

ROMERO BRITTO

Of Guava Trees & Happiness

COULD WE LIVE FOREVER?

William Faloon &
The Life Extension
Foundation

KWAME & KRIMSON TIES

ISSUE IV

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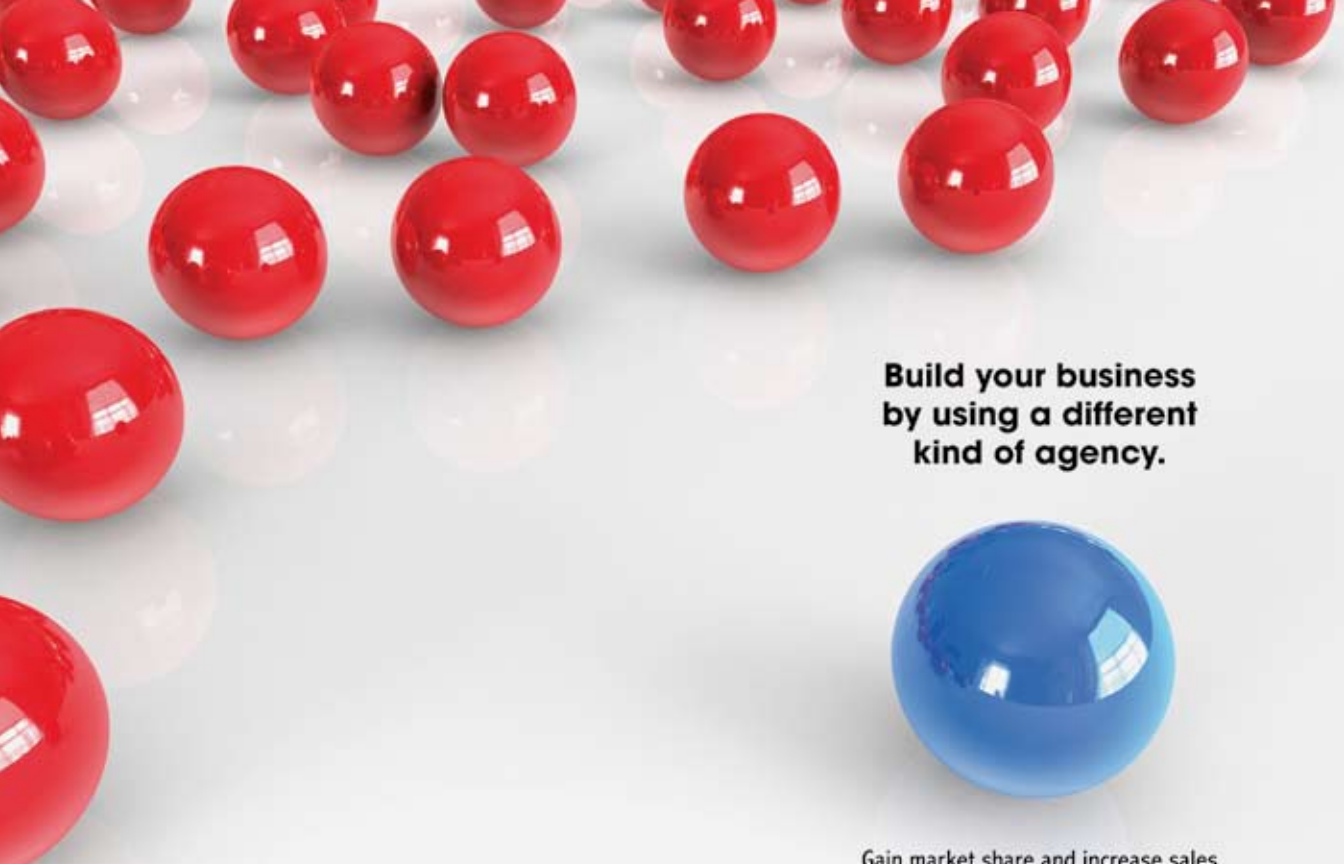
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For over 25 years, *10 Strawberry Street* has provided dazzling décor for tables in countless restaurants, catering companies, hotels and retail stores around the country. Until recently, only select lines from *10 Strawberry Street* have been available in stores, but now the entire *10 Strawberry Street* collection is available at *10 Strawberry Street Outlet* at value-laden prices. Located in Hallandale, Florida, *10 Strawberry Street Outlet* is stocked with the company's best dinnerware, glassware, flatware and serve ware. Styles range from contemporary or classic to elegant or extravagant.

