sale October 30th



## RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED\* REINDEER - THE MUSICAL

H-E-B PERFORMANCE HALL  
December 22-23, 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
BMW of San Antonio Signature Series  
Tickets: \$23<sup>50</sup>, \$29<sup>50</sup>, \$39<sup>50</sup>, \$55<sup>00</sup>



## CIRQUE DREAM HOLIDAZE\*

H-E-B PERFORMANCE HALL  
BMW of San Antonio Signature Series  
Dec. 8, 7:30pm | Dec. 9, 2:00pm & 7:30pm  
Tickets: \$38<sup>50</sup>, \$54<sup>50</sup>, \$69<sup>50</sup>, \$89<sup>50</sup>



## A VERY ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS

H-E-B PERFORMANCE HALL  
December 30, 2:00 PM  
Tickets: \$24<sup>50</sup>, \$32<sup>50</sup>, \$39<sup>50</sup>, VIP \$100<sup>00</sup>



## TOMMY EMMANUEL

CARLOS ALVAREZ STUDIO THEATER  
Dec. 13-14, 7:30 PM  
GA Tickets \$49<sup>50</sup> - VIP \$85

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Comet Bobsled at Utah Olympic Park



Historic Main Street during Sundance Film Festival



five5eeds dish

# LAI D BACK LUXE

Discover Park City's superb slopes and A-list attractions this season with *our superlative-snow-seeker Jonathan Spindel.*

Photography Courtesy of Park City Chamber and Waldorf Astoria Park City

IF YOU'RE A SNOW CONNOISSEUR, YOU'VE CERTAINLY heard about Park City. Nestled in Utah's pristine Wasatch Range, Park City boasts some of the world's best ski slopes and mountain resorts. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. Park City is a global hub of arts and culture, where A-list stars and jet setters converge for exquisite experiences and exclusive events. In fact, the past few years have seen an incredible growth in new world-class attractions. Myriad surprises await you in the breathtaking mountains. You'll see, there's so much to discover in this winter wonderland.

A quick scenic drive from Salt Lake City International Airport, Park City truly captures the authentic feel of a ski town steeped in history. Having come a long way from its 1869 establishment as a silver mining hub, Park City has long been a major snow sports destination. It gained further fame with the advent of the Sundance Film Festival, which put the ski town on the map for independent filmmakers, movie stars, and cinephiles in search of the latest and greatest. Taking the global stage in 2002, Park City hosted many events of the Winter Games events, and in fact remains a training center for athletes from around the world.

Yet for all its global reputation, Park City retains a uniquely intimate vibe. You can ski directly from your hotel to the mountain lifts, then glide to your favorite après ski spot for dinner or drinks. A common sight is a rack of skis, packed near the entrance of a local diner or wine bar. Inside, skiers are warming up by the fireplace, exchanging stories,

making new friends and enjoying the energy only a true ski town can offer.

## STAY IN STYLE

The Waldorf Astoria Park City hotel offers luxurious hospitality and easy access to Park City's greatest attractions. In fact, Park City Mountain Resort, the largest ski resort in the United States, is just a quick gondola ride away. From the moment you enter the Waldorf Astoria Park City, you feel surrounded by the essence of this winter wonderland. Each guestroom is appointed with custom furnishings and spectacular views of the ski slopes and mountains, ideal for a relaxing retreat. For a truly deluxe experience, you can opt for a four-bedroom suite complete with roaring fireplace and private balcony patios.

Explore the 16,000 square foot spa, which offers the latest therapeutic and beauty treatments in a contemporary mountain-inspired setting, complete with a Tea and Fireside Lounge for a warm environment to indulge in total relaxation. When you're ready for an exquisite meal, the on-property restaurant Powder offers a seasonal menu inspired by modern mountain cuisine, featuring delicious ingredients from local sources. In fact, Executive Chef Michael Zachman was recognized in the 2017 Taste of Waldorf Astoria competition, winning accolades for his innovative beet-cured trout with rye whiskey mimosa, and tempura shrimp with ginger yuzu pearl mojito. Such surprisingly innovative culinary experiences are available every day at Powder and are not to be missed.

*more...*



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Waldorf Astoria Park City Courtyard



**POWDER PARADISE**

Park City boasts two world-class ski resorts, Park City Mountain Resort and Deer Valley Resort. Both resorts hosted ski events during the 2002 Winter Olympics, and when you visit their slopes it’s easy to see why they were selected for world-class competitions.

Park City Mountain Resort features two distinct base areas, a ski and snowboard school, and hundreds of trails, lifts and terrain parks for every level of skier to enjoy. Additionally, Park City Mountain Resort is home to more than two-dozen restaurants. For an excellent après ski meal, try The Farm, named one of Utah’s top restaurants, where you can dine on exceptional dishes inspired by local seasonal fare.

Deer Valley Resort revolutionized the ski industry by being the first North American ski resort to provide the first class service that guests would receive at a five-star hotel. Deer Valley features luxurious amenities such as ski valets, perfectly groomed slopes, exclusive lift access and gourmet dining in three elegant day lodges.

In addition to skiing and snowboarding, Park City’s internationally celebrated mountains also offer unparalleled snowshoeing and cross-country skiing opportunities. Seeking a truly elevated experience? Hop in a hot air balloon for an awe-inspiring bird’s-eye view of Park City’s mountain panorama.

**MARQUEE EVENTS**

Park City has come a long way from its silver-mining days—in fact, the winter season features world-class events that attract jet-setting movers and shakers from all over the globe. Keep an eye out during your ski run, and you may just meet a skier from the United States Ski

Team, or even the Australian Freestyle Ski Team, who both train on the mountains of Park City. Every year, Deer Valley Resort hosts the Celebrity Skifest, an extraordinary event when stars from television, film and the Olympic Games come to compete in ski events to raise funds for worthy charities. Of course, there are also plenty of celebrity antics, parties, charity auctions, benefit concerts and more. And of course, Sundance Film Festival draws thousands of movie lovers and a-list stars. You can rub elbows with some of today’s most influential artists and performers of the silver screen. So, whether you’re a film lover, celeb-spotter, or outdoor thrill seeker, you just can’t visit Park City without getting a taste of the world’s most rarified experiences.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

You won’t want to miss the charming attraction of Main Street area, where the picturesque streets are lined with chic art galleries, designer clothing boutiques, and delectable dining spots. Pop into one of the many jewelry shops, where you can find regional artisan-crafted silver and turquoise, as well as bold contemporary designs and classic luxury pieces from the world’s finest jewelers. Art galleries feature rotating exhibitions of extraordinary works in every medium; you’ll find it hard to resist picking up a new piece for your collection. Stylish clothiers abound as well, from elaborate furs to sleek modern designs straight from the runway.

When you’ve worked up an appetite, you’ll find an abundance of delicious options to satisfy your palate. Riverhorse on Main, offering eclectic American cuisine, is among Park City’s oldest and most distinguished restaurants. The Eating Establishment has been a beloved diner for locals and visitors since 1972, with a menu of satisfying favorites for any time of day, as well as top-notch coffee, whiskey and craft beer. Off Main Street, you can find truly innovative fair at five5eeds, whose brunch options include savory shakshuka and the fluffiest pancakes you’ll ever taste. Nearby, Twisted Fern offers a fresh take on local fare, with imaginative dishes inspired by myriad global cuisines.

**ALL ABOUT APRÈS**

Wind down after long day of skiing, shopping and sight seeing with some of Park City’s finest spirits. High West Distillery and Saloon crafts a range of aged and spiced whiskeys, and serves flights and cocktails alongside a menu of delectable snacks. The cozy saloon is the perfect place to warm up on a snowy day. If you’re in the mood for wine, Old Town Cellars is an elegant winery with local roots, where you can enjoy a range of styles and vintages while chatting with the founders and winemakers themselves.

It’s easy to see why Park City has become such an attractive destination for a winter season escape. The exhilarating slopes and brisk mountain air offer an infusion of invigorating energy, while its laid-back luxury lets you relax and indulge in all your favorite pleasures. You may even love Park City enough to become one of its many seasonal residents. Who wouldn’t want a private pied-à-terre in America’s most charming ski town? In any case, Utah’s mountain paradise will always welcome you to enjoy its finest offerings, during the snow season and year-round as well. The mountains are waiting for you. **S**



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# TIDINGS OF JOY

Baby it's cold outside, but the warmth of a sweet holiday cookie, brie appetizer and your own signature craft cocktails will take the chill off, according to *our cuisine expert on the scene Josie Rees.*



## MAPLE PECAN BAKED BRIE

### Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) round brie cheese
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- sliced baguette, graham crackers, apple slices (for serving)

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350F.
2. Place brie on a small baking sheet. Bake about 15 minutes or until softened. Remove and let cool for about 5 minutes.
3. While the brie cools, heat maple syrup, brown sugar, and cinnamon over low heat in a small saucepan. Stir until the sugar has dissolved; stir in pecans.
4. Pour over the brie and serve immediately.

## CRANBERRY POMEGRANATE GIN SMASH

This drink may look like a summer, tropical treat but its flavors beckon the holidays. Using deep reds like cranberries and pomegranates, this winter drink is fruity yet robust.

### Ingredients:

- Crushed ice
- 1/2 cup cranberry juice
- 1/3 cup pomegranate juice
- Juice of 1/2 a lime
- 2-3 ounces favorite gin
- Pomegranate seeds for garnish
- Mint leaves for garnish
- Orange peels for garnish (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Fill your glass halfway with ice.
2. Add the pomegranate juice, cranberry juice, lime juice and gin.
3. Stir to combine and then top with mint, pomegranate seeds and orange peels. Enjoy responsibly.

*more...*

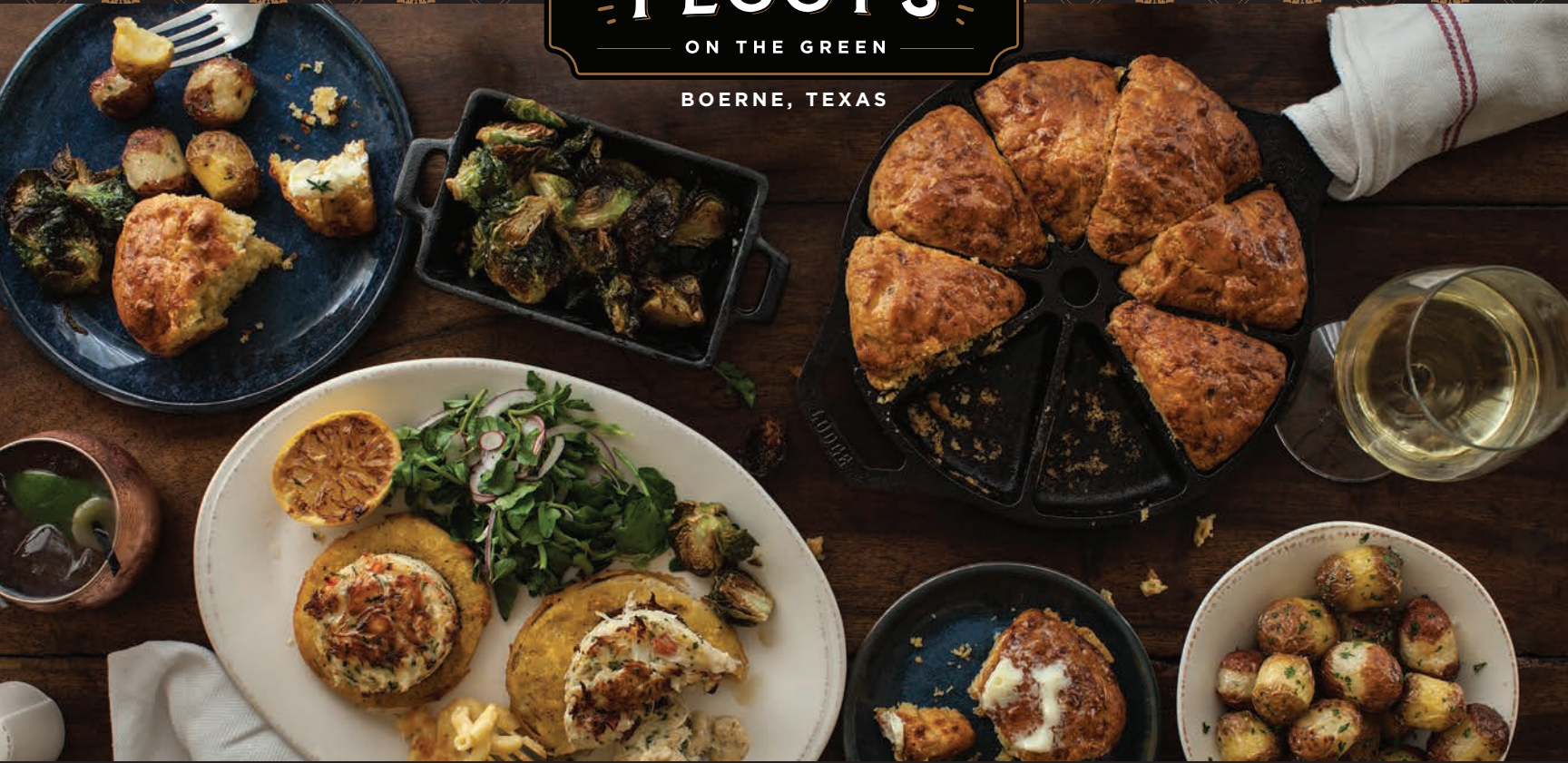


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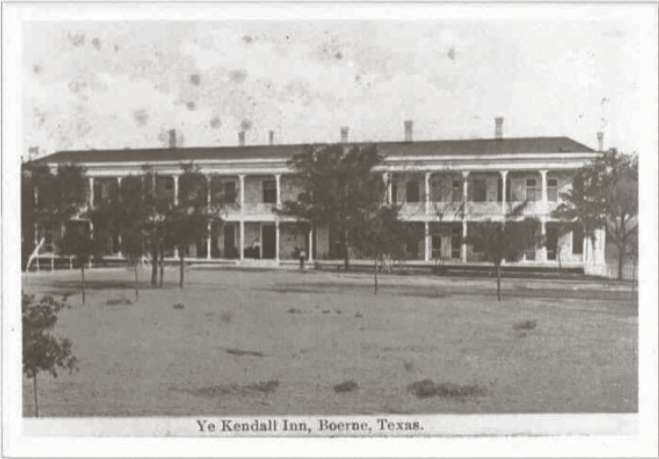
# PEGGY'S

ON THE GREEN

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"As a kid growing up in Jourdanton, I watched my Mother and Grandma make everything from scratch every day. My Father and Grandfather were the Kings of Barbeque. I cooked some, too, but I did a lot more watching, tasting, and learning."

CHEF MARK BOHANAN

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**PLUM, THYME AND PROSECCO COCKTAIL**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 plums
- 6 thyme sprigs
- juice from one lemon
- 4 Tbsp. thyme simple syrup (1/2 cup of sugar, 1/2 cup of water, bring to a boil, remove from heat, add thyme sprigs, stir, and let cool. Chill until ready to use.)
- 1 bottle of Prosecco

**Instructions:**

1. Peel and chop 2 plums.
2. Muddle the plums with the thyme simple syrup and lemon juice until all of the plum juices have been released. (You can also muddle right in the glass if you prefer to have bits of fruit in your cocktail.)
3. Shake with ice in a cocktail shaker.
4. Pour over crushed ice evenly between two glasses.
5. Top off with prosecco and garnish with extra plum slices and thyme sprigs.
6. Serve immediately and enjoy responsibly.



**DOUBLE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT CHUNK COOKIES**

**Ingredients:**

- 2 eggs, large
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed light
- 8 oz chocolate, semisweet
- 1 package chocolate chunks, semisweet
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract, pure
- 4 tbsp butter, unsalted
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1 package of white chocolate melting chunks
- Peppermint crumbs

**Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat chopped chocolate and butter in a microwave-safe bowl in 20-second increments, stirring between each, until almost melted; do not overheat. In another bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt.
2. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs, brown sugar, and vanilla on high speed until light and fluffy. Reduce speed to low; beat in melted chocolate. Mix in flour mixture until just combined. Stir in chocolate chunks.
3. Drop heaping tablespoons of dough 2 to 3 inches apart onto baking sheets. Bake, rotating sheets halfway through, until cookies are shiny and crackly yet soft in centers, 12 to 15 minutes. Cool on baking sheets 10 minutes; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
4. Melt white chocolate melting chunks in the microwave at 30 second intervals. Stirring in between.
5. Dip half the cookie into the melt chocolate to coat.
6. Sprinkle peppermint candy crumbs on top. Place on wire rack to set. **S**





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# THE WAY WE DINED

Long before the rise of cooking channels and celebrity chefs, culinary pioneer Helen Corbitt placed Texas cuisine firmly in our cultural landscape, according to our vintage cuisine expert Lori Duran.



Helen Corbitt, 1970s

AUSTINITE PENNY SUTTON RECALLS HER DAYS AS A student at the University of Texas during the 1970s when she decided, along with her sister, to host a dinner party for some girlfriends. They had a bottle of wine and they borrowed a Helen Corbitt cookbook from their mother. They tried Chicken Tetrazzini and a salad. It was a hit.

Later, while dating her future husband, Sutton prepared Corbitt's curry recipe for him, since he had enjoyed eating curry on his navy ship. "When he came home on his birthday weekend I made one whole batch and then threw it out and made it again so it would not be my very first try that I served him," Sutton remembers. She has been cooking from an original Corbitt cookbook ever since. "I first became aware of Ms. Corbitt from my mother," Sutton says. "She helped make Austin a little more sophisticated then." With timely updates and healthy modernizations, Corbitt's cookbook endures as a go-to resource for cooks everywhere.

Back in the days before ubiquitous celebrity chefs, young Americans learned how to cook from home economics class, from mothers, from cookbooks and from few TV personalities. Then there was Corbitt, whose influence came to be felt all across Texas.

## NEW YORK TO TEXAS

Corbitt was born, educated and started her career in New York, but she made her mark during her 38 years in Texas.

In 1940, she was offered a place as restaurant manager and catering teacher at the University of Texas. In the Tea Room in the home economics building, she added garlic, onion, vinegar and oil to black-eyed peas for a dish we now know as Texas Caviar. She was also known for vegetables steamed only briefly so they remained slightly crisp and retained a bright color. Soon word spread about the tasty meals being served and the home economics café became such a popular spot that it grew into a larger space.

In 1942, Corbitt left UT for a position with the Houston Country Club where her dining room became a bigger draw than the always busy bar. The elite of Houston appreciated her lobster thermidor, crown roast of lamb and English peas in aspic. She stayed there for six years before accepting a position with the Houston outlet of San Antonio-based Joske's department store, where she stayed just four years before returning to Austin.

