

TANGLEWOOD/RIVER OAKS BUZZ

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS & SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 2022

The Sharman family

*A Multi-Cultural
Thanksgiving*

*1950s Navy
Sweethearts*

Plogging Along

*Breaking Boundaries:
Invisible Disabilities*

*A New Spin
on Turkey Day*

Cousin Crew

*A Virgin Island
Thanksgiving*

*Joy Through
Chocolate*

*Cindy Gabriel:
Memoir Musings*

College Football Traditions

by Annie Blaylock McQueen

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(continued from page 58) organizations through the Athletes and Causes Foundation at an event held at Tootsies. Guests enjoyed visiting with many of their favorite Astros and families, including Alex Bregman and his wife Reagan, Yordan Alvarez and his wife Monica, Jose Urquidy and wife Estefania, and David Hensley. Emcees for the evening, Julia Morales and Johnny Holloway, led the evening that included live and silent auctions helping raise more than \$370,000. Pictured (from left) are Allison Cattan, Cole Cattan, Brooks Lewis, Jose Altuve, Carter Cattan, Lance McCullers Jr., Donna Lewis, Kyle Tucker, and Emily Lewis.

El centro de corazon



Barbara Van Postman and Dr. Kelli Cohen Fein (pictured, from left) chaired the annual Making a Difference luncheon benefiting El Centro de Corazon, along with honorary chairs Leisa Holland Nelson Bowman and Leila Perrin. More than 250 supporters gathered to support low-income, medically underserved children, adults, and families living in Houston's East End community at Hotel ZaZa-Museum District. El Centro has served the community for 28 years, caring for more than 12,000 patients each year. The luncheon honored Hallie Vanderhider as the 2022 community leader and the Icon Award was given to the Honorable Ed Emmett and Gwen Emmett.

Onstage dinner

Christopher and Kristy Bradshaw and Leigh and Reggie Smith (pictured, from left) joined the Houston Ballet's 2022-23 season kickoff with a festive Opening Night Onstage Dinner held at the Wortham Theater Center. Chaired by Christine and David M. Underwood, Jr. and honoring Jean and Henry May, the evening raised more than \$210,000 for the Houston Ballet. Guests enjoyed a performance and post-performance dinner on the Brown



stage. This year's performance included Trey McIntyre's reinterpretation of Sir James M. Barrie's classic tale *Peter Pan* told through the eyes of a child with spectacular flying sequences, sword fights, giant puppets, and pixie dust. After the performance, Houston Ballet executive director Jim Nelson addressed the crowd while the stage was transformed into a beautifully set dinner for more than 200 guests.

Jewels of Italy

The Italian Cultural & Community Center's 2022 fashion show and luncheon, *Celebrating the Jewels of Italy*, was held at River Oaks Country Club. With a sold-out crowd of more than 300 guests and master of ceremonies KPRC TV 2's Owen Conflenti, the luncheon benefited the center's scholarship programs for college students studying here and abroad in Italy. Luncheon chairs Sandra Porter and Gina Gusemano Leck planned a wonderful event that included a runway show of Italian fashions from Neiman-Marcus produced by Jeanne Ruberti, silent auction and raffle prizes, prosciutto sipping, and an Italian aria performed by soprano Bailey Bower. Honoree Rosie Carrabba was introduced by her son, restaurateur Johnny Carrabba, who spoke of his love and admiration for her roles as wife, mother, grandmother, and restaurateur. Pictured, from

left, are Johnny Carrabba, Roz Pactor, Erika Myers, and Rose "Rosie" Carrabba (seated).

Another season at the Alley



Dean Gladden, Rob Melrose, and Anna Deavere Smith (pictured, from left) celebrated the start of the 2022-23 Alley Theatre season with its 76th Opening Season dinner. Alley board members, theatre patrons, and members of the Alley's Resident Acting Company enjoyed the special evening chaired by Board member Rob Thornton and his wife Nicole. Board president Ken Kades emceed the event which included dinner catered by the Four Seasons Hotel. Event honorees were Anna Deavere Smith and Nina Vance. As the founder of the Alley and its first artistic director, Nina was inducted as the inaugural member of Alley Theatre's Hall of Fame. Anna Deavere Smith, actress, playwright, teacher, and author, was presented with the Alley Theatre's Award for Lifetime Achievement. The evening concluded with a performance by Alexandra Silber who will appear as a lead in the Alley's production of Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me A Soprano*.

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