The Hallandale location is "Open-stock-mix-n-match," allowing customers to buy specifically to their needs and wants. This system permits customers to buy exactly how much they want and exactly what they want.

10 Strawberry Street Outlet's newest lines attract a younger generation and a more eco-friendly consumer. Available for mix and match, Love is a collection of plates, bowls and lights in 13 vibrant colors and four polka dot patterns. Via decks eco-friendly serving pieces made from recycled glass.



"We've noticed that recently more people are looking to buy from smaller brand-names like ours simply because we offer more affordable prices without relinquishing high standards on the quality and design of all our products," said Ian Zucker, founder and CEO of *10 Strawberry Street*.

10 Strawberry Street has been featured on television shows such as "Hell's Kitchen" and realized in scores of fine hospitality developments. In addition, *10 Strawberry Street* has provided dinnerware, through their channels of distribution, for the Academy Awards, Make a Wish Foundation events and celebrity and dignitary weddings alike.

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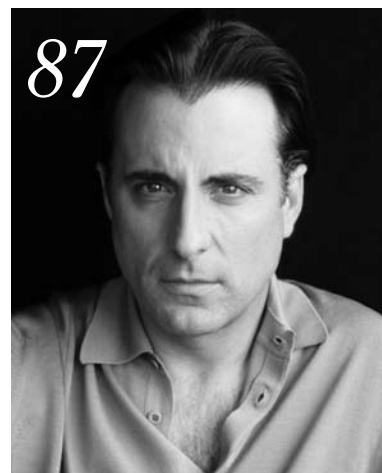
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DUO

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from the PUBLISHER

Ellen Sue Burton



So here it is, Issue 4, and I am ready to make a confession. I am star struck. Okay. The cat's out of the bag. The publisher of DUO Magazine loves the limelight and particularly loves to be around celebrities. I think it started when I was 6 years old and I had the chance of a lifetime to celebrate my birthday by appearing on television on "The Skipper Chuck Show". I can still remember trembling when Chuck Zink put his captain's hat on my mane of curls (Right you are! I've haven't cut my hair since then. Think therapy is in order?) I still delight at the thought of "Scrubby" bringing me in front of the cameras to throw a pie in his face as he sang "Happy Birthday" to me. That was the pivotal moment when I realized... I love being

with celebrities!!! But, lo and behold, just as I thought nothing would exceed the Skipper Chuck topping on my fame-seeking ice cream sundae of life, I had the enormous privilege of meeting Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

Let me just take a deep breath, get a hold of myself, and tell you how it felt when Emilio Estefan walked up to me at the book signing for Liz Balmaseda at the Eden Roc Hotel, and, with cameras flashing, took the magazine out of my hands, wrapped his arms around me and whispered, "I love your magazine. Thank you for the beautiful story you wrote about us. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know." Sorry, Chuck. You've moved down my ladder of best moments of my life to Number 2. Emilio's warmth and sincerity and congeniality, as well as the kind words of gratitude expressed by Gloria, took star struck to a whole new level for me. It made me appreciate that despite the enormity of a person's success they still possess those beautiful, loving, giving qualities that make us all equals.

Now, keep in mind, I will still keep my hair. I will still run three blocks down Time Square to chase after Robin Williams... only to find out that it was not Robin Williams! I will still disturb Brooke Shields in the Village, like I did last month during our photo shoot for SoBe to SoHo, as she was quietly, and incognito, leaning on a building eating a piece of roasted corn, and say "Hi." (Yes, she said hello back!). I will still talk about the "missed photo" when I was too busy gazing into the sweetest baby blue eyes when I bumped into Hugh Grant in LA, too star struck to use my camera that was dangling on my wrist. I will still dash through a crowd of people at a concert like I am trying to grab a flat screen TV on Black Friday just to get an autograph. I will still sachet my friends over to my signed Romero Britto menorah and then over to my Wall of Fame with pictures of me with the fabulous people I have had the honor to cover in past issues; but, more importantly, I will still continue to appreciate every person I meet not only for who they are but for the amazing things that they are doing to make this world a better place.