In 1952, Corbitt was recruited to manage the kitchen at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, still while managing the Driskill's culinary arts. In fact, she came to know future President Lyndon Baines Johnson, who loved her beef stroganoff. Later the Johnsons would try to persuade her to manage the White House kitchen, but she declined.

## GLAMOUR CALLING

Instead, in 1955 she accepted a position as head of culinary operations at Neiman Marcus in Dallas. Stanley Marcus had courted her for eight years before he finally lured to manage the Zodiac Room at their flagship downtown store. Neiman Marcus was in its heyday



Helen Corbitt's 1886 Cafe & Bakery Cheese Soup, Driskill Hotel, Austin



Helen Corbitt at the UT Tea House circa 1942.  
Photo courtesy of The University of Texas at Austin archives

of glamour and the Zodiac room was its upper-floor restaurant that served imaginative and delicious high-end cuisine – alongside models walking through the store in the day’s latest chic styles – that projected the Neiman Marcus image.

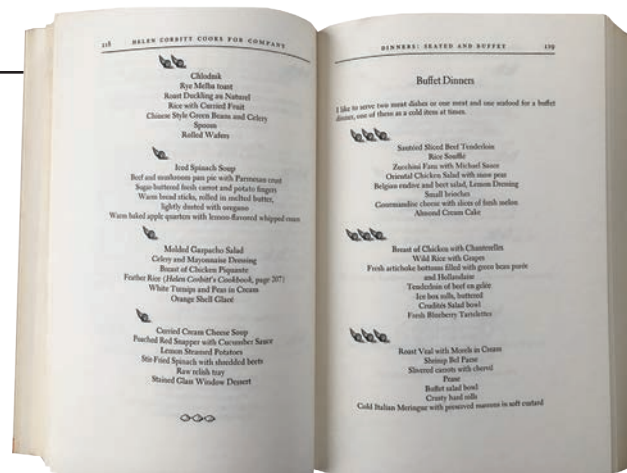
After Corbitt took over, patrons waited in long lines and celebrities who came to Dallas sought out her cuisine. It’s said that Stanley Marcus complained about the Zodiac Room not turning a profit, but Corbitt stood by her dedication to serve the finest food instead of serving the bottom line. She had become a cosmopolitan, award-winning and savvy restaurant businesswoman who knew the best food suppliers in the country when, in 1969, she retired from Neiman Marcus to write, teach and consult.

By the end of her life, she had published four cookbooks. A fifth cookbook was published posthumously. Her unique recipes such as poppy seed dressing (she stated once, “Where it originated I have no idea. I did popularize it when I realized that on the best grapefruit in the whole wide world, Texas grapefruit, it was the most delectable dressing imaginable,”) cheese soup, lemon crumb bars and others are still as popular as ever. After a long and celebrated career, she passed away in Dallas in 1978. Although later generations tended to recoil from some of her midcentury dishes—which introduced foreign influences without any rigorous attempt at authenticity—Helen Corbitt’s long audacious career created a legacy that changed the way Texans cook, entertain and feed their families. **S**



Helen Corbitt, 1950s

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2017



## VINTAGE CUISINE 2.0

Since Helen Corbitt’s heyday, cooking in a lower-fat and lower-cholesterol style has become a wise practice for some and a necessity for others. Over the years, Penny Sutton, a Corbitt devotee, has adapted two of her favorite recipes to be as nutritious as they are delicious.

### CHICKEN SALAD SUPREME

Makes about 6 cups

- 1 lb. cooked chicken breasts diced into ½” cubes
- 1 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1 cup halved purple grapes
- ½ cup sliced and toasted almonds
- 1 tbsp. finely chopped parsley
- 1 tsp kosher salt, plus more to taste
- ½ cup fat-free whipped cream
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste.

Combine chicken, mayonnaise, celery, grapes, almonds parsley and salt in a bowl. Add whipped cream and pepper, fold to combine. Can be served in lettuce cups.

### SOUR CREAM MUFFINS

Makes two dozen

- ¼ pound butter
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- ½ tsp salt

Mix until light then add:

- 4 eggs, well beaten
- 1 ½ cups fat free sour cream
- 1 tsp soda
- 2 ¾ cups flour
- 1/8 tsp grated nutmeg

Mix thoroughly. Pour into buttered muffin tins and sprinkle the tops with sugar. Bake at 450 degrees for 15 minutes.

# DO BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN?

Austinite Holly Mills-Gardner thinks so and this blonde is everywhere. On TV as a host on *Netflix*, *AMC* & *Longhorn Network*, at galas, and supporting all the people, places and things she loves. In fact, she's co-emceeing the Center For Child Protection's *Dancing with the Stars* gala in December with our very own *Lance Avery Morgan*, who caught up with her to learn about her latest obsessions.

*Best career advice I have received is...*

Stay true to yourself and to your values because it's the only path to lifelong success.

*Three qualities that got me where I am today are...*

Humility, self-confidence and grace.

*How I made my first dollar...*

Was when I was in elementary school and modeled for a JCPenney's Sunday newspaper ad — I thought that was "big-time"... I think I made \$25.

*First album I bought was...*

Michael Jackson's *Thriller* (it's still my all-time favorite).

*If I could live in a foreign city it would be...*

Cape Town, South Africa. I fell in love with "The Mother City" during my first visit 16 years ago. It's truly a wonder of wonders.

*My all-time favorite style icon is...*

Marilyn Monroe. She was way ahead of her time as true style visionary and influencer in every aspect of her life.

*What everyone/woman should try in her lifetime is...*

To go blonde, at least once. I've tried many hair colors and blondes really do you have more fun.



Photo by Arthur Garcia



Marilyn Monroe, 1955


*If I could compete in an Olympic sport it would be...*

That's a no-brainer — it would be golf. Although, the adventure seeker in me would want to do the Bobsled, too.

*The beauty essential you'd have to pry out of my cold dry hands is...*

Intellishade tinted moisturizer by Revision Skincare. It's a sunscreen, moisturizer, and tinted makeup base all in one. I'm obsessed.

*My perfect day would end...*

With my toes in the sand & a glass of rosè in hand, with my boys by my side, feeling that Bahamian "island vibe." 





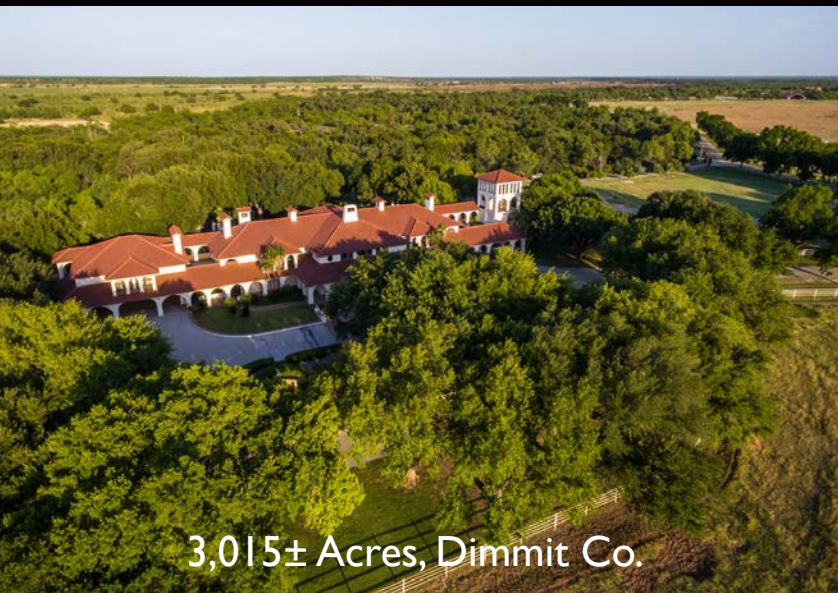
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PROMOTE



Alicia Bryan, Michelle Shetler and Jessica Bakke



# PASSPORT TO STYLE

## Shetler Fine Jewelers Hosts Girls' Night Out Event

SHETLER FINE JEWELERS RECENTLY HOSTED A FESTIVE Girls' Night Out event in San Antonio to kick off their Passport Season. The store's customers were invited and encouraged to bring guests to attend and enjoy light bites, cocktails, browse the Meira T Designs collection, and partake in photo booth fun. Meira T Designs has a very feminine and modern sensibility, which made the jewelry a perfect partner for this event.

There were also fun and exciting giveaways that were handed out throughout the night to celebrate Passport Season, an eventful time for Shetler Fine Jewelers. Passport Season consists of a series of jewelry trunk shows that take place during the months of September through December, each featuring a different, unique designer that takes their client into the world of fine jewelry, featuring the best in design, quality, style, and value.

Along with browsing the fabulous selection of fine jewelry of each of the nine trunk shows, Passport Season is a way to pick out the perfect gifts for the holiday season. Throughout the Season, there is an array of prizes and giveaways that will be taking place, and those who attend a minimum of six events will be eligible to win a \$5,000 gift card.

For more information, visit [ShetlerFineJewelers.com](http://ShetlerFineJewelers.com) 



Paige Flinn, Chelsea Grayson and Lauren McCreless



Emily Honigblum and Nicola McLaughlin



LaRhessa Moon, Debbie Margozewitz, Linda Yarborough, Emile Christian and Lisa Weissler



Lisa Krenger, Carol Archer and Pam Cohen



Catherine Spezia, Carrie Green, and Gabriela Tawil

# PHILANTHROPY MEETS HOSPITALITY

## Restaurateur Mark Bohanan Offers Twist of Philanthropy

By Jake Gaines Photography by Jason Risner

A TRADITIONAL 15TH ANNIVERSARY GIFT IS CRYSTAL, and this year Mark Bohanan is celebrating the 15th year of the success of Bohanan's Prime Steaks and Seafood with a crystal rocks glass of a Tio Mio cocktail at the bar at Bohanan's.

The Tio Mio is this year's signature cocktail of Bohanan's biggest charitable giving event, San Antonio Cocktail Conference. SACC is a nationally recognized celebration of craft cocktails that donates 100% of its profits to children's charities.

Bohanan's interest in his guests flows well beyond the restaurant and into the community. In order to oversee the cocktail conference and other charitable efforts of the Bohanan's brand, Mark Bohanan founded Houston Street Charities, which has supported children's charities since its inception in 2012. His support for the community includes a belief that his restaurant and his efforts should help to build a strong city and a robust downtown.

While Bohanan's newest restaurant in Boerne, Peggy's on the Green, was created to honor his mother and expand the legacy of Bohanan's hospitality, The San Antonio Cocktail Conference serves to expand the legacy of Bohanan's charitable outreach in the city by providing funds to organizations like ChildSafe and the Children's Shelter.

The education, fun and charity of the next San Antonio Cocktail Conference happens January 10-14, 2018. For more information visit [SACocktailConference.com](http://SACocktailConference.com). **S**



Mark Bohanan



The scene at the San Antonio Cocktail Conference



The Tio Mio cocktail

PROMOTE



Rene and Emma Farret, Germán Gonzalez & Graciela and David Rodriguez



Derek Hernandez, Christian Schimmelfennig and Germán González



Tina and Abel Vela



Daniel Pedrotti III



2016 Tears of Llorona




# PRIMED FOR FUN

## Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar Hosts Pairing Dinner

By Jake Gaines Photography by Al Caballero

RECENTLY, FLEMING'S CREATED A COCKTAIL DINNER experience that will be remembered by its lucky attendees. The restaurant group provides experiences curated by its local teams of wine managers and chef partners that are unique to Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar. The wine dinners, cocktail dinners and beer dinners offer pairings and multicourse experiences directly influenced by the beverage's flavor profiles. To further enhance the experience, these events at Fleming's include visits and commentary from the beverage makers themselves, allowing for anecdotes, explanations, and understanding that only they can provide. This creates an environment where guests can understand the true passion and history behind the beverages. It's a truly inclusive experience, much more than just a pairing menu, since these beverage makers are sharing their unique passion, which is constantly honed by their tireless working in the field producing and learning every day.

Fleming's teamed with T1 Tequila Uno for a cocktail dinner that was a great success. In fact, the evening began with the history of tequila. For centuries, generations of tequila masters have perfected the art of making this unique spirit. A creation of Master Distiller Germán González, T1 tequilas have an acquired pedigree only achievable through heritage and continuity with the past. González is the great grandson of General Manuel González, former President of México from 1880 to 1884. In the late 1970s, Germán's father, Guillermo Gonzalez Diaz Lombardo, founder of La Gonzalezña launched what would become the first ultra-premium tequila imported into the United States, Chinaco. Germán worked closely with his father and learned how to handcraft tequila using traditional techniques. After years serving as Chinaco's master distiller, Germán left the company to launch his own brand, like his father before him.

T1 Tequila is handcrafted using ancestral and traditional methods, and originates from mature 100% Agave Azul grown in the highlands of Jalisco, Mexico. What emerges is a masterpiece collection of T1 Tequila Uno of extraordinary and exquisite caliber. The teaming of Fleming's and T1 set the bar high for future events. For more information visit Fleming'sSteakhouse.com 





# HAPPY *Holidays!*



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Jackie's Playhouse at The Argyle



Leland Stone



# PLAYHOUSE PLEASURES

Cloche Designs Curates A Legacy Of Love  
By *Jake Gaines* | Photography by *Jessica Giesey and Greg Harrison*



Ana Leah and Sergio Montemayor



Maddie Conger, Lyles Conger and Katie Conger



Verry Robin & Co, Dixie Design and Gina Langford



John Tomerlin, Emily Ford, Jackie Beretta, Alice and Simon Katz & Ben Rodriguez



Caeli Armstrong, Blair Turner and Blake Barnes





Sonya Medina-Williams and Stella Williams



Ana Cruz, Jenna Gorman and Ansley Johnston



Samuel Montemayor and Sergio Montemayor



Corinna Richter, Holt Richter, Jackie Covey and Carol Richter



Laura Nell Burton and Christin Gish



**E**ACH OF US BEGINS WITH WHAT previous generations pass down. Some are instilled with a fierce work ethic; others inherit artistic creativity; and others are born with a heart for service. For Christin Gish and Laura Nell Burton, co-founders of Cloche Designs, all of the above are true and proven by their most recent special project at The Argyle. They are using their gifts to leave behind a legacy of love.

When Gish and Burton decided to launch their business venture earlier this year, the strategy was crystal clear... create a lifestyle brand primarily offering best-in-class event management services that transcend traditional models. With a hyper-focus attention to details and commitment to extraordinary client service, Cloche was born. The company gets its name from the glass domes that protect plants from frost and are a hallmark element incorporated into the elegant tablescapes that Cloche has become known for designing.

Aside from small-to-large-scale event services, Cloche also boasts a portfolio of one-of-a-kind special projects such as curating and styling unusual collections and other interior design projects. With true talent for interpreting and bringing to life the overall client vision, and honing in on sentimentality, each of Cloche's projects are rooted in their clients' personalities. The results are deliverables that are individual, exclusive and infused with love. "One of the greatest gifts in life is happy memories," says Christin Gish. "We give that gift to our clients as we turn their dreams into reality."

One area of passion is Cloche's delight in resurrecting old treasures. So, there could not have been a more fitting task than that of the meticulous renovation of Jackie's Playhouse on the grounds of The Argyle. Donating a hundred percent of their time, Cloche curated a dream team of local artisans to restore Jackie's Playhouse back to glory by way of a total remodel that included a thoughtful porch extension and the addition of a tiny boxwood garden. Cloche raised over \$180,000 for construction and a magical ribbon cutting celebration, "Mr. McGregor's Secret Garden Party" which they planned down to the last beautiful detail, with all remaining funds donated to The Texas Biomedical Research Institute. "I grew up creating cherished memories there," recalls Laura Nell Burton. "Four decades later, I'm passionate about Jackie's Playhouse meaning as much to my children and future generations as it does to me." **S**

ENTRANCE: AUSTIN



Chris and Abby Hendel

# SHAKESPEAREAN FETE

Ballet Austin Fête & Fete\*ish Dazzle With Epic Romeo And Juliet Soirée

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by John Pesina

## THE SCENE:

A beautiful Friday evening at downtown Austin's JW Marriott was the setting where over 600 of Austin's social and cultural elite celebrated an epic night for the ages. Ballet Austin pulled out all the stops for this year's Fête and fete\*ish events that coincided with the Ballet Austin performance of the epic Shakespearean drama that Romeo and Juliet, which would have made the literary master himself green with envy.



Wendy and Justin Harvey



Vicki Roberts and Jeff Nash



Cord and Anne Shiflet



Jennifer Guthrie



Katie and Jordan Jaffe



Clara and Paul Bancroft

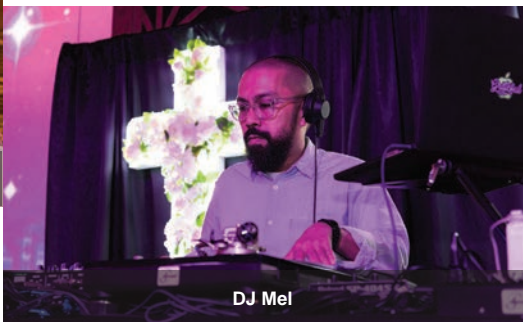


Mark "Oz" Ozdarski and Wende Parks



## THE VIBE:

The evening began as guests ascended the escalators to the foyer outside the grand ballroom, where they were treated to a lush, green backdrop to pose for photos with their beloved. The black-tie crowd mingled around the room in a manner that the Montagues and Capulets could have only dreamed, becoming apparent as the doors opened to the grand ballroom where Mandarin Flower Company pulled out all the stops. Befitting the theme, the room that was bedecked with florals, red on one side and white on the other, perfectly accenting the play's original feuding families.



DJ Mel



Jennifer Carnes and James White

After attendees found their way to their tables, they were treated to a delicious multi-course meal during the evening's program, which showcased the positive impact that Ballet Austin bestows to the community. The evening continued with words from several of the organization's most beloved benefactors and concluded with a spirited live auction and paddle raise that contained novel experiences including batting practice with baseball legend Roger Clemens as well as the opportunity to be Mother Ginger during the upcoming *Nutcracker* holiday production.



Sarah Figg, Maria Orozova and Laura Villagran Johnson



Leanne Ræsner and Cassandra King Polidori



Hon. Bruce Todd and Elizabeth Christian

As the live auction concluded, the doors between the Fête and the fete\*ish after-party next door opened, where two sides were brought together yet again as all attendees danced the night away to the tunes of DJ Mel, showing that with the right amount of fun in the air, two sides can come together to create a magical experience.

## THE CAUSE:

Ballet Austin Fête was chaired by Cord and Anne Shiflet, and the fete\*ish after party was chaired by Cassie LaMere and Cassandra King Polidori. The events raised over \$500,000 that evening to go toward Ballet Austin's programs which provide Central Texas residents with exceptional arts education and entertainment programming. **S**



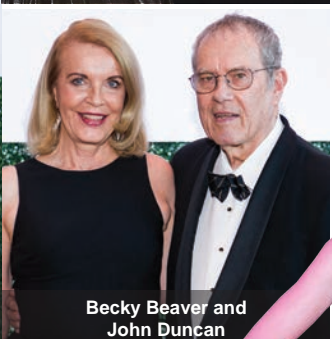
Danielle DeMedeiros and Roberto Rondero DeMosier



Laura Aidan and Mary Katherin Matalon



Tim Brown and Adrienne Longoria



Becky Beaver and John Duncan



Sofia Avila, Cassie LaMere and Victoria Avila



Sarah Williamson, AJ Bingham and Allison Jaffe

## ENTRANCE: SAN ANTONIO



Julie Zacher and Kelly Weaver



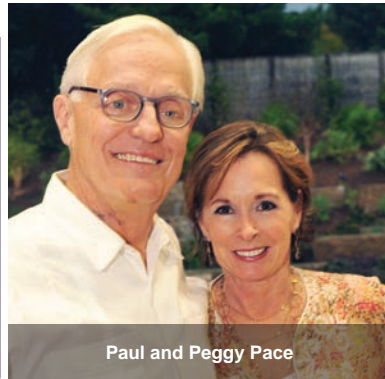
# GARDEN IN FULL BLOOM

The San Antonio Botanical Garden Presents New Expansion & Honors Local Organization

By Shannon Miller Turner | Photography by Greg Harrison

### THE SCENE:

Splendor in the Garden, the aptly-named gala held recently at the San Antonio Botanical Garden offered its 450 guests a first glimpse of the Garden's new expansion while honoring a program aimed at improving the quality of life for all it serves, Culinary Health Education for Families (CHEF).



Paul and Peggy Pace



Courtney Walker



Jordan Vexler Shannon and Tracey Bennett



Dennis Quinn and Joan Cheever



Cameron Campbell, Christine Ten Eyck, Philip Weddle and Christine Skaglund



Pierre Emond, Magdalena Gaona and Mary Heathcott



Karen Greenwood and John Troy



Marina and George Gavito, Tyler Fleming and Kim Biffle



Bill Petrella & Janet and Rob Holliday



Whitney Schones, Amy Swaney and Fabiola Kaase



Karen Lee and David Zachry



Marise McDermott



Leslie and Jeff Miller



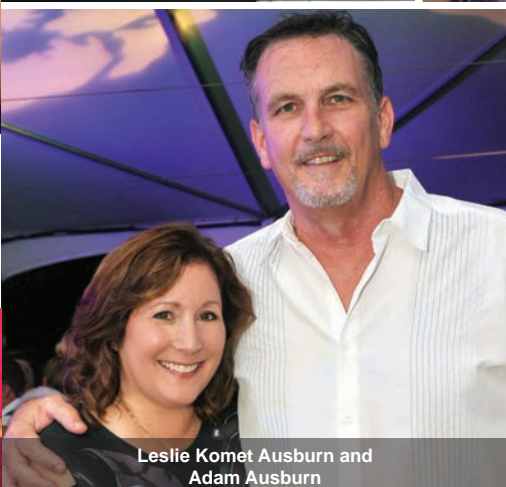
LouCelia and Don Frost



Anabel and Nicki Ortiz



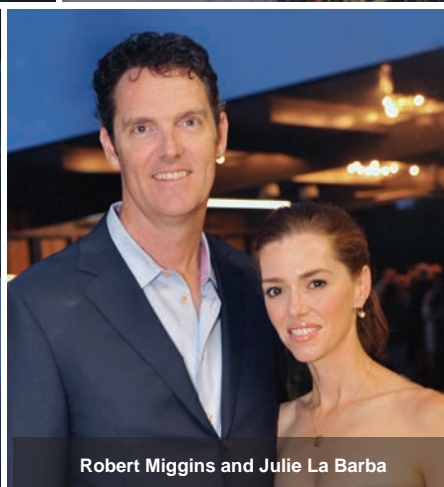
Jonathan and Margaret Walker



Leslie Komet Ausburn and Adam Ausburn



Alan Barber



Robert Miggins and Julie La Barba

### THE VIBE:

The evening presented the perfect opportunity for guests to take in a quite literal garden in bloom as attendees enjoyed a first look at expansion details beginning with the grand new entrance that serves to welcome all visitors to the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Additional sights to behold included the new one-acre Culinary Garden, the Goldsbury Foundation Pavilion and the outdoor CHEF Teaching Kitchen. The Garden's own Chef Dave Terrazas demonstrated simple-yet-healthy recipes utilizing fresh ingredients found in the Culinary Garden. The CHEF-inspired menu for the evening, catered by Don Strange of Texas, was as inspirational as it was delicious.

### THE CAUSE:

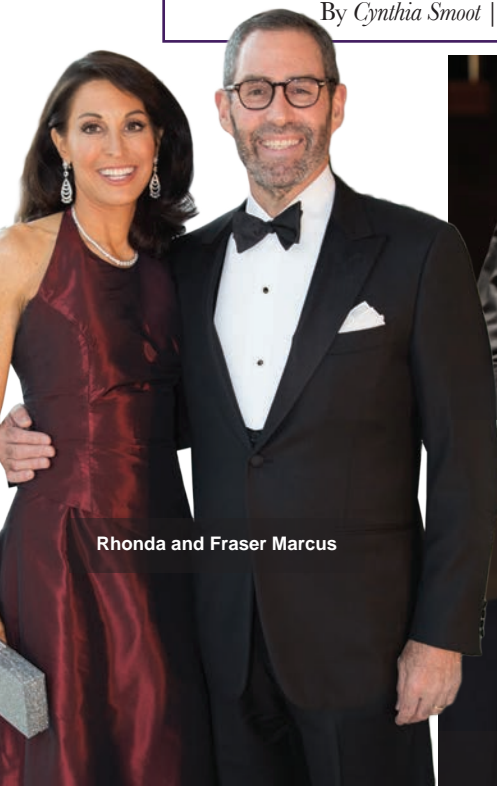
This year's honorary chair for the gala was Courtney Walker. Chairs for the event were Leslie Komet Ausburn and Adam Ausburn. Event committee members included Lauren and John Browning, Carolyn and Jim Jackson, Amy and Ken Maverick, Julie and Robert Miggins, Roxana and Hamlet Newson. Renowned landscape architect Johns S. Troy is the President of The San Antonio Botanical Garden Society, Inc. CHEF, the honored organization of this year's event, was founded by the Goldsbury Foundation and The Children's Hospital of San Antonio. The program teaches children and families basic nutrition and practical cooking skills. CHEF's philosophy of *Cook Well, Eat Well, Live Well*, strives to enhance the lives of those it serves. **S**



# STRIKING A CHORD

## 2017 Dallas Symphony Orchestra Gala & After-Party

By *Cynthia Smoot* | Photography by Kristina Bowman and Lara Bierner



Rhonda and Fraser Marcus



Joseph F. Hubach



Sheila and Jody Grant



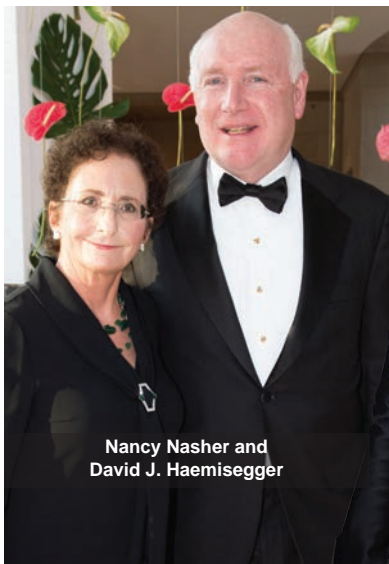
Key and Katherine Coker



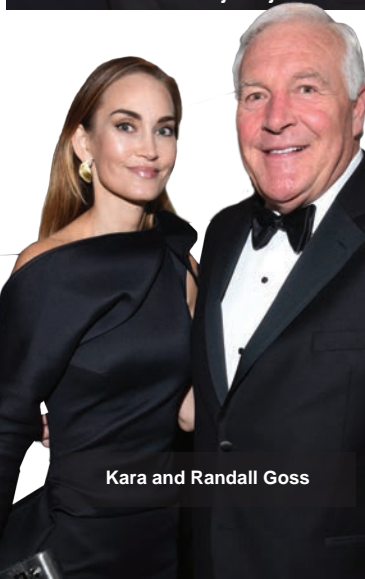
Michelle Miller Burns, Jaap van Zweden and Sanjiv Yajnik



David and Renee Karp



Nancy Nasher and David J. Haemisegger



Kara and Randall Goss

### THE SCENE:

Dallas's most charitable recently gathered at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center for the 2017 Dallas Symphony Orchestra Gala. The black-tie evening affair began with a cocktail reception, followed by an extravagant dinner in the beautifully decorated Meyerson lobby. Following the seated dinner, guests moved to the Eugene McDermott Concert Hall to enjoy a performance by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra with world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma, conducted by Jaap van Zweden, who begins his final season as Music Director of the DSO.

### THE VIBE:

Guests were welcomed by DSO Interim President & CEO Michelle Miller Burns and gala chairs Lisa and Clay Cooley. Gala honorary chair Margaret McDermott was recognized for her long-time contributions to the DSO and the Dallas community at large. The after-party was chaired by Graeme Ross, Lara and Brian Pryor with Wren and Benji Homsey as the honorary after-party chairs.

During the after party, guests socialized in the Opus lounge as they enjoyed cocktails, savories and desserts. Partygoers relaxed in the Ritz-Carlton Dallas Lounge as massage therapists went to work on dance-tired feet. The late-night entertainment featured DJ Steffi Burns spinning tunes for the packed dance floor.





YoYo Ma



Ross and Margot Perot



Shaw Henry, Robert Grenfell, Javier Burkle, Mason McCleskey, Graeme Ross



Bill and Shirley McIntyre



Fehmi and Elizabeth Karahan

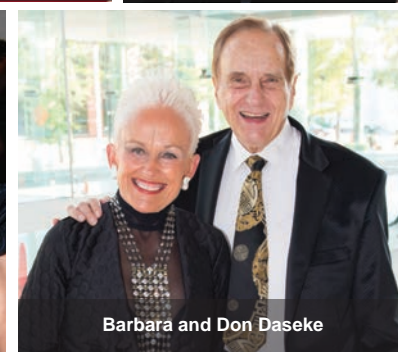
**THE CAUSE:**  
 As the largest performing arts organization in the Southwest, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra is committed to inspiring the broadest possible audience with distinctive classical programs, inventive pops concerts and innovative multi-media presentations. The DSO's involvement with the City of Dallas and the surrounding region includes an award-winning multi-faceted educational program, community projects, popular parks concerts and youth programming. **S**



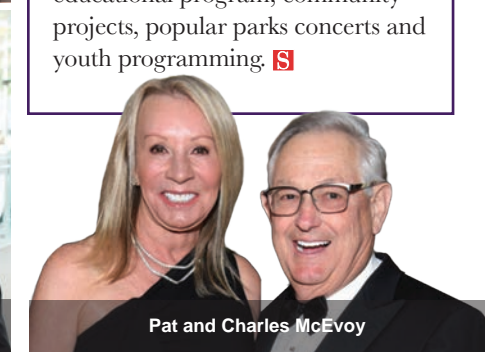
Clay Cooley, Margaret McDermott and Lisa Cooley



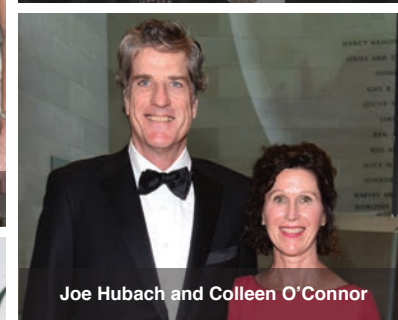
Roger and Marena Gault



Barbara and Don Daseke



Pat and Charles McEvoy



Joe Hubach and Colleen O'Connor



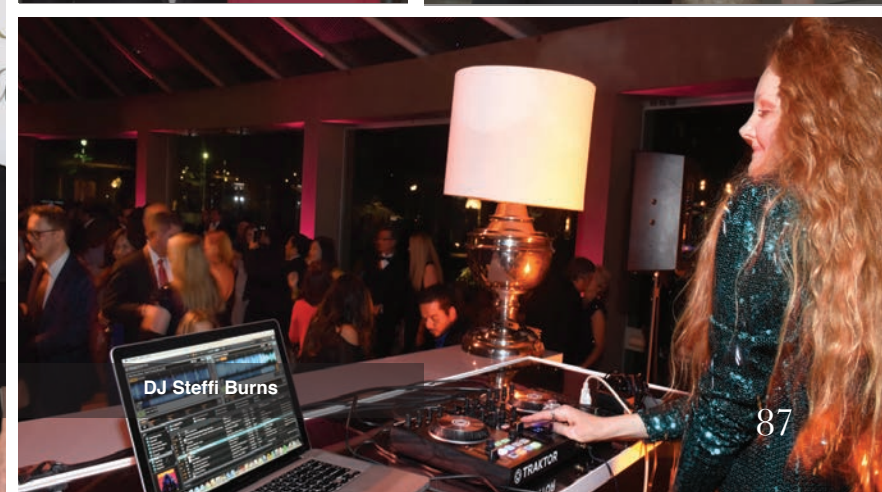
Mark Porter and Anne Davidson



Lissa Wagner, Bill Gau and Sherwood Wagner



Hon. Mike Rawlings and Micki Rawlings



DJ Steffi Burns

# ENTRANCE: HOUSTON



Erika Engen-Graham and Deborah Engen-Weirwill

# GO BIG OR GO HOME

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Gala Supports Local Children

By Jennifer Roosth | Photography by Quy Tran

### THE SCENE:

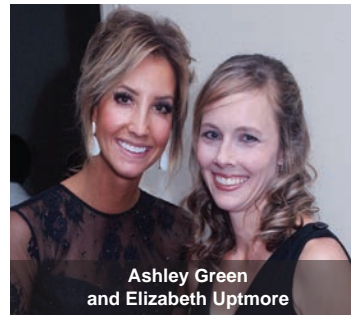
Recently, over 350 Houstonians attended the Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Big Black Tie Ball at the beautiful Corinthian downtown three weeks after Hurricane Harvey. It celebrated the Houston community and the spirit of volunteerism that bonded us together in the face of tragedy and that continues to drive the core mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters' donor-supported, one-to-one volunteer mentoring programs for 67 years.



Chance and Jacqualine McMillian



Cal and Hannah McNair



Ashley Green and Elizabeth Uptmore



Peyton Barrier and Mya Jones



Amy Pierce, Brigitte Kalai and Mady Kao



Bain Pearson, Karen Craigs, Barbara Meeks, Harry Pearson and Frank Hinnant



Melanie Wester and Megan Gaydou



Michael and Tracey Andrade



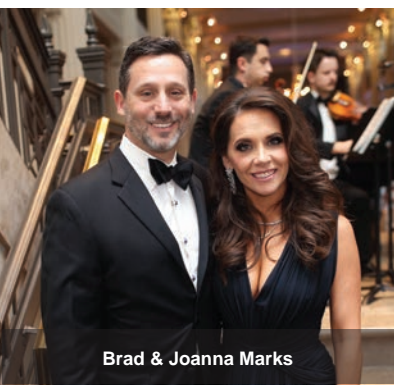
Martha Reese and Julie Pitts



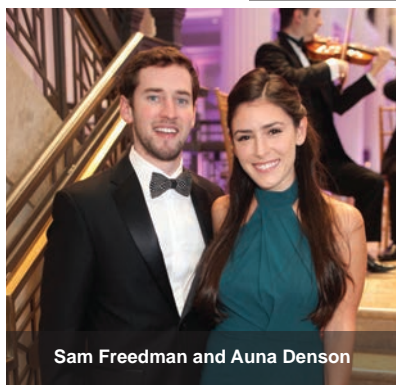
Amber Hartland, Amanda Abiassi and Bria Wall

Karli Gillium and Stephen Morgan

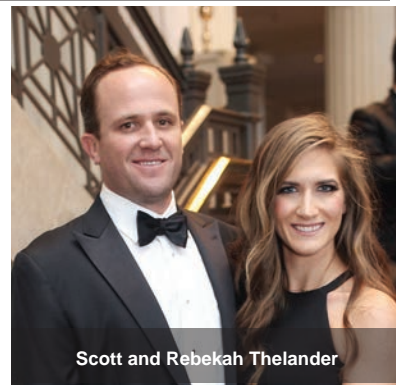
Pierce Bush, Margaret Alkek Williams, Hon. Sylvester Turner



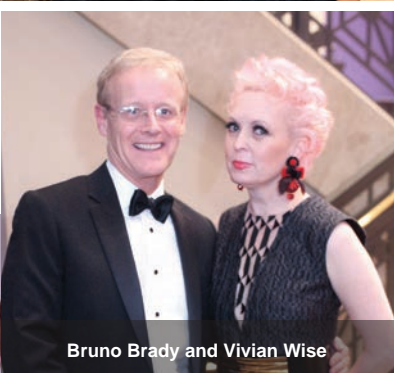
Brad & Joanna Marks



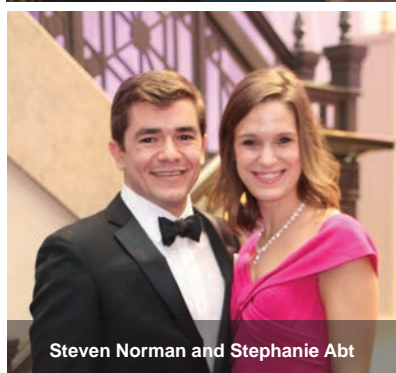
Sam Freedman and Auna Denson



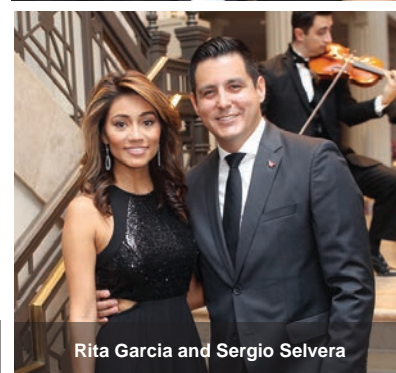
Scott and Rebekah Thelander



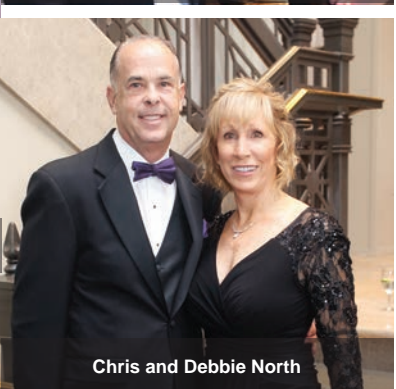
Bruno Brady and Vivian Wise



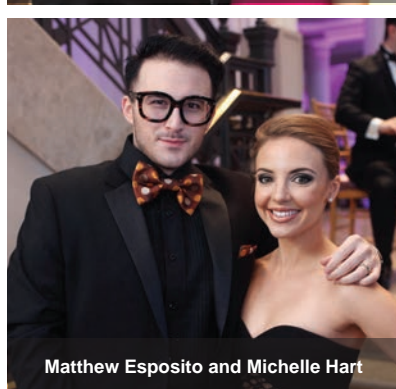
Steven Norman and Stephanie Abt



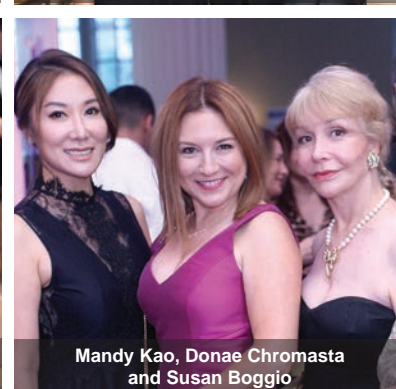
Rita Garcia and Sergio Selvera



Chris and Debbie North



Matthew Esposito and Michelle Hart



Mandy Kao, Donae Chromasta and Susan Boggio



Harry and Tracey Faulkner & Dena and Chris Walker



Donae Chromasta, Brigette Kalai, and Amy Pierce

## THE VIBE:

The energy of the event was inspired by Houston's spirit of volunteerism and community. Former Little Brother Darryl Blackburn served as emcee for the program, which highlighted the nonprofit's mission and the positive impact a mentor can have on the future of children in the Houston community. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner affirmed the pressing need for volunteer mentors who encourage hope and provide opportunity for local children. A highlight of the evening was the many Bigs (mentors) and Littles (mentees) in attendance, including Big Brother Cary Moorhead who was honored as the evening's Point of Light.