Sincerely,

Ellen Sue Burton

Caricatures By Félix Muñoz
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Art is a way of expression with many different forms and styles. Through art we can make a difference and one of the artists setting his mark is the Brazilian Romero Britto. The distinctive style of his paintings has caught the eye of celebrities such as Gloria Estefan, Oprah Winfrey, and Michael Jackson, all devoted fans and collectors; and you too probably fell in love with his style when you saw the DUO logo on our cover.

Isn't it beautiful? The passion for art of this Miami-based artist has led to global exposure and numerous international opportunities, including the display of his artwork at the Louvre Museum in Paris. He has had the distinction of creating the largest art installation to date in Hyde Park in London. This 2000 Guinness Book record holder composed the "World's Largest Painting" with the help of 40 artists and thousands of kids. Go Britto!

But Romero is not only painting to express his feelings, he is also giving a brush of hope to others through the Britto Foundation dedicated to youth, education, and arts. In this art issue you will read about the amazing individuals who are using art as a motivational tool to give back. Rachel Hughes and Veronica Rivera of Art Space, Israel Dayan of Orange Stain, Pastors Olga and Marvin Smith of Art and Compassion, and Seth "Brimstone" Schere of P.A.T.H., all using the colors of caring, compassion, and kindness to paint smiles on the faces of the people that they serve.

I am very honored to feature these talented individuals, along with music artists Aaron Bing and Ginelle, filmmaker Billy Corben, and William Faloon, co-founder of Life Extension Foundation. Whether they are bringing music into our lives, making documentaries of our lives, or trying to extend our lives, the pages of this issue of DUO continue to bring you the best of the best.

Sincerely,

Giselle Sanabria

from the
EDITOR
Giselle Sanabria

DUO DITTIES

Hi Giselle and Atiya:

I have received my copy of DUO's spring issue. It looks fantastic!! Congratulations to you on a beautiful magazine. Keep it going...!

My sister, a seasoned editor for many years, came over the other night for dinner and I showed her the magazine. She immediately loved the size of DUO and commented on how it was such a perfect "travel" size- a magazine that was great to put in your purse or bag whenever or where ever you go... I thought that was such a spot on comment. I'm a magazine girl (aren't we all) and sometimes taking a larger magazine with me that's heavy and bulky just isn't practical. Since I do a lot of traveling, I too think your magazine is perfect for taking with me on a plane, train, or to a cafe for some down-time reading.

In addition, the articles were engaging and the artwork and layout was really well executed. Brava! I found ALL the content interesting and educational. I am so thrilled that you exist and would love to be a part of any endeavor DUO seeks to pursue. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your magazine. It was a pleasure to work with both of you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me regarding future editorial, events, PR, fashion, and marketing. All the best, and I look forward to getting together soon either in NY or Miami.

Sincerely,

Kit Manougian
Manougian Creative

Dear Ellen:

Thank you for believing in our children and helping to make a difference in their lives. Your help directly impacts all of our kids, from 3-year-old Kayla to 18-year-old Sam. This month we celebrated the graduations of two young adults Barbara and Erice...both of whom are headed off to college this summer. It's because of you that these kids have a chance in life. The stability, nurturing and encouragement our kids receive at the SOS Children's Village and support from friends in the community are what keeps our Village going...despite challenging economic times.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Zirulnick,
Chief Executive Officer
SOS Children's Village.

DUO GIVES THANKS TO:

Alonzo Mourning for successfully implementing a kidney transplant bill, The Alonzo Mourning Access to Care Act, recently signed by Governor Crist. The new law allows patients to obtain Medigap insurance if they already qualify for Medicare (estimated 11,050 people with end-stage renal disease and 200,000 with disabilities) enabling them to be placed on a waiting list for kidney transplant without liquidating their personal assets and declaring indigency.

Fire Chief Bob Perkins and the **Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Volunteer Fire Department** for building 22 "life poles" spaced about 500 feet apart on the beach, equipped with life preservers and painted with large numbers enabling easier access for the firefighters to quickly reach a rescue scene.