Following the dinner program, guests enjoyed a silent and live action game featuring an exciting Houston Texans game experience that included two round-trip seats on the team bus and team plane, accommodations at the team hotel, and sideline passes to a 2017 Texans road game, all donated by Cal and Hannah McNair.

## THE CAUSE:

The event's success was led by gala chairs Hannah and Cal McNair, who along with the Houston Texans have been strong supporters of Big Brothers Big Sisters. They were especially excited to help celebrate the evening's honoree, Margaret Alkek Williams. The elegant gala raised \$315,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters benefiting Houston-area children facing adversity. These funds will allow children to be matched with a positive mentor who will help enrich their lives and encourage them to reach their highest potential through educational motivation, fun adventures, and overall, a safe and stable relationship. **S**

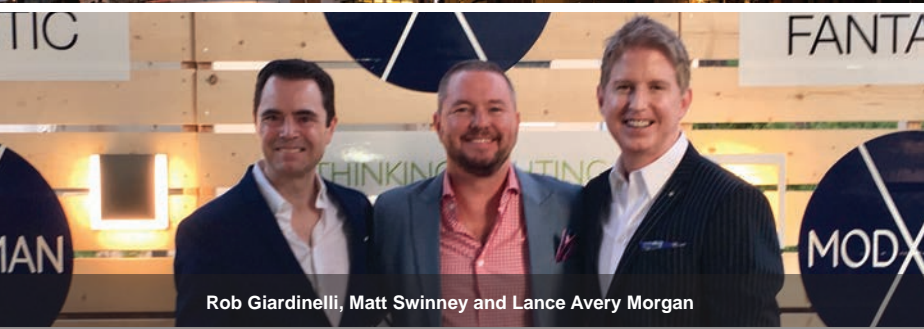
**ENTRANCE: AUSTIN**



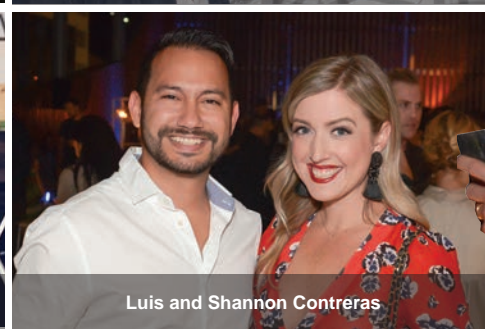
Chris Lindenmayer and Justin Smith



Conley Covert



Rob Giardinelli, Matt Swinney and Lance Avery Morgan



Luis and Shannon Contreras

# A NEW MAN IN TOWN

ModXMan Launches New Digital Lifestyle Platform Targeting The Sophisticated Stylish Austin Man At The Contemporary Austin Museum

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Gilbert Hernandez and Todd White

## THE SCENE:

A picture perfect fall evening on the rooftop of The Contemporary Austin – Jones Center was the place to be for Austin’s most notable Sociables and fashion trend-setters. The launch of ModXMan, Austin’s premier digital and experiential platform for the sophisticated and stylish man, attracted several hundred men (and those who love him) for a truly memorable night.



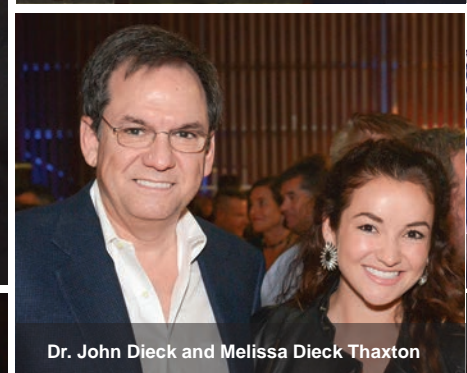
Brandon Latham, Jason Schubert and Mark Erwin



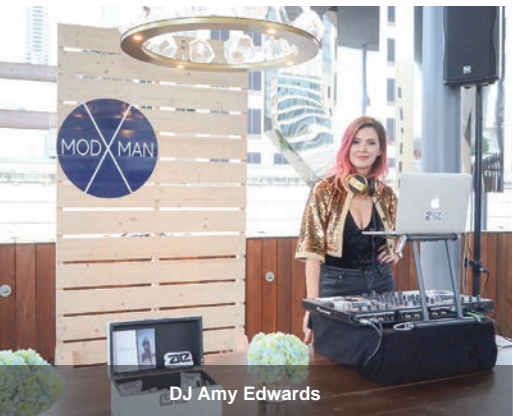
Jill Skinner and John D’Acierno



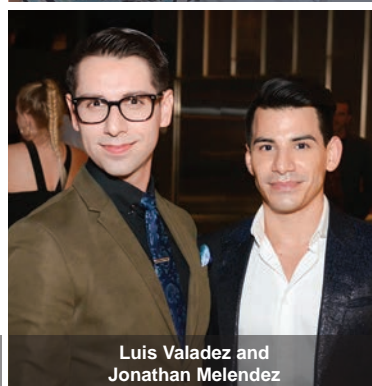
Stephanie and Todd O’Neill



Dr. John Dieck and Melissa Dieck Thaxton



DJ Amy Edwards



Luis Valadez and Jonathan Melendez



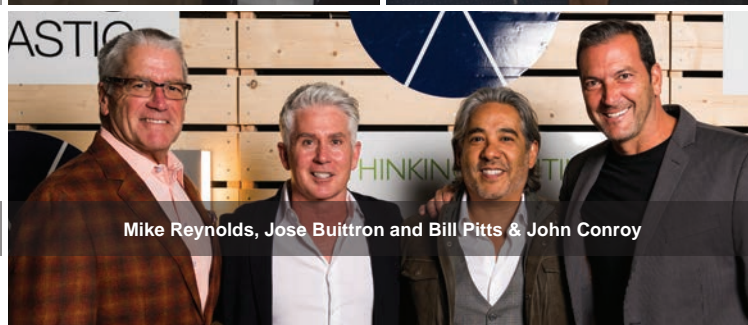
Chad Bohls and Matthew Redden



Alejandro and Ana Ruelas



Vic and Kat Brooks



Mike Reynolds, Jose Buitron and Bill Pitts & John Conroy



Alan Godfrey and Tobie Funte



Jeffrey Lane and Brian Dillard



Suzanne and Stephen Erickson & Amanda Tatam



Rick Soto and Diana Derescenzo



Aaron Mooney and Neal Hamil



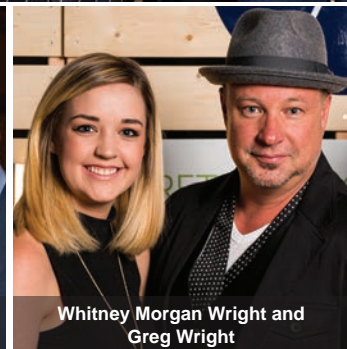
Jeremy Porche and Huston Dorris



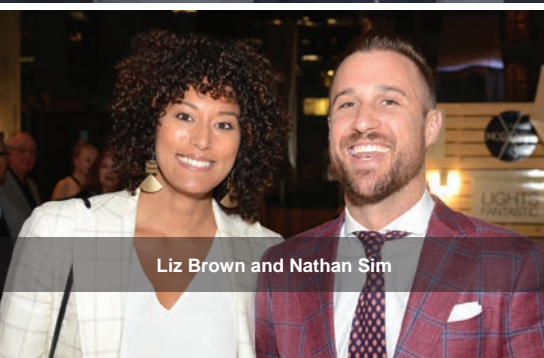
Clayton Morgan and Mark Henderson



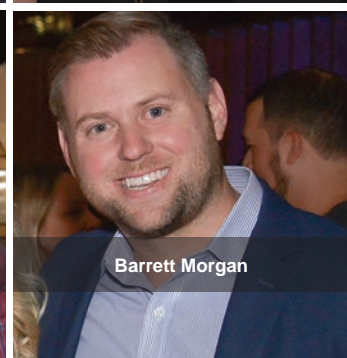
Adrian Farrell, Rich MacKinnon, Douglas Plummer and Ralph Jung



Whitney Morgan Wright and Greg Wright



Liz Brown and Nathan Sim



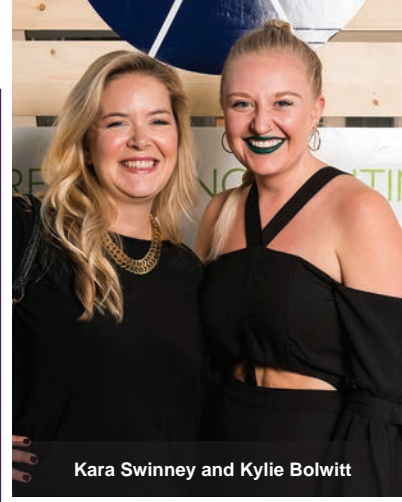
Barrett Morgan

### THE VIBE:

The Austin chic-clad crowd was on full display as men donned a uniquely Austin mix of suits, sportcoats and high-end casual while the women wore outdoor-chic attire that perfectly complemented the men in the room. The evening was full of one-of-a-kind experiences for guests leaving something for everyone to enjoy.

As the elevator doors opened, partygoers were ushered to the red carpet opportunity to snap pictures commemorating the evening, which was sponsored by Lights Fantastic, who also had their high-end decorative lighting on display throughout the venue. The fun continued as guests listened to the tunes spun by DJ Amy Edwards, while MyEventIsTheBomb.com provided two live action photo booths where attendees could chronicle their experience.

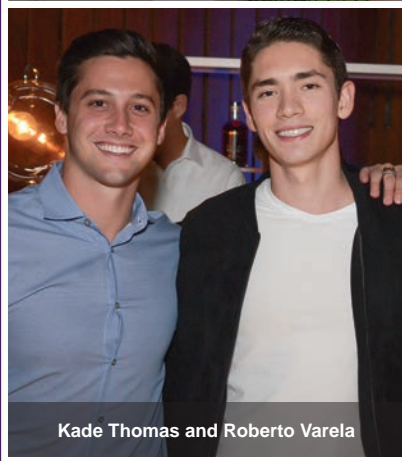
As one ventured through the space, they were treated to several contemporary lounging areas as well four experiential bars provided by Moontower Rentals. The event featured cocktails for every type of palate. Balcones Distillery provided whiskey-lovers to sample their top-of-the-line whiskey, while Sway Water offered vodka and gin signature cocktails provided by Cinco Vodka and Seersucker Gin. For those looking to enjoy a glass of wine or bubbles on a beautiful fall evening, they could sample Chloe Wines at the wine bar. For an international flair, Globalux provided a sampling of Italian-based beer, cider and soda along with a signature cocktail combining the soda with a delicious Pinot Blanco. Guests were provided a ModXMan signature cupcake courtesy of Sprinkles Cupcakes giving them a perfect memento for what was an incredibly sweet evening in Austin. **S**



Kara Swinney and Kylie Bolwitt



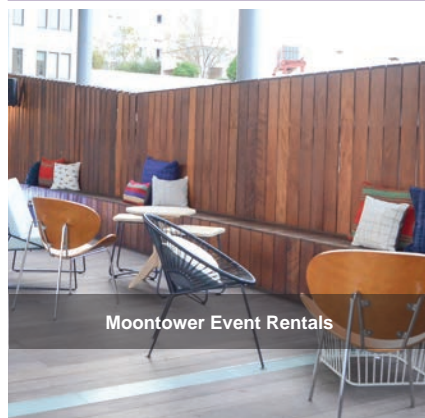
Steve Aubin and Christine Cox



Kade Thomas and Roberto Varela



Greg and Kelley McClure



Moontower Event Rentals



Manuel Polidori

# ENTRANCE: HOUSTON



Opening Day style show models

# A BEAUTY-FULL DAY

## Houston Junior League Presents Opening Day Style Show

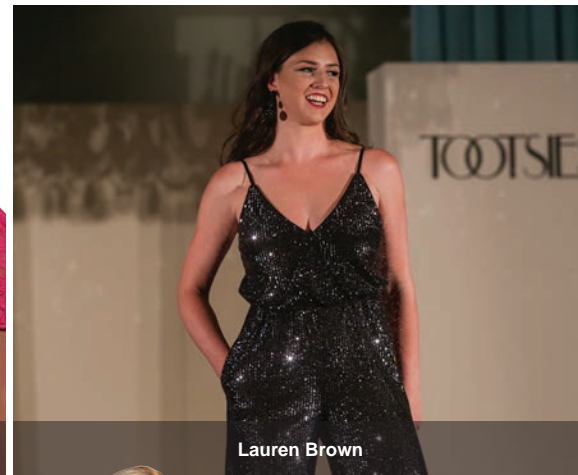
By *Jennifer Roosth* | Photography by *Nikky LaWell*

### THE SCENE:

This year's Junior League Opening Day Style Show, which usually marks the beginning of Houston's fall social season, quickly refocused after Hurricane Harvey to use the annual event to provide fellowship and levity in the wake of devastation. Guests enjoyed a glamorous fall fashion preview presented by Tootsies' Creative Director Fady Armanious, and a delicious meal courtesy of the Junior League Tea Room with full bar service.



Amy Dunn, Mitra Woody and Alicia Lee



Lauren Brown



Selina Sauter, Jessica Strake and Sharnell Harris



Ann Tarantino and Patty Freeman



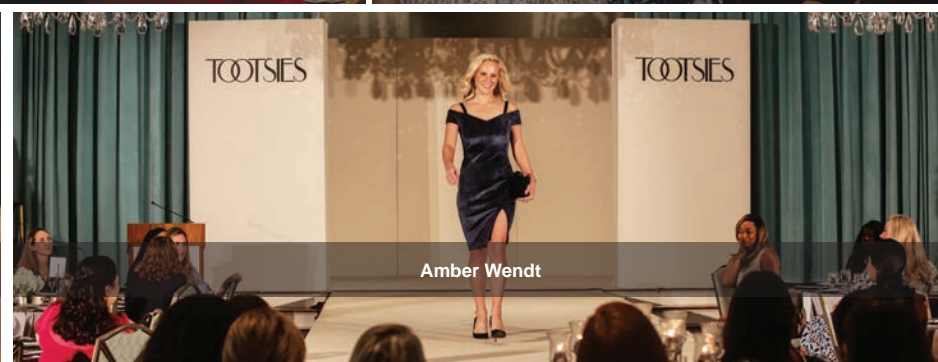
Bethany Buchanan, Christina Fredrick and Selby Bush



Catherine Barrett, Laura Showalter and Linda Stever



Steph Magers and Mary Lee Wilkens



Amber Wendt



Fady Armanious



Angela Strum, Martha Blecher, Rosann Rogers



Kay Edwards



Barbara Collie, Martha Ann Snyder and Cynthia Nelson



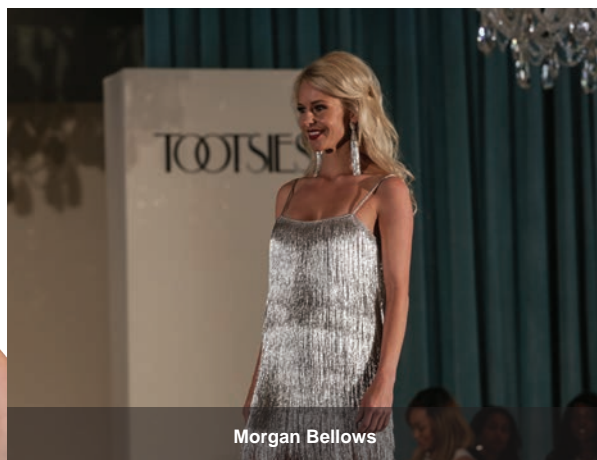
Kathy Steadman and Josie Morgan



Katie Montgomery Mears, Whitney Walsh, Stacy Johnson and Autumn Schoen



Beth Zdebllick and Julie Danvers



Morgan Bellows



Leslie Keyes and Chanel Perkins




Sarah Snyder and Amanda Hanks

### THE VIBE:

In honor of the League's beautiful relationships with the Houston community and among their members, the Junior League of Houston invited guests to celebrate at the annual Opening Style Show, fittingly themed Style En Pointe: Beauty in Motion. In light of the damage Hurricane Harvey left behind in Houston, the League showcased the beauty of the massive outpouring of support, labor and love in the community.

### THE CAUSE:

Chaired by Kristin Turnak, the Opening Day Style Show events raised over \$49,000 to be distributed among a number of community organizations helping with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The Junior League of Houston is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. "Harvey was an unprecedented weather event for our city and it presented unprecedented challenges for the League. But action was needed quickly and efforts were made to make a difference where possible," said President Sarah Snyder. " 

## ENTRANCE: SAN ANTONIO



Claire Cavender and Suzanne Cavender

### THE SCENE:

When Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the Cavender Auto Family wanted to get involved with their community mindfulness. Like many who call South Texas home, the Cavenders realized that this not only affected friends and family, but the whole community. That's when a sense of unification happened recently at the Majestic Theatre.

### THE VIBE:

They reached out to their friend George Strait knowing that he too was also deeply moved and was pulling together a concert in conjunction with the nationwide effort, Hand in Hand. The Cavender Auto Family helped underwrite the sold-out concert at the Majestic with headliners George Strait, Miranda Lambert, Chris Stapleton, Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen on hand to perform and raise both awareness and much-needed funds.

Ten minutes of the concert aired nationally on all major networks and was streamed live on Facebook. The Cavenders donated their commercial TV time to produce and air pre-concert and post-concert commercials with Strait that urged donations to the Rebuild Texas Relief Fund. In addition, each of their dealerships and their employees were involved in various aspects and the results have been outstanding, continuing today through the confident efforts of the Cavenders.

### THE CAUSE:

The concert was part of a nationwide telethon, *Hand in Hand: A Benefit For Hurricane Harvey Relief* and raised \$22.4 million including the Dell Foundation match, with numbers climbing to support our state and those affected by the storm. The concert funds from the George Strait concert in conjunction with Hand to Hand are targeted to help the smaller cities of Rockport, Port Aransas, and surrounding areas which faced devastation from Hurricane Harvey. **S**

# READY RELIEF

## Hurricane Harvey Relief Effort Supported By Cavender Auto Family



Amanda Cavender and Olivia Lowery



Lewis Messina, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Stuart Cavender, Bobby Cavender, Billy Cavender, Stephen Cavender, Rick Cavender, George Strait and Hon. Greg Abbott



Paige Cavender, Stephanie Cavender, Abby Cavender and CC Cavender



George Strait, Miranda Lambert, Chris Stapleton, Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen



Stuart Cavender, Stephen Cavender, Scott Becker and Bobby Cavender





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# EXOTIC *Endeavor*

Iva Tomova and Javier Medina Wed In South African Vineyards

By Jonathan Spindel Photography by Du Wayne Photography



Iva Tomova Medina



View from the Manor House at  
MolenVliet Wine Estate



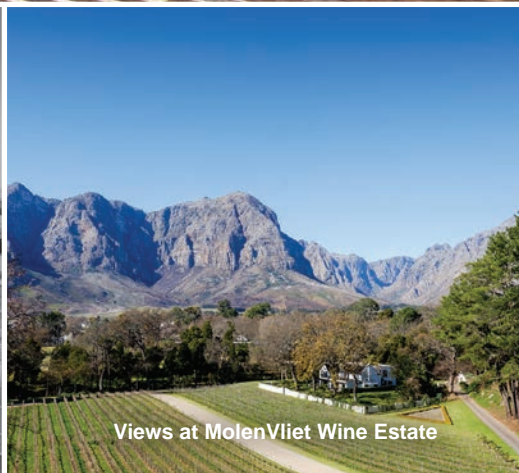
Marin and Radka Tomov, Iva and Javier Medina & Lupita and Armando Medina



Iva Tomova Medina and her bridal attendants



The Wedding Party



Views at MolenVliet Wine Estate



Javier Medina and his groomsmen

I VA TOMOVA, DAUGHTER OF RADKA and Marin Tomov of Varna, Bulgaria, and Javier Medina, son of Lupita and Armando Medina of San Antonio, Texas, had been dating about four years when they took a trip to South Africa together. Javier and Iva fell for the stunning landscapes and lush vineyards. In fact, when Javier popped the question in a vineyard in Stellenbosch; they loved the place so much that they decided to get married there the following summer.


The rehearsal dinner was held at the renowned Delaire Graff venue, where stunning floral décor, featuring local details like South African king protea blossoms, contributed to the naturally beautiful setting for 60 guests. Guests flew in from Moscow, Almaty, Angola, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sydney, and of course Bulgaria. Among the couple's friends and family, notable attendees included many major international business leaders. The cosmopolitan vibe was felt as everyone celebrated the couple's special moments, planned by Wedding Concepts of Cape Town South Africa.

The wedding was held at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church. The church, which once served as South Africa's oldest wine cellar, is steeped in history and ambiance that was perfect for the couple's vows. Iva was attended by Maid of Honor Lacey Aston, and bridesmaids Anna Hawkins, Jade Bludau Maggione, Sonya Medina Williams, and Marcella Medina. Javier was attended by his best man Armando Medina Jr., Michael Wheeler, Ravi Manglani, Berik Zhakiyanov, and Kuanysh Shaikenov. The bride wore a stunning gown by Monique Lhuillier, and shoes by Jimmy Choo. The theme for the wedding was white and soft neutral tones with a touch of blush. Floral designs featured imported white orchids and roses, which added to the soft romantic look for the nuptial celebration. After the couple

more...

exchanged vows, they made their exit in a vintage cream-colored Rolls Royce, and then the celebration continued with a reception at the MolenVliet Oosthuizen Family Vineyards.

Every detail was personalized for the couple, from the sophisticated Old-Fashion cocktails and South African Mojitos to the distinctive menu showcasing some of South Africa's unique food elements. Guests dined among panoramic views of the incredible landscape, adjacent to the famed Pinot Noir vines of the historic vineyard. The entire property was reserved exclusively for the couple to enjoy with their close friends and family. Guests danced all night to the music by Ike Mortiz band, which took a pause from their European tour to perform at the wedding; Music is important to the couple, so they also brought DJ Martin (originally from Ireland) who performs at Cle' and a few other famous spots in Houston, to spin tunes late into the night.

The bride, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines and the groom, a graduate of the University of Texas, both work in the oil and gas industry in Houston, where they will continue to reside as they begin their life in matrimony. With global ambitions, they plan to travel to three continents in the next year, with destinations including New Zealand, Colombia and Iva's family home in Bulgaria for additional wedding celebrations with Iva's family and friends. But first, the newlywed couple ventured to the St Regis Resort in Mauritius for their honeymoon. They chose the island as a destination for its beauty and to disconnect from civilization and enjoy each other's company. 



Marin Tomov and Iva Tomova Medina



Cocktail hour by the vines



Iva and Javier Medina



The groom with his family and attendants





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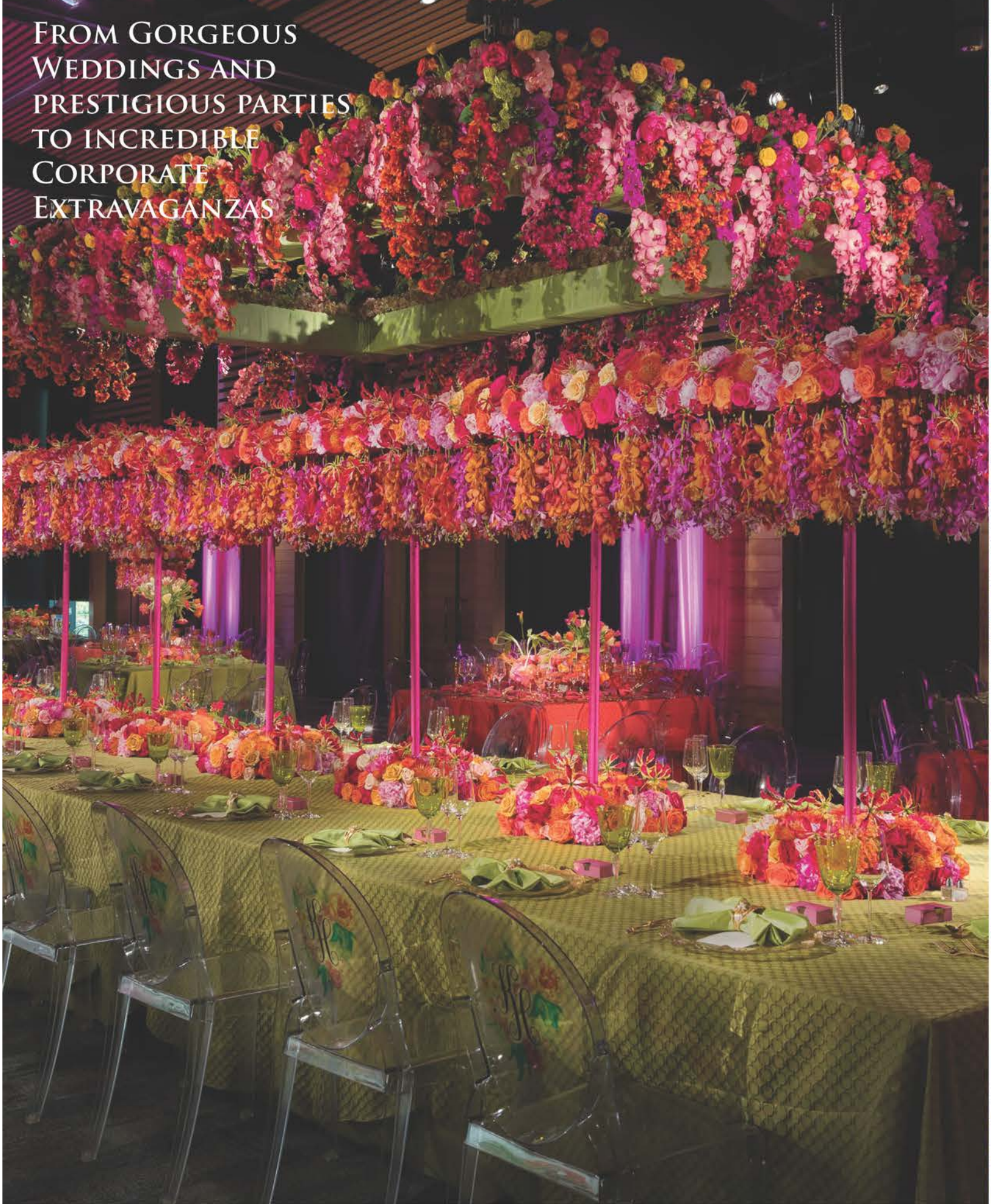
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Greta Kuper Stehr and Caroline Kuper







Cory Stehr and his attendants

# A Midsummer Nuptials

## Greta Elizabeth Kuper and Cory Alexander Stehr Tie The Knot In San Antonio

By Jason Grosgrain Photography by Sophie Epton



Greta Kuper and Rick Kuper

**G**RETA ELIZABETH KUPER, daughter of Caroline & Ricky Kuper, and Cory Alexander Stehr, son of Barbara and Tim Stehr, recently exchanged vows in San Antonio among their family and friends from across the country.

California; Kaki Gaines, Charlotte Carlson, Laurel Rittenhouse, Anna Fregosi, Nicole Fox, Checka Propper, Katie Burroughs and Jessica Stehr. The groom was attended by his best man Anthony Lora, his closest confidant and cousin, as well as groomsmen Luke Thompson, Trevor Pickhart, Chris Dvoracek, Bobby Hannah, Cole Martens, Jonathan Pinzon, Danny Velasquez, and the bride's brothers J Kuper and Collins Kuper.

The intimate rehearsal dinner, held for the family and wedding party, offered a taste of San Antonio at the Casa Alicia venue and patio of La Fonda, the couple's favorite Tex-Mex destination. There was also a welcome party immediately following the dinner for out of town guests. The festive themed decorations by Regina Rocha included authentic Mexican touches, and custom Mexican-decorated cookies with guests' names as place settings for a personalized feel.

The nuptials evoked a theme of whimsical romance and organic natural beauty. Monica Gose helmed the event planning, alongside the bride herself, who had experience having previously planned events at Neiman Marcus. The florals evoked a secret garden or Midsummer Night's Dream, with effusive greenery, rich saturated jewel tone colors and organic arrangements.



Tim Stehr, Greta and Cory Stehr and Barbara Stehr



Caroline and Rick Kuper

The wedding was held in the ballroom of the San Antonio Country Club. The bride wore a Monique Lhuillier dress from the designer's spring runway collection, with a custom crystal hair vine which completed the bride's dream look exactly as she had always envisioned. She was attended by two bridesmaids, her sisters Clara and Georgia Kuper, as well as bridesmaids from Texas and

After the couple exchanged vows, the reception followed on the grass outside the Terrace Room of the San Antonio Country Club, where twinkling lights strung above from the gorgeous trees illuminated the night sky. Inspired by the Queen's Garden Party during Fiesta the previous spring, the outdoor setting gave the reception an open and fresh



Greta Kuper Stehr and her bridal party



invigorating feeling. Guests mixed and mingled as they made their way around the venue, taking in the décor, the food and the evening.

With tunes provided by Austin's party band Plush, the dance floor was packed with friends and family dancing all through the night. The revelers even overflowed onto the grass as members of the band joined the crowd on the dance floor for interactive performances. A late-night treat of Kahlua milkshakes and chocolate chip cookies (Cory's favorite dessert) fueled the celebration late into the night.

After the wedding festivities, the newlyweds took a mini-moon to Cabo San Lucas, at the romantic Las Vantanas del Paraiso, after re-adjusting for a few days in Los Angeles. The couple will reside in Los Angeles, California, where Cory, originally from Burbank California, attended California State Northridge and is a commercial real estate broker. Greta, from San Antonio, Texas, graduate of University of Texas and Loyola Marymount, is a luxury consignment consultant. **S**



Allison Reyes, Laurel Noe, Jaqueline Smith, Carolyn Shaw, Greta Kuper Stehr, Cari Hill, Kristen Meyer, Catherine Jones, Katie Viola and Courtney Smith



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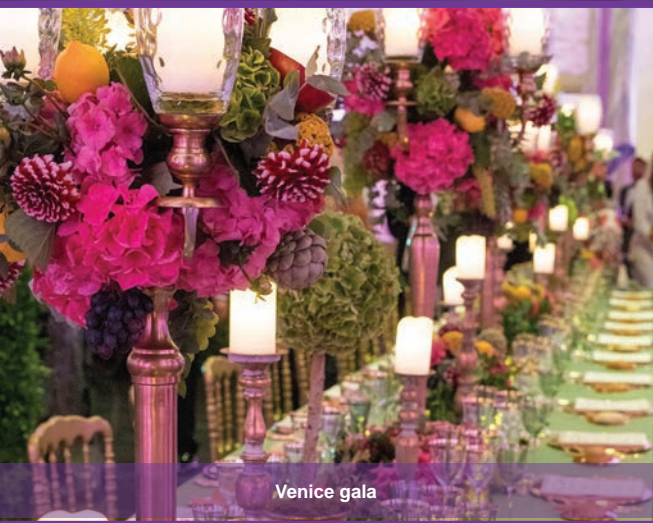
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Petit Palais dinner



Winged Victory at the Louvre Museum



Venice gala



Elizabeth Segerstrom at the live auction



# BECCA'S MECCA

Houston philanthropist and style luminary Becca Cason Thrash reveals all about her latest parties of the century, with *our social chronicler Lance Avery Morgan*, as they discuss galas, the international scene and how to deftly handle challenges while hosting Texas-sized events.

Photography by François Goizé (France) and Matteo de Fina (Italy)



Becca Cason Thrash at the *Liaisons au Louvre IV* gala wearing Dior Haute Couture by John Galliano over a Gianni Versace vintage gown



Will and Sarah Dodd



Petit Palais dinner table



Dinner gala at Petit Palais



Auction under the Pyramid at the Louvre



Christian Louboutin and Becca Cason Thrash



Ceron and Phoebe Tudor

## THE BECCA FACTOR

SEVERAL HUNDRED GUESTS, 55 LAST-MINUTE cancellations and \$3.7 million raised from ticket sales and auction items. When Duran Duran took the stage at the Liaisons au Louvre IV gala, Becca Cason Thrash's most epic tour de force to date was only half-finished. A few mere hours before, in the sweltering Parisian heat, Thrash, in her inimitable event-hosting wisdom, decided to make a significant change at the venue. At the Louvre Museum. Originally envisioned for the elaborate dinner party under the stars of the I.M. Pei-designed pyramid at the world-famous museum, the party got down. Literally. Downstairs among the treasures in the basement, amongst the medieval moats, where the Sphinx lives. Two great symbols of grandeur, Thrash and the Egyptian icon, hosted the party to end all parties. Until the next gala the following week in Venice, that is.

Back in 2008, in what now seems like another world, Houston philanthropist and style icon Becca Cason Thrash's first Liaisons au Louvre event was a triumphant international debut for her and her husband, John Thrash. The night was dazzling and as I look at

images from the after party I attended at Café Marly overlooking the Louvre, the energy of tremendous fun is a recurring theme by which Thrash derives her constant inspiration.

With her entertainment acumen at a legendary status by now, the woman knows how to host one heck of a party, known as a Thrash Bash by insiders.

Longtime friends of mine, the Thrashes hosted a birthday event at their home, in my honor in the mid-2000s, which the fifty attendees are still reminiscing about to this day. To say it was magnificent would be an understatement. The attendees glittered among the flowing champagne, Versace tableware and glints off the interior pool's lighting that set off the radiance of the guests.

Thrash admits she's hosted more events than she can recount in Houston, many of which I've attended, for a plethora of Thrash's pet causes like Best Buddies on which she serves as a board member; to the Houston Ballet and many, many more. Whether hosting at her home or in monumental venues, her events attract hundreds of



Petit Palais dinner



Jewelry by Van Cleef & Arpels



Simon LeBon and Duran Duran perform



Nick Rhodes, Nefer Survio, Gela Nash Taylor, and John Taylor



John and Becca Thrash at Petit Palais



John and Becca Thrash at Duran Duran performance

guests who arrive to support five-star cultural institutions, raising north of 85 million dollars, likely a conservative estimate.

### STYLE FOR MILES

When Thrash, raised in Harlingen as the daughter of a homemaker and a San Francisco 49er's pro football star-turned-sportscaster, was young, reading *Vogue* magazine was her passport to the life she envisioned for herself. So, working for *Vogue en Español* and then returning to Houston to create Cason-Moore Public Relations 35 years ago with pal Holly Moore was a natural choice for her eagerness. Houston in the Go-Go 70s and 80s was a force to be reckoned with and Thrash was on the scene for her PR clients that included retailer Tootsies and Boccaccio 2000, the swank nightclub of the era. Guests could count on a memorable time thanks to the them, whether it was a designer launch or dinner with Prince Albert of Monaco. As Houstonian Neal Hamil, Thrash's close friend since 1976 says, "Everyone who meets Becca wants to be in the glow of her halo." She and Moore then created *Paper City* magazine when the *Houston Post* folded and after they (and therefore their PR clients) fell out of favor with Maxine Mesinger, then the

powerful, gossipy society column doyenne of *The Houston Chronicle* newspaper. In fact, Mesinger's obituary in her hometown paper stated "Mesinger watched Houston grow from a dusty cowtown to a sophisticated international city."

The same can be said for Becca Cason Thrash and her own meteoric ascent that included her successful marriage to business tycoon John Thrash. "Darling, ya'll must be there. It will be *so much fun*," are words that many know Becca to speak when beckoning a guest to be a part of the event action in their home. Thrash confides, "The energy of the room and the mood of the guests, eclipses anything else. It *all* comes from the host. If you're being very regal and grand, the guests will be the same way, which is never the atmosphere I want. If, as a host, you say 'Isn't this so fancy and fun?' Then everyone gets loose, and feels compelled to be more of themselves. They'll be relaxed and have a great time. That's what I want most for anyone I invite. It makes or breaks the party. And of course, having gay men, lots of gay men."

Thrash is a total pro and goes on to say, "I have girlfriends who



Herve Vander Straeten and  
Toto Bergammo



Hamish Bowles



Evan and Laura Greenberg



Olga Kurylenko at the Louvre afterparty



Thierry Wasser and Lucas Somoza



Maria Buccellati and  
Elizabeth Miles



Naeem Khan and Julie Macklowe

labor over the invitation, the flowers, and the menu. To me, a hostess and guests who are ready to make a contribution to the evening by bringing their personalities, enthusiasm and wit create a far better formula for the success of a party.” Hamil agrees by sharing, “Becca is just not a diva. She has the uncanny ability to make her guests feel comfortable, plus, she remembers *all* their names by heart and is a supreme listener.” No shrinking violet, Thrash is a strong Texas woman who rarely takes no for answer. She’s seen the ebbs and flows of many economic rises and falls, and with them, many of their professional and social leaders who contribute to it.

To watch Thrash in action at a live auction is priceless: she’s masterful at inciting her audience into bidding on one-of-a-kind items and experiences that most people, even many of the attendees, have never dreamed of. She’ll entice where a guest just can’t say no, as many of her celebrity guests she’s had in her home like George Clooney, Kevin Spacey, Tom Brady, Diane von Furstenberg, Anna

Wintour, Christian Louboutin and Charlie Rose, to name a few, can attest. Thrash’s attention to detail, especially to fundraising, is flawless, which has served her well on an international level as her trajectory beyond the borders of Houston and Texas society continues to soar.

### THE VELVET TOUCH

Not everyone receives a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, by any means, like Thrash was bestowed in 2011 for her philanthropy at home and abroad for her tireless fundraising for the Louvre and her ongoing championing of Franco-American relations. In fact, her acceptance speech was delivered in part French, which she’d studied for two years, and also English. I will recall her being in an immersion class in France the summer before the award was to be given. Like everything, she put her mind to it to make it happen.

So, when the American and International Friends of the Louvre called for her to recreate her magic for a *fourth* time, she was hesitant.





Elizabeth Segerstrom and Rachel and Christian Boyen



The Louvre gala dinner



Melita Toscan du Plantier and Jay Fielding



Judith Oudt and Kamie Lightburn



The Louvre gala



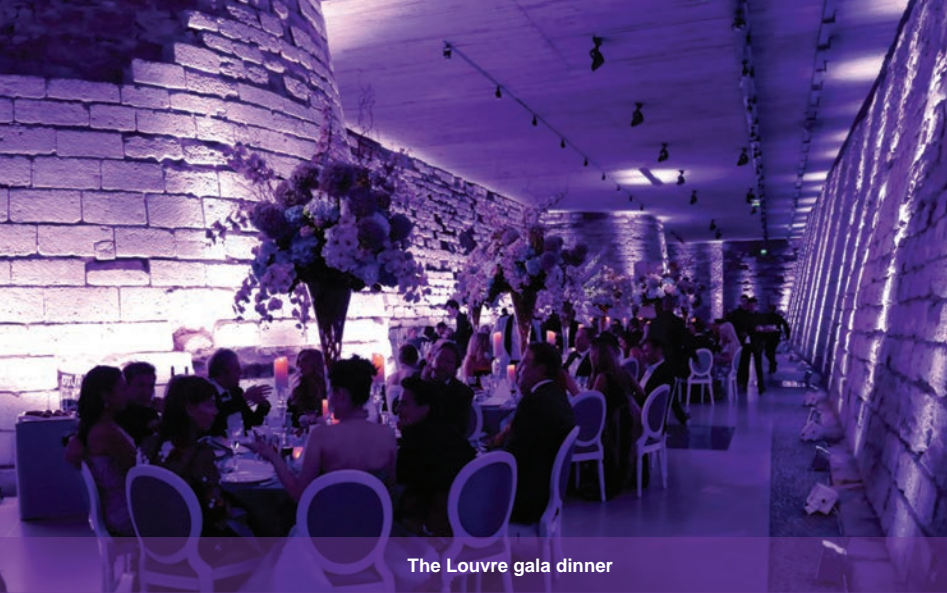
Trevor Traina, Kamie Lightburn and John Thrash

If she was to take it on, after, as she says, “I thought I retired four years ago,” she wanted this time to be different. So she added another venue, Venice, to the mix to also support the Venetian Heritage organization in the canal city. For the Louvre, proceeds from the event went toward the restoration of the apartment of Anne of Austria, mother of Louis XIV, and the Louvre’s efforts to make the museum more accessible to all. The Dowager Queen’s former suite is being refurbished to house the Louvre’s unparalleled collection of Etruscan art. For Venice, the event funds helped to restore the Gallerie dell’Accademia 2nd Wing. The State Museo delle Gallerie dell’Accademia opened in 1807, modeled after the Louvre, and the collection was enriched over the course of the nineteenth century by some important bequests and public purchases. In fact, it is now the temple of Veneto paintings. “It is brought together for like-minded people from around the world who wish to support one of the world’s most important art museums and one of Italy’s foremost protectors of cultural heritage,” enthused Thrash about her gala’s goals.

A tour de force it would be. “I had to make sure that for five nights, with the same people who are paying a lot of money and want to be wowed, were dazzled. I was the only one who knew what every single venue was in every city and had to choose every menu and theme to make sure it was all different. So, I decided to work with Richard Flowers of The Events Company in Houston,” confided Thrash. She goes on to say, “With Richard and his team, whom I trust implicitly, we designed every single solitary night from Houston and then we sent menus and photographs, even videos, of how to put these tabletops together to the people on the ground in Paris and Venice for these massive seated dinners. Then, Richard and his team perfected it there.” Knowing the importance of serving liquid spirits to raise a room’s spirits and bidding, Thrash likes to have some home state advantages on hand with Tito’s Vodka and Patrón Tequila to enliven the festivities.

### PLACES EVERYONE, PLACES

When the guests from Texas and across the U.S. arrived in Paris



The Louvre gala dinner



Julie Macklow, Tracey Amon, Becca Cason Thrash and Valesca Hermes at Duran Duran's performance



Tracey Amon



Ben Bourgeois and Richard Flowers



Kassidy Choi Lee and Alain Bernard

on a Saturday, they gathered at the recently renovated Hotel Ritz's *Jardin à la française* al fresco venue, easily one of the most dazzling courtyards on the planet. The next day, Sunday, it was off to the Picasso Museum at the Hôtel Salé, only open to Thrash's guests for viewing, with a tour led by Thrash's pal, film producer Oliver Picasso, the artistic family's scion. That evening finished at the Petit Palais Museum, across from the Grand Palais, for a dinner that was sponsored by renowned French jeweler Van Cleef & Arpels, a brand Thrash has supported in the past with many fundraisers.

"It was a blistering 98 degrees that day as I arrived at the Palais to oversee the event," recalls Thrash. "Then, I heard gunshots fired on the nearby Champs-Élysées that pretty much shut down the city, with streets blocked off and every venue was evacuated. Of course, I wasn't sure it would even re-open in time for the party at the Petit Palais that evening. So, I got on the phone and email and let all our guests know that dinner would be at 9 p.m. instead of 7.30 p.m. to allow more time. A few didn't show, yet everyone else just said 'let's have a martini.' And you know, you just get up and go."

The first night gala was summery citrus-color themed with pomegranates spilling open and a plethora of lemons, oranges and hydrangeas signifying the feast it promised for all the senses, complemented by an evening stroll in the venue's opulent garden before dinner. "On with the show" is Thrash's motto in trying times, as she experienced in Europe with a non-stop *trauma du jour*, as she called it, to manage each day and night's festivities while keeping cool under fire—that night dressed in a festive gown by Giambattista Valli Haute Couture.

With a successful gathering completed and guests dazzled by the evening before, Tuesday started with a VIP tour of the Louvre for guests, where they viewed the sumptuous apartments of Napoleon III and the stunning Crown Jewels made for the Empress Josephine. With the rest of the day left for leisure and touring, the gala guests had no idea what the hostess was encountering with the last-minute adjustments. The stifling heat meant that the entire event was moved from the original scene under the Louvre Pyramid where the almost 100-degree heat would have been unbearable for attendees, to an alternative venue down below where the much more comfortable



Mark D. Sullivan and Diane Lokey Farb



Dinner at the Petit Palais



Maude Cabot, Alfred Robinson IV and Sally Perrin



Joan Jacobs



Alma Duarte, Crystal Lourd, Emanuel Camelo, Greg Holt, Matthew Rhoda, Marco Scarani and Matthew Wallace

climate added an element of mystique to the event.

### HAUTE GETS HOT

The glamorously clothed participants, dressed in haute couture, were none the wiser to the last-minute changes when they met back at the Louvre at 9:00 p.m. in very formal *high black tie*. “It was all lavender and I mean *all*,” said Thrash. “Even the red carpet, which set the tone for the evening, was in lilac with lavender-hued lighting. It was *so* dreamy. The mixture of floral that contained mauve delphiniums sprayed like elaborate fountains from the tables set by candlelight.” Thrash herself kept cool wearing an icy silver Dior Haute Couture by John Galliano number over a Gianni Versace vintage gown selected from her archive.

As guests entered the museum through the Borghese Galleries of the Greek Etruscan and Roman Antiquities departments, they found a close-up view of the newly renovated Winged Victory and the mosaic of the Seasons in the Sphinx Courtyard discovered during the French-American excavation campaigns in the 1930s. Walking through Anne of Austria’s summer apartments, guests

spent an intimate moment with the Venus de Milo in the museum that was cleared of all but the gala’s attendees.

Then it was on to dinner, impeccably reconfigured the day before, down one level down to the recently renovated medieval moats, with a view of the historic Great Sphinx. With the elegant seated dinner, a performance by Duran Duran kept the guests entertained (Thrash counts the group’s John Taylor and his wife, Gela as close friends and often stays at their English estate). To add more drama to the evening, there was little, if any cell phone coverage in the Louvre, so Thrash felt she was swinging without a net when the band’s lead singer Simon LeBon shared the sad news that his mother passed away earlier that afternoon. Thrash says, “Simon told me his mother would want the show to go on, so it did with his performance, but with the communication challenges, it was all up in the air.” After the posh dinner, the guests ventured into the Pyramid, which had by then cooled off, for the spirited live auction of five-star art and experiences. The evening continued well into the wee hours of dancing and frolicking, with the after party at nearby Café Marly, before the next adventure would begin.



Scuola Grande Della Misericordia



Tami Dias, Andrew Echols, Greg Fourticy and Retna



Venetian characters



Dinner at Scuola Grande Della Misericordia



Kip Forbes and Lizzie Helvie



Dinner at Palazzo Rezzonico

## VENICE'S VIRTUE

As the attendees hopped from Paris to Venice for round two of the Thrash Bash, they were able to experience the abundant palazzos as well as visit the Jewish Museum and Synagogues in the Venetian Ghetto, see Venetian Heritage restorations of some of Venice's most important landmarks, and tour the biannual 57th international Venice Biennale of contemporary art happening simultaneously. On Thursday guests had insider entrée to a spate of palazzos that most humans just don't have access to seeing, like Palazzetto Alvisi Gaggia, hosted by owners Andrea and Nancy Chiari Gaggia, a pre-seventeenth century home that was refurbished in the 1920s, all of which Thrash arranged as a gift to her guests.

The Palazzo Gradenigo served as a tour venue, as did the Palazzo Giustinian Recanti. The Gallerie dell'Accademia Museum, which benefitted from the gala as part of Venetian Heritage, was also a favorite stop.

That evening's opulent dinner was hosted in the ballroom of Palazzo

Rezzonico, the 18<sup>th</sup> century museum, at an event hosted by Bulgari, the most Italian jeweler of them all. Guests arrived in white dinner jacket cocktail attire at Ca Rezzonico for the seated dinner that represented the tone of the ancient city as Thrash wore a Moschino gown that flowed like the Venetian breeze.

As with Paris, drama continued to unfold for Thrash. On the last night of the entire endeavor with the Venice finale dinner, Thrash had a wardrobe emergency. "I had this elaborately feathered headpiece with a mask, and I decided to instead have the mask sewn into the hip of my dress, which the hotel sent out to be tailored," shares Thrash.

"Naturally, it was delivered to the wrong room and they couldn't find it, so for hours I had nothing to wear while deciding how to make do with what I had, and attend to all the last-minute needs of the party. The stress. Nobody called down to say, *we have a mysterious dress in our closet*, and I had 15 minutes before I had to be in the water taxi to finish the seating placement. So, I called the person in charge of the



Cocktails at Palazzo Rezzonico



Becca Cason Thrash and Ben Aquila



Monica Bacardi and Venetian character



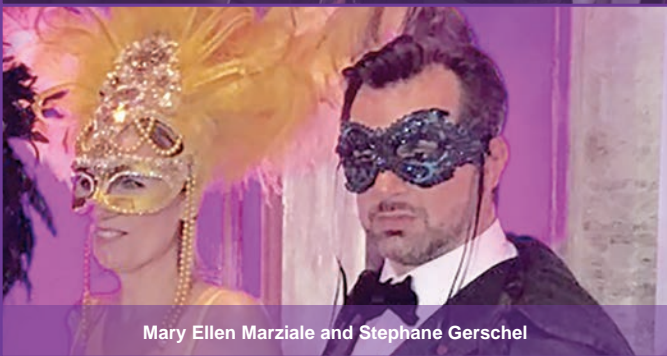
Brian Bolke and Holly Moore



Monsour Taghdisi and Becca Cason Thrash at Palazzo Rezzonico



Duyen and Marc Nguyen



Mary Ellen Marziale and Stéphane Gerschel

Venetian characters appearing at the party to borrow a headdress from one of them so I could adapt the prior night's outfit enough to get by. Then a knock on the door and, *voilà*, my missing dress appears."

The La Dolce Vita Masked Ball, the centerpiece of the Venice events, was held in the Scuola Grande Della Misericordia. "It's a 900-year-old building that had been closed for a hundred years until the city restored it in 2016, so it was a true honor to create an event there," shares Thrash. The invitation read: *Think formal but fantasy, splendor and exotic while creating your attire*. Participants donned their Venetian finest; masks, headpieces, feathers, pearls, jewels; anything opulently baroque...and that contributed greatly to the décor of the evening's mysteriously gleeful atmosphere. Fittingly, Thrash arranged for for the luxe automaker Maserati to donate a bespoke car to the auction.

That dress that finally transpired moments before the gala was a vintage John Galliano for Oscar de la Renta gown and was worth the stir when Thrash made her entrance.

### ARTFUL ENDEAVOR

At the Paris festivities, the live auction that dialed in works by contemporary greats Anish Kapoor, Mat Collishaw and Retna, raised over a million dollars and the ticket sales were around \$2 million dollars. An amazing feat considering the record heat and the fear of ongoing terror attacks in Europe with guests canceling at the last minute. "It was truly against all odds, but it was one of, if not *the* best one yet, raising \$3.7 million dollars in all for both causes. How we achieved that is nothing short of a miracle," confessed Thrash.

With the success of these extravagant events in mind, Becca Cason Thrash is reflective. "Despite the stress and traumas of these events, I love creating and realizing them," she confides. "It was probably my swan song internationally, but I would do almost anything for my beloved Houston. For now, I'm going to be a guest and go to other hostesses' events. But, never say never...I'll probably take on another project down the road. After all, I mean really, my whole life has been a party...but a party with a purpose." **S**



**MEET YOUR NEW SIDEKICK**  
*Star Wars* comes alive. The Ozobot Evo may be small but it's packed with fun and personality for all ages. This little robot includes infrared sensing as well as color and light sensing. \$99. Photo and availability at Ozobot.



**MAKE MINE A DOUBLE**  
 Let us make this crystal clear. We like decanters and glassware, usually vintage. But we love this Waterford set that whispers *Lord and Lady Of The Manor*. \$350. Photo and availability at Bloomindale's.



**TAKE ME TO GSTAAD NOW, PLEASE**  
 Bespoke skis? Why not. From Aspen to Gstaad, these Scottish made hardwood skis will have you feeling like you're in a Slim Aarons photoshoot from the 60s. \$1,060. At LonelyMountain.ski

# THE RICHES of the season

The *happiness* of the holiday season is upon us. The greatest gift of all is love, of course, and we feel these selections would be so loving to give...and receive, too. Our tireless styleseekers Jake Gaines, Tori Johnson and Jonathan Spindel have rounded up the grandest and greatest treasures to inspire you.



# STRIKING

**HOW MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?**  
 Quintessentially has transformed concierge services. With their personal and corporate options – their services are designed so that everything is catered to their members preferred level of assistance and tailored to their personal requirements. Price upon request. At [Quintessentially.com](http://Quintessentially.com)





# ELEVATED

## RED MEANS PASSION

This Impératrice ruby tassel earring features round center stones surrounded by white diamonds, with a tassel of ruby beads, set in 18 karat white gold. \$16,000. Photo and availability at Fabergé in the Houston Galleria.



## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

If you could turn every room into a game room, wouldn't you? We love this variety of games from our pal Jonathan Adler, who helps bestow living spaces with a revised mid-century aesthetic. Photo and availability at JonathanAdler.com

## BORN TO BE WILD-ISH

The Zero SR is the Tesla of the electric motorcycle ride. Great for the environment and even better for the soul. Take one out today for a spin. \$15,000. Photo and availability at [ZeroMotorcycles.com](http://ZeroMotorcycles.com)



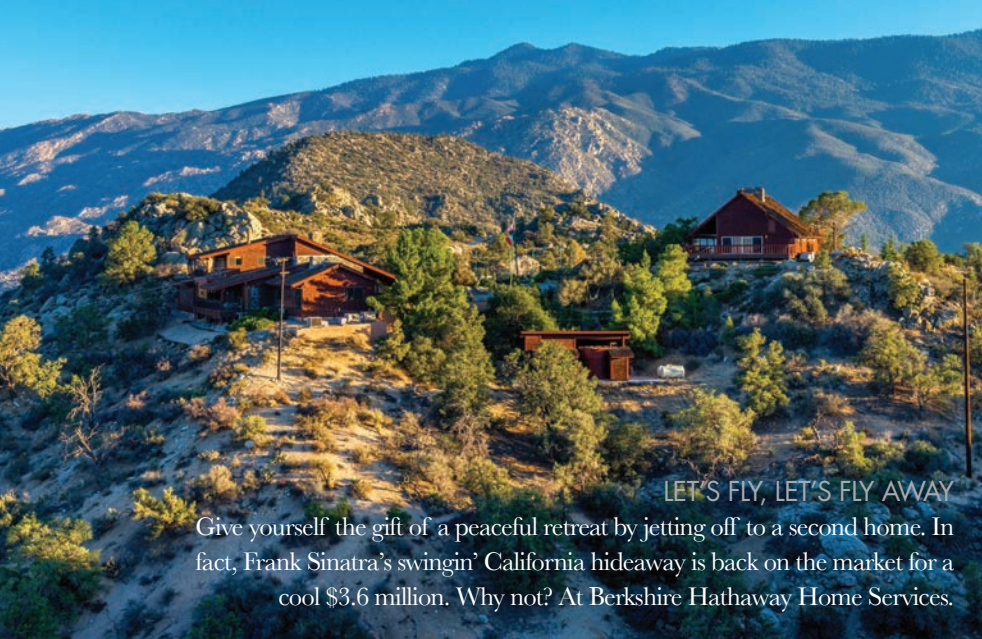
## DIVE IN WITH INSTAGRAM

Technology just got much cooler. Luxury swimwear chain Orlebar Brown will turn your favorite Instagram photos into luxury swim trunks with its new smart phone app. \$595. Photo and availability at [OrlebarBrown.com](http://OrlebarBrown.com) and [#SnapShorts](https://twitter.com/SnapShorts)

## CHILLED AND READY

An elegant and on-trend choice, this stylish French copper vessel keeps two bottles of Champagne or wine perfectly chilled, ready to enjoy with the perfect company. \$345. Photo and availability at Williams Sonoma.





### LET'S FLY, LET'S FLY AWAY

Give yourself the gift of a peaceful retreat by jetting off to a second home. In fact, Frank Sinatra's swingin' California hideaway is back on the market for a cool \$3.6 million. Why not? At Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.



### GREEN FIRE

This 2.88ct Colombian emerald cushion and diamond piece is handcrafted in platinum — sheer perfection. \$45,000.

Photo and availability at [NicoleMera.com](http://NicoleMera.com)

# GORGEOUS

### REALLY MEASURING UP

A man ready to take on the world should dress like it too. Treat your guy to a made-to-measure experience at Hamilton Shirts in Houston, the classic choice of past and future leaders, as well as professional athletes, movie stars and diplomats. Photo and availability at [HamiltonShirts.com](http://HamiltonShirts.com)



### ALL TIED UP AND SOME PLACE TO GO

This Fendi calfskin satchel bag is accented with an embroidered ribbon whipstitch trim and includes a removable, adjustable shoulder strap. \$5,000. Photo and availability at Fendi.

### LET THE MUSIC PLAY

For the music lover with an eye for design, this stunning sculptural speaker features cutting edge technology, wireless connectivity, and incredibly rich, detailed sound. \$1,800. Photo and availability at [MasterDynamic.com](http://MasterDynamic.com)







### IT'S IN THE BAG

The classic globe trotter's choice, this gorgeous leather duffel bag by Ghurka is the perfect piece for those who pursue life's great adventures. \$1,995.

Photo and availability at [Ghurka.com](http://Ghurka.com)



### A REAL WAKE UP CALL

Get your day started off right with the perfect cup of espresso. The Barista Express from Breville allows you to grind the beans right before extraction. Its interchangeable filters and a choice of automatic or manual operation ensure authentic café style results in no time at all. \$599.95.

Photo and availability at [Breville.com](http://Breville.com)



### D.I.Y. LEADING LADY

Why not add to your art collection with a slice of cool classic cinema? The high style that the Golden Age of Hollywood still enthralls. We suggest installing some in your luxury closet. Photo and availability at [CinemaMasterpiece.com](http://CinemaMasterpiece.com), [Sotheby's](http://Sotheby's) and [eBay](http://eBay).

### FUN IN THE SUN

Just in time to pack for the resort, channel your inner Marisa Berenson on Capri with the whimsical Eugenia Kim hat collection. With clever sayings that speak volumes for you like *Do Not Disturb*, *Out Of Office* and *Wish You Were Here*. \$485. Photo and availability at [Barney's](http://Barney's).



# LAWISH

### CRYSTAL CLARITY

Eight Moons Jewelry's Chloe Odio has designed a chic contemporary line that combines modern geometric designs with the potential to protect the wearer with an array of crystals that give off certain energies while worn. Choose from Love (Rose Quartz), Protection (Amethyst and Smoky Quartz) and Success (Citrine and Moonshine). \$100. Photo and availability at [EightMoonsJewelry.com](http://EightMoonsJewelry.com)





### YOUR INNER BRIT IS CALLING

There are very few pleasures better than giving the gift of a custom suit. From a tuxedo to a fashion-forward plaid suit, you'll feel very 007 when sporting it about town. Photo and availability at Knot Standard in Austin, Dallas and Houston.



### GREEN & SERENE

The perfect accessory for your beloved succulent garden, the LYFE levitating pot floats over an oak base, gently rotating to display your perfect plants from every angle. \$249. Photo and availability at Neiman Marcus.



### GLASS ACT

Standing tall and proud, this piece is perfect for any room. The hand-blown freeform vase by Simon Moore and Nigel Coates becomes an instant heirloom. \$5,400.

Photo and availability at [TheKairoCollective.com](http://TheKairoCollective.com)



### DOWNHILL RACER

When hitting the slopes, a luxe ski helmet is an added value of security while wearing this sleek Kask number created for women and men. \$550. Photo and availability at [Kask.com](http://Kask.com)

### SOMETHING FROM THE HEART

Express your love this holiday season with a gift from the heart (pun intended). This Yves Saint Laurent crystal fringe brooch is made in Italy and will add just the right amount of sparkle. \$895. Photo and availability at Neiman Marcus.



# SPARKLING



### SYMPHONIC SENSATION

Audiophiles on the go will love receiving these beautiful headphones by Master & Dynamic. Featuring supple leather and cutting-edge acoustics, this portable concert hall for your ears sounds as great as it looks. \$550. Photo and availability at Neiman Marcus.



**THAT BLOWS ME AWAY**  
Dyson has reinvented the hair dryer with this sleek design that offers ultra-fast drying as well as helps to prevent heat damage. \$399. Photo and availability at Dyson.

# SUMPTUOUS

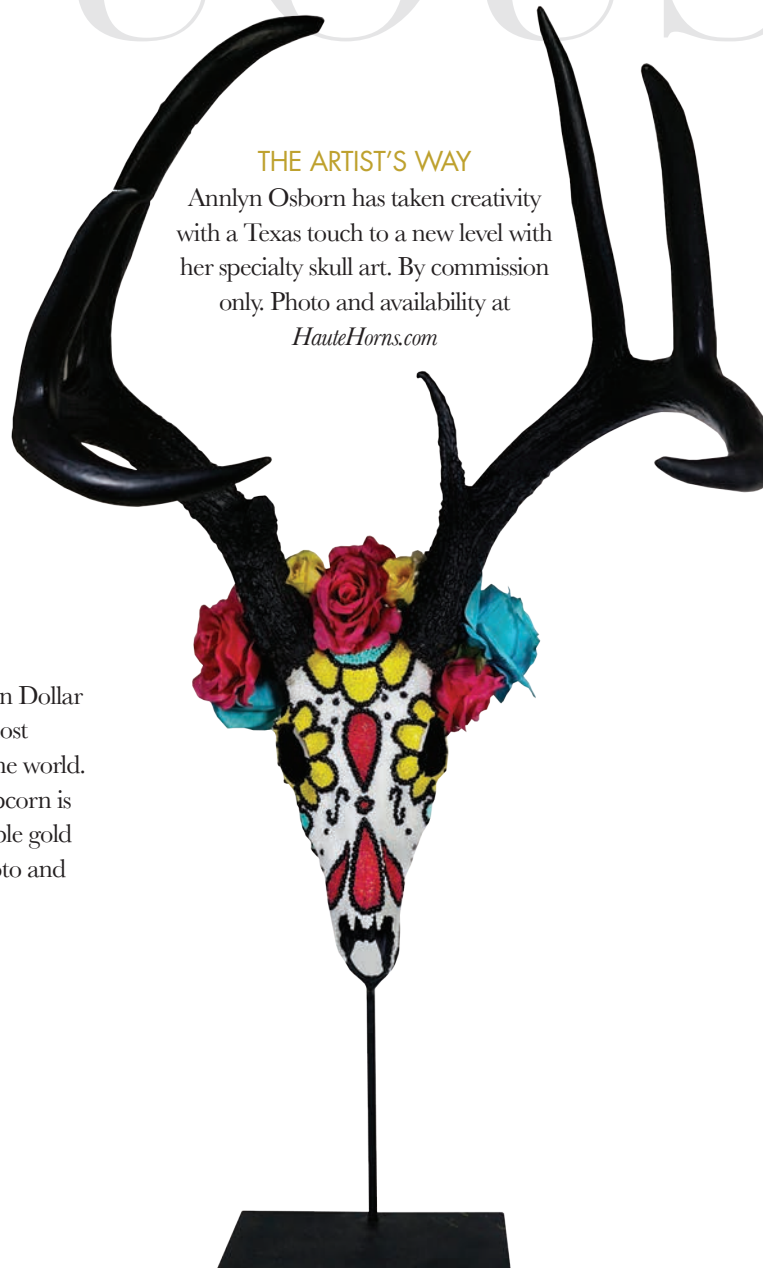
### PICTURE PERFECT

Capture the moment with this chic instant camera by Lomo. This little snapper is easy to use and it's a blast at parties. Wallet-sized prints are ready in moments and instant film refills are available too. \$169. Photo and availability at Nordstrom.



### THE ARTIST'S WAY

Annlyn Osborn has taken creativity with a Texas touch to a new level with her specialty skull art. By commission only. Photo and availability at *HauteHorns.com*



### BILLIONAIRE GO-TO

Berco's delicious "Billion Dollar Popcorn" is truly the most expensive popcorn in the world. Its yummy caramel popcorn is covered in 23 karat edible gold flake. \$250/gallon. Photo and availability at Berco's.





### SWEET-ISH TREATS

Handcrafted in Austin, these Maggie Louise Confections are as delicious as they are adorably chic. Bring this Texas-themed box of fifteen chocolates to your holiday shindig for a perfectly snappable moment. \$62. Photo and availability exclusively at [MaggieLouise.com](http://MaggieLouise.com) and Neiman Marcus.



### FIRM & SMOOTH. REPEAT.

Proven to build collagen and reduce fine lines and wrinkles, Dr. Gross' SpectraLite EyeCare Pro helps smooth and firm the eye area for long-term benefits. \$159. Photo and availability at [Dr.DennisGross.com](http://Dr.DennisGross.com)



### FOREVER YOUTHFUL

Dior has found the cure for anti-aging. Dior Prestige La Cure is the elixir of youth and regenerates the skin in three weeks using Grandville rose distills. \$1,150. Photo and availability at Neiman Marcus.

# GLITTERING



### DOG GONE IT

Pets, as animated as they are, spring to life even more when they are an artistic subject. We love these Parisian-inspired pooch (and kitty) presentations by Carol Gillott. Price upon request. Photo and availability at [Etsy](http://Etsy.com).



### TOAST YOUR HOST

Gift your hosts a bottle of your favorite wine in this chic leather carrier, which holds up to two bottles in its smooth elegant shape. \$65. Photo and availability at [IWAwine.com](http://IWAwine.com)



### STYLE DRIVER

For the man in the driver's seat, Tod's iconic Italian driving loafer is now available with full customization, including exclusive leathers – such as alligator, elk, and python – and personal monograms. From \$510. Photo and availability at [Tods.com](http://Tods.com)

### IF YOU HAVE TO WINE ABOUT IT

Say “Cheers!” Plum is the first appliance of its kind that automatically identifies, chills and preserves your wine. \$1,499. Photo and availability at [PlumWine.com](http://PlumWine.com)



# MAJESTIC



### WE'RE BUBBLING OVER

World-renown perfumer, Maison Francis Kurkdjian, has made fragrance fun! This coffret of five scented bubbles introduce children to scents and make the perfect stocking stuffer. Scents include Violet, Cold Mint, Cut Grass, Pear and Mon Beau Sapin. \$75. Photo and availability at [Neiman Marcus](http://Neiman Marcus).

### TICKLED PINK. TRULY.

These Valentino mink fur ankle wrap sandals are the true statement shoe for winter. You'll literally stop traffic wearing these. \$1,495. Photo and availability at [Valentino](http://Valentino).



### ELECTRIFYING EXCELLENCE

Tesla has been making waves in the electric automobile industry the last couple of years and its new Model 3 has been greatly anticipated. Jump on the wait list to be one of the first to try the new electric vehicle with over 220 miles of range and tons of other bells and whistles. Starting at \$35,000. Photo and availability at [Tesla](http://Tesla).

# Holistic Haven

Great expectations accompany everyone who visits the lush and fabled country of Thailand. Part of the magic of this part of the world is the five-star resort Chiva-Som, near the royal city Hua Hin, just a few hours outside of Bangkok. It will have you dazzled beyond belief with an opportunity to practice the triumvirate of mind, body and spirit rejuvenation, as *our globe-gallivanting Lance Avery Morgan learns.*

Photography courtesy of Chiva-Som





# It's known as

the new *in* retreat of the internationally rich and famous. Secluded? Certainly. Worth the long flight to Asia? You bet. Translated from Thai, Chiva-Som means *Haven of Life*. And for good reason. This retreat is indeed a haven of life for reviving the entire mind, body and spirit for a total sense of renewal. Created to both challenge and encourage, this resort offers medical and holistic treatments as well as the pampering environment of luxe spa treatments, so week's rejuvenation endures into a lifetime of healthy memories.

## Getting There

From bustling Bangkok, take a three-hour drive to the Gulf of Thailand (or a 25 minute private plane ride, or a 40 minute helicopter hop if you're feeling very adventurous) and suddenly you're in the tropical paradise and opulent surroundings of beachfront Chiva-Som. Serene

waterfalls and indigenous Thai pagodas mixed with contemporary architecture blend to make this a luxury resort environment rarely seen in the western world. From the moment you're welcomed to the lush seven-acre paradise with a cool lemongrass tea, you can't help but want to take to dive into this healthy environment for all it's worth. Many Americans are looking to Asia for spa treatment inspiration now and in the United States many popular treatments are Asian, so most guests arrive already understanding what they do.

Want to drop some pounds and get in shape in one week's time? Here's the place where that's most likely to happen. Chiva-Som offers a menu of 200 fitness, physiotherapy, holistic, medi-spa and spa therapies aimed to help you restore, rejuvenate and redirect. The path to fitness encompasses both an Eastern and Western-inspired approach. From



aqua aerobics to gym workouts to water sports to beach Pilates to yoga, Tai Chi and Thai boxing, each activity helps create a physical foundation for a choice of holistic therapies. Chinese medicine, acupuncture, ayurvedic medicine are administered by physiotherapists, naturopaths, chiropractors and other specialists to aid your healthy journey.

The essence of rejuvenation is of course, a harmonic frame of mind and a sense of balance. Here at Chiva-Som, from the gourmet cuisine to the attentive service, you'll feel right at home the very first moment you arrive. Since Chiva-Som takes health very seriously, you can expect an initial consultation with a medical professional to evaluate your wellbeing goals upon arrival. Your blood pressure is taken and questionnaires are offered to ensure that every treatment helps you make the most of your stay. To help the transition

Som Thai Pavillion







Bathing Pavilion



Revitalising Cleansing Cocoon



Thai Chi



Patchouli Suite Terrace

*From the moment you're welcomed to the lush seven acre paradise with a cool lemongrass tea you can't help but want to take to dive into this healthy environment for all it's worth.*

when you arrive, you'll be escorted to Jet Lag Therapy, a 95-minute head to toe treatment that will make the challenging time difference seem like just another day at the beach. After the foot massage, facial, and oxygen treatment, you'll enjoy the sense of peace seems to radiate from every fellow guest you might encounter.

### *You look gorgeous, what did you do?*

And if you're thinking of indulging in typical resort cuisine, think again. Here you'll find only the healthiest vegetables, fruits and lean meats available that are prepared with some of the most delectable and rare spices found anywhere in the world. With this mix of Thai and Western approaches, fat-free and salt-free are the golden rules here to sustain weight maintenance. Dinner is no different. Because of the country's exorbitant luxury import tax on wine and spirits, expect to have only fresh *mocktails*, made of fruits and juices, to supply quick energy boosts throughout the day.

You have a choice of dining in the more formal Emerald Room, or on the patio or poolside to absorb more of the spa ambience. Spa robes and swimsuits are de rigueur, so expect this relaxed attitude at mealtime, too. Want to learn how to cook like a true Thai resident? Sign up for a cooking class where you'll learn to prepare a low-calorie soup, salad and entrée in about an hour



Banyan Tree at Chiva-Som



Moving Meditation



The Anchan Terrace

*From a dip in the cold plunge pool to de-stressing on the relaxation chaise lounges you'll have options of how to re-energize before choosing another of your detoxifying treatments.*

and a half. After you've learned your way around a curry salad, it's time indulge in more pampering treatments.

While pampering means different things to different visitors, Chiva-Som's definition is exquisite service that tends to any need that might arise. From a dip in the cold plunge pool to de-stressing on the relaxation chaise lounges, you'll have options of how to re-energize before choosing another of your detoxifying treatments. With over 40 treatment rooms and dozens upon dozens of expert spa technicians, almost anything you can imagine is available.

From the four-hands Thai massage, to the invigorating Swedish massage, acupressure and deep tissue massages, the combination of treatments is limitless. Add a selection of Shiatsu, reiki reflexology, aromatherapy, scrubs, wraps and facials and you've achieved what might be close to nirvana. Ken Rosen, the Chiva-Som on-staff Chinese medicine expert shares, "Many people come here to stop something like smoking or over-eating. Or they have a lack of energy they want to improve. You name it. Sometimes, we're even a last resort." Dr. Thom, the aesthetic doctor at the spa is on hand to offer any cosmetic procedures that might also be desired. Thom says, "Here we're about image improvement and improving self esteem. When many of our patients return home, the usual response is, 'You look gorgeous. What did you do?'"

### *Uniquely Exotic*

One of the five daily treatments I encountered which seemed uniquely life-enhancing was the flotation tank. Shaped similar to an Apollo 11 space capsule, I entered the dark, calm, tiled-lined pool with a sense of abandon. The combination of sea salts that help detoxify and the three-foot water level immediately offers a sense of floating weightlessness. An hour and a half of becoming one with the water seemed like ten minutes, but



Canape platter



Morning beach run



Emerald dining room

*It's quite an international crowd who flock to Chiva Som. Over 40% are Europeans according to the spa.*

oh, the sense of calm it offered stayed with me for the rest of the stay.

It's quite an international crowd who flock to Chiva-Som. Over 40% are Europeans, according to the spa. Along with them, you'll meet Asians, Russians, Americans and just about any other nationality that loves pampering. Your fellow guests, even though glamorous, are usually hard to find on the grounds. With all the choices of activities, classes, meals and treatments, you may miss visiting royalty at lunch. Or perhaps not even notice the David Beckham of Russia sequestered in the corner at dinner with his supermodel girlfriend. But they are there, enjoying the same comforts of five-star elegance as you. They, too, are staying in the same luxurious suites and villas on the grounds with the finest linens and toiletries. And the perfect bed for at least nine hours of sleep. You see, when you come to this haven of life, everyone tunes into the good habits in life, like proper exercise, supreme culinary habits, arising early, turning in early and well, leading the best life possible.

The best thing of staying a week in one of Thailand's finest resorts? If you're like me, you'll most likely see a weight loss of at least 10 pounds during your stay. With the humid warmth and the rigorous activities in which you participate, plus the healthy mindset and beyond spectacular food, you can expect a week in paradise you won't soon forget.



Chiva-Som's Cooking Class





Leelawades Suite Terrace with Jacuzzi



Organic Garden with Chef Paisarn

## A TREAT TO RETREAT

Chiva-Som International Health Resort offers 13 wellness getaways, including five new 10-night retreats, and hyper-specialized programs to meet guests' individual health goals. The new retreats range from broad detox getaways to targeted retreats to address specific health issues, including cancer, migraines, stress, high blood pressure and weight.

### Cell Vitality retreat

This retreat has been carefully created to support guests who have recovered or are in remission from cancer. This treatment is developed and crafted by wellness experts for each guest to help regain appetite through dedicated dietary plans, stimulate physical and mental wellness and promote cellular health.

### Cranial Relief retreat

The Cranial Relief retreat is crafted for guests who suffer from migraines and life-disrupting headaches. Combining holistic and physiotherapy treatments, guests will discover how to regain stability through meditation, specific exercises that promote cranio-facial muscle relaxation and a special dietary plan of fresh, organic and nutrient-rich foods.

### Emotional Wellbeing

Master the ability to control stress, mood and overall wellbeing with the Emotional Wellbeing retreat. Created for guests who feel over-stressed or who lack energy, this retreat is designed to rejuvenate the mind, body and spirit. A holistic approach will guide guests on a journey including acupuncture, mind and body therapy, healthy eating, regular fitness and a stable sleeping pattern.

### Tension Release

Escape tension-causing routines and release the mind and body to discover true inner peace. The Tension Release retreat is carefully designed to help guests who suffer from high blood pressure to regain a restorative balance in life. Through nutritional consultation, guests will discover the simple steps to controlling salt intake, maintaining a healthy weight and the appropriate use of dietary supplements to support cardiovascular health. Furthermore, the personalized fitness activities can enhance energy and reduce weakness and fatigue, providing a complete path towards tension release.

### Sustainable Slimming

Effectively lose weight and begin a journey toward a healthier lifestyle with Chiva-Som's Sustainable Slimming retreat. Begin with a comprehensive program of physical activities to activate weight loss in a controlled and healthy manner. The Chiva-Som culinary team will support the program with nutrient-rich cuisine, while physiotherapists guide guests towards correct posture and increased flexibility. Upon completion, guests will be equipped with the necessary tools, knowledge and a sense of empowerment to sustain their optimal weight going forward. **S**





Becky and Jim Urhausen



Cindy and Kirk Price

# SHOOT FOR THE STARS

## Imagine A Way Hosts 6th Annual Touch The Stars Gala

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Ben Porter

### THE SCENE:

The Intercontinental Stephen F Austin Hotel in the heart of Texas' capital city was the venue for an evening where a sold-out crowd 300 of Austin's most sociable turned out for *Imagine A Way's 6th Annual Touch The Stars* gala, which provided those on hand with an evening of fun while supporting such a worthy cause.

### THE VIBE:

The evening started in the foyer outside the ballroom for a cocktail hour where partygoers mingled between conversation and perusing the silent auction items available for bid. The action then turned to the ballroom where guests dined on a three course during the program which included touching videos about the families who have benefitted from Imagine A Way's services. The evening was capped off with a spirited live auction, where bidders snapped up several great experiences from a trip to Oregon wine country and Jackson Hole to a diamond necklace.

### THE CAUSE:

The event raised over \$216,000 for Imagine A Way, which is an organization that provides early intervention and therapies for young children with autism. **S**



Emily and Chris Yarbro



Laura and Tommy Craddick



Mariano and Leslee Camarillo & Todd and Dominica Council



Katie Anderson, and Courtney Townsend



Liz Wallendorf, Patty Price and Carolyn Price



Mersaydes Hobby and Reed Curtis



Esmey and Ryan Prihoda



Lindy Jordan & David and Holly Franklin



Jay Pearce and Curtis Retherford



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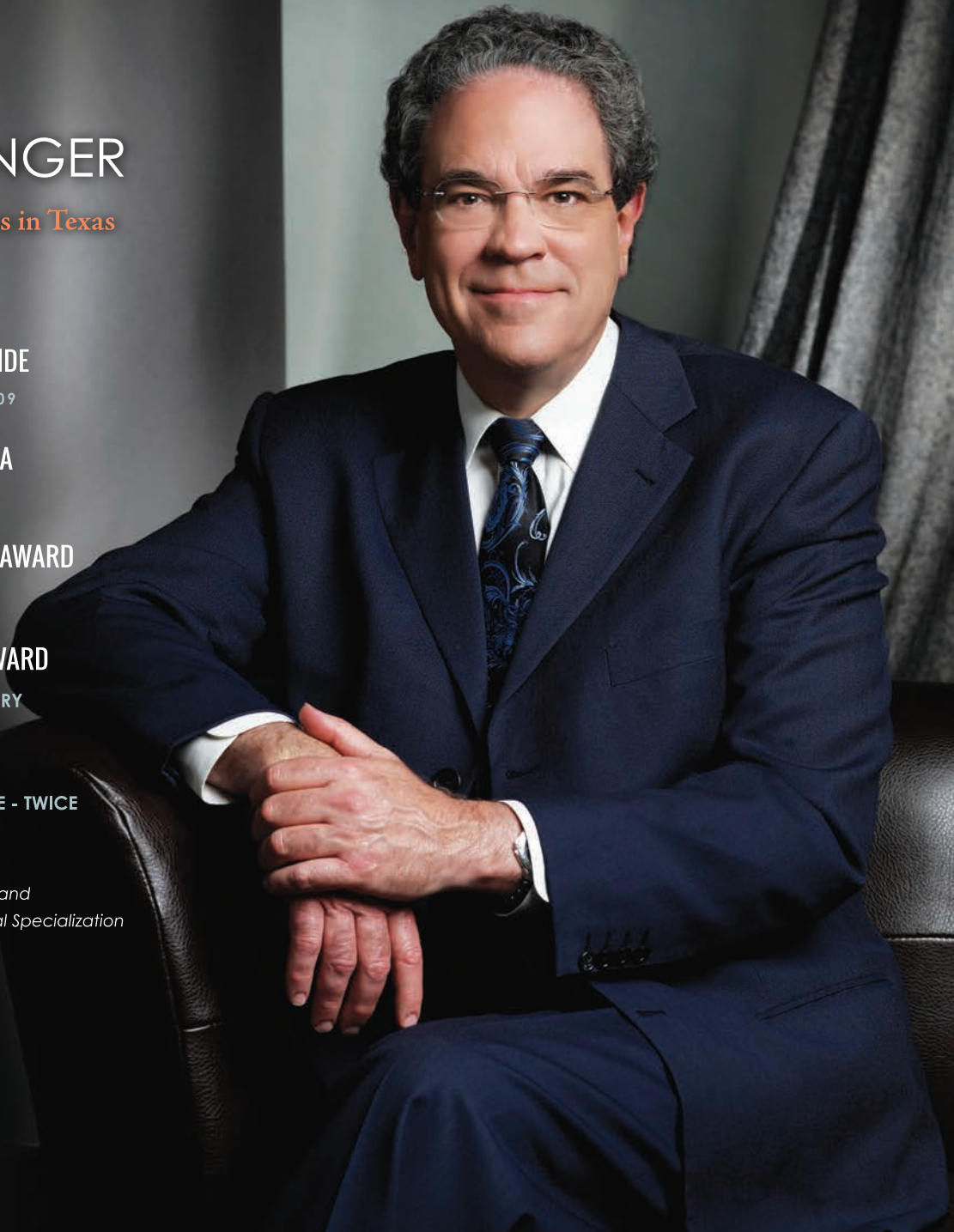
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Amy Swaney and Dr. Sara McCamish



Daniela Serna and Lucy Peveto

# GARDEN SO GREEN

Landa Nights Event Benefits Beloved Local Landmark.

By Shannon Miller Turner | Photography by Greg Harrison

## THE SCENE:

Oh, what a night. Under a gorgeous full moon on the grounds of Landa Library guests gathered to celebrate and support the efforts of the Landa Gardens Conservancy. The Conservancy maintains and beautifies the nearly-five acre grounds upon which the library sits providing a magical setting where friends and families have gathered for decades.



Kelly Davidson and Tracey Bennett



Kathleen McCusker and Ann Van Pelt



Mary Herff, Christian Herff and Catherine Matthews



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## ARRIVAL: SAN ANTONIO



Christine Mayer, Amy Garcia and Gloria Dilley



Katy Silva, Sarah Sauer and Victoria Gonzalez



Sylvia Rodriguez, Linda Bookout, David Gross and Susan Brothers



## THE VIBE:

Among illuminated air stars and exterior walls bathed in the projected light of beautiful butterflies, the recently-renovated library set the scene for party goers to mingle and move to the beat of Austin-based band, The Instigators. Guests seeking a quiet moment during the festivities enjoyed poems written on the spot by Typewriter Rodeo, also of Austin, who created custom-typed poems on any topic quite literally under the stars.

The Landa Library Staff led tours of the library's newly-enhanced interiors while a one-of-a-kind original painting created especially for this event by local artist, Lucy Peveto, was the focal point of the silent auction. Inspired by the gardens of the Landa Library, moonlight and the upcoming annual monarch migration, the piece, *Flight Above Landa Gardens* also served as the Invitation cover for the event that included catering by Page Barteau. Before departing for the evening, guests participated in a special balloon release inspired by artist Jenny Kendler and her *Milkweed Dispersal Balloons* of 2014. In a nod to the evening's unofficial guest of honor, the Monarch butterfly, biodegradable balloons filled with monarch food took flight into the night to ensure that San Antonio remains part of the path of their magnificent migration.

## THE CAUSE:

Daniela Serna served as the chair for the event. The Landa Gardens Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to beautifying and maintaining the lovely gardens, walkways and playgrounds at Landa Library. **S**



Erica Giese and Whitney Schones



Melanie Thomas and Ashley Hixon



Ramiro Salazar and Xitlalt Herrera Salazar





JORGE L. MENENDEZ  
 Certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery  
 Fellow of The American College of Surgeons  
 Member of The American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
 Member of The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

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# DIVINE DANCE

## TACA Celebrates 50th Anniversary Gala With Commissioned Celebration Dance

By Cynthia Smoot | Photography by Gary Domihoo and Kym Skiles



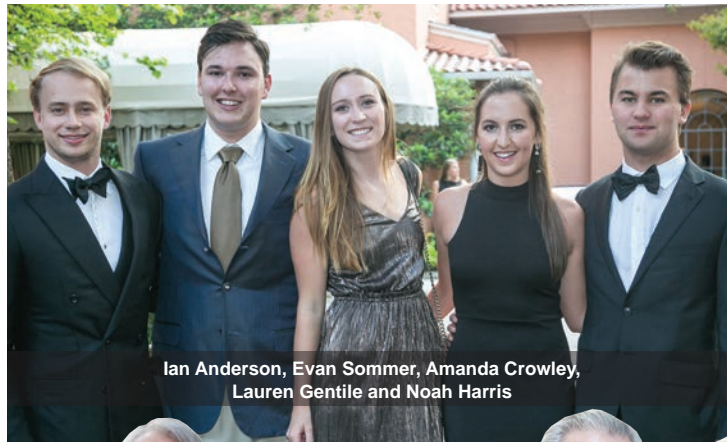
Sally and Ross Taylor

### THE SCENE:

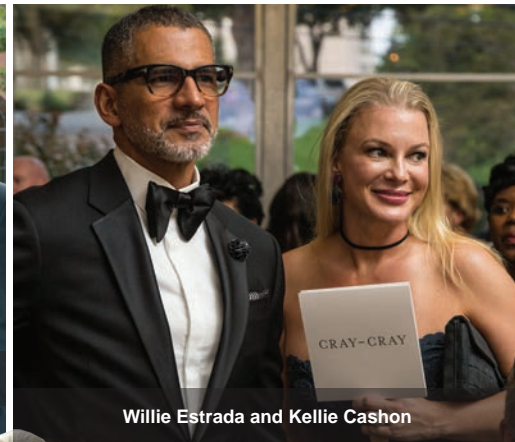
TACA (The Arts Community Alliance) recently celebrated its 50th anniversary at Rosewood Mansion on Turtle Creek. The evening began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in a luxuriously decorated, outdoor, air-conditioned tent. Following a live auction, guests enjoyed a delectable seated dinner throughout the Mansion's labyrinth of stunning interior spaces.



Peter and Yvette Wheeler and Cheryl McCue



Ilan Anderson, Evan Sommer, Amanda Crowley, Lauren Gentile and Noah Harris



Willie Estrada and Kellie Cashon



Monica and Phil Samson



Dean Fearing and Wanda Gierhart



Greg and Kim Hext



Bill and Lisa Custard



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too...

# ARRIVAL: DALLAS



Mary Jo and Dr. Jay Gartner



Scot MacRae, Gus Hinojosa, Johnathan Brownlee and David Munk



John Willing and Jennifer Swift



Robynn Flatt and Wilson Tarver



Carmaleta and Otis Felton



Gary & Kayla Venner



Charles and Patricia Clough



Donna Wilhelm, Wolford McCue and Michelle Thomas

## THE VIBE:

The event welcomed close to 300 guests and introduced the world premiere performance of *Celebration*, which featured the talent of Bruce Wood Dance, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. The troupes, which are three of TACA's grantees, presented a stunning performance set to a medley of Stevie Wonder songs.

## THE CAUSE:

Co-chairs Wanda Gierhart and Dean Fearing helmed the event. Established in 1967, The Arts Community Alliance supports excellence and impact in the arts through grant-making, capacity building, and thought leadership. TACA envisions an innovative, inclusive, sustainable cultural sector, recognized for its essential contribution to a vibrant, prosperous community. **S**



TACA dancers



Deborah and John Scott

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Settlement Home for  
Children's 42nd Annual Garage  
and Estate Sale  
settlementhome.org

**November 2-7**  
Christmas at the Caswell House  
austinjuniorforum.org

**November 3**  
First Edition Literary Gala  
Texas Book Festival  
texasbookfestival.org

**November 4**  
A Night in Havana  
Austin Children's Shelter  
austinchildrensservices.org

**November 5**  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual Seton Board  
Development Gala  
Elizabeth Ann Seton Board  
setonfund.org

**November 8**  
Help Clifford Help Kids  
The Clifford Antone Foundation  
helpcliffordhelpkids.com

**November 10**  
Austin FAVE Awards Gala  
Austin Young Chamber  
austinync.org

**November 12**  
Bernstein 100  
UMLAUF Sculpture Garden &  
Museum  
www.umlaufulsculpture.org

**November 15 - 19**  
A Christmas Affair  
Junior League of Austin  
jlaustin.org

**November 17**  
Key To the Cure  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of  
Central Texas  
cff.org

**November 18**  
Rags to Wags Gala  
Austin Human Society  
austinhumanesociety.org

**December 2**  
Dancing with the Stars Austin  
Center for Child Protection  
centerforchildprotection.org

**December 9**  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Fret Ball  
Black Fret  
blackfret.org

**DALLAS**  
**November 1**  
Woman of the Year Gala  
Les Femmes du Monde  
lesfemmesdumonde.org

**November 4**  
Zoo To Do  
Dallas Zoo  
dallaszoo.com

**November 4**  
ART for ADVOCACY  
Dallas Children's Advocacy  
Center  
dcac.org

**November 8**  
Havana Nights  
Heart of a Warrior Charitable  
Foundation  
hoawdallas.org

**November 9**  
Awards for Excellence in  
Community Service Luncheon  
Dallas Historical Society  
dallashistory.org

**November 17**  
The Milestones Luncheon  
Junior League of Dallas  
jld.net

**November 28**  
Tutu Chic Fashion Show and  
Luncheon  
Texas Ballet Theater  
texasballet.org

**November 29**  
Red Ribbon 2017  
Resource Center  
rcdallas.org

**December 2**  
The Crystal Charity Ball  
Children's Charities  
crystalcharityball.org

## HOUSTON

**November 3**  
Una Notte in Italia  
Houston Area Women's Center  
hawc.org

**November 3**  
Catwalk for a Cure  
Amschwand Sarcoma Cancer  
Foundation  
sarcomacancer.org

**November 3**  
Feast with the Beasts  
Houston Zoo  
houstonzoo.org

**November 4**  
True Blue Gala  
Houston Police Department  
houstonpf.org

**November 4**  
Renee Fleming in Concert  
Society for the Performing Arts  
spahouston.org

**November 6**  
Art of Conversation  
City ArtWorks  
cityartworks.org

**November 13**  
The Forum Luncheon  
Texas Children's Cancer Center  
texaschildrens.org

**November 17**  
Art of the Islamic Worlds Gala  
Museum of Fine Arts Houston  
mfah.org

**November 18**  
Celebrity Paws Gala  
Citizens for Animal Protection  
cap4pets.org

**November 24**  
Deck The Trees  
Alley Theatre  
alleytheatre.org

**December 1**  
Elipse Ball  
Trees of Hope  
treesofhopehouston.org

**December 2**  
Luminous: The Menil  
Collection's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

The Menil Collection  
menil.org

**December 5**  
Angels of Hope Luncheon and  
Fashion Presentation Friends of  
Child Advocates  
childadvocates.org

## SAN ANTONIO

**November 4**  
Diwali Festival of Lights  
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

**November 9**  
30<sup>th</sup> Year Gala  
Transplants for Children  
transplantsforchildren.org

**November 9**  
Zoobilation Ball  
San Antonio Zoological Society  
sazoo.org

**November 10-11**  
Luminaria Contemporary Arts  
Festival  
Luminaria  
luminariaa.org

**November 11**  
Constellation of Stars Gala  
SA Women's Chamber of  
Commerce Foundation  
sawomenschamber.org

**November 16**  
Best Night Ever  
The Brighton Center  
brightonsa.org

**November 24**  
Ford Holiday River Parade  
thesanantonioriverwalk.com

**December 2**  
HRC San Antonio Gala and  
Silent Auction  
hrc.org

**December 3**  
Nutcracker Tea Party  
Ballet San Antonio  
balletsanantonio.org

**December 14**  
Poinsettia Ball  
Friends of Hospice  
friendsofhospicesa.org

**BY LAURA VILLAGRAN JOHNSON AND KEVIN SMOTHERS  
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