Rick Oxenhandler, Cooper City High School graduate, presently attending Wharton School of Business in Pennsylvania, for implementing a grassroots movement "More Than Pennies". Starting with face-to-face handouts to the homeless it is now a successful student-run charity distributing food donated by over 500 students who convert their unused meal plans into food for the hungry.

Do you know somebody who is making a difference? We are anxious to hear about them. Please log on to www.DUOmagazine.com and let us know. We want to personally thank them in an upcoming newsletter.


We would love to hear from you.

Send your comments to:

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SoBe It

SUSHI SAMBA

“A South Beach Experience”

By South Beach Annie





S

ushi Samba, as the name implies, is a fusion of Brazilian and Japanese cuisine. The décor is a lovely orange, green, and natural wood design reflective of the harmonious use of space from Japan, the joy of life from Brazil, and the trendiness of South Beach. As you walk in, the ambiance is filled with

the sounds of Samba music and you will be welcomed in by the friendly, and quite gorgeous, we may add, host ready to seat you immediately.

I couldn't refuse the waiter's offer of the best cocktail of the house, Nina Fresa, composed of Svedka Vodka, muddled strawberry, orange liqueur, lime, and guava. However, you must try a Sambatini (the monthly inspiration) and enjoy the unparalleled creation. Beware of all the enticing choices and being seduced by your server to try them all! Edame is placed on the table for nibbling while you enjoy your cocktails and decide what to eat. My companion asked for a Tropicalia containing Pearl Coco Vodka, amaretto, muddled raspberries, and coconut rum. Yes, it is as good as it sounds!

We started our culinary delights with Kobe beef carpaccio with shitake mushrooms, cream garlic, panzu jelly, and truffle cream. It was followed by a sea bass with miso marinade with Peruvian corn, then a pork goyza (which I absolutely adore) and a Mokeka-seafood combo with dende (palm) oil. It was all placed in a Caja (bowl stack), adorned with a design by Miami-based Brazilian artist, Romero Britto, accompanied by a spicy aioli and black truffle oil for dipping.

You may also enjoy an array of sushi delights created in style before your eyes in a magnificent lit bar with various chefs entertaining your every request. Make

sure you ask about the fresh catch, always a favorite. It is almost sinful to have anything traditional here; so, please, have the creation of the day! On the menu, you will find surprising twists like samba dromo roll maine lobster, mango, tomato, chive, crispy rice, soy paper, peanut curry, and bobo Brazil seared kobe beef. Top your meal off with a luscious dessert. I enjoyed a strawberry banana milkshake, brownies, and vanilla ice cream. My guest had mochi ice cream, gummi bears, and berries. Sound too fattening? The selections are almost bite-sized, so you don't worry about having too much.

Sushi Samba is cool enough as it is; however, what makes it exceptional is the depth it has added to the dining experience. There is a real awareness in this business towards both nutrition and community. "During the day, we felt offering options that appealed to families would bring in a group that is underserved," Sushi Samba co-owner Danielle Billera says. "There are so few places to go to that appeal to adults and at the same time they offer healthful alternatives for children." Britto is collaborating with Sushi Samba to produce the brightly decorated Britto Bento boxes, placemats, and kids chopsticks that are available with the kids' meals. He also designed the children's menu in miniature size. For each Britto Bento box sold, Sushi Samba will donate 5 percent of the proceeds to the *Britto Foundation*, which funds art, cultural, and literacy programs for underprivileged youth in Brazil.

After dinner you can stay to watch the Sushi Samba transformation into a club ambiance with a DJ spinnin' and the crowd rockin'. The dresses get shorter and trendier as the clientele becomes more European and the otherwise docile restaurant turns into a bar scene. There was great trepidation in the beginning because "We're so much about flash and volume and sex appeal, some of the management just thought it wouldn't work," Public Relations Manager Cisowska says. "Now managers are saying, 'Hey, this was a great idea.'" Go see for yourself. We're sure you'll agree.-DUO

The Britto FOUNDATION

By Francesca Franco



“ If Romero Britto is going to give, he’s going to give as much as he possibly can; which, admittedly, can get a little overwhelming.”

When you hear the term ‘paint party,’ you might think of a handful of kids, some tubs of paint and lots of messy clean-up afterwards. When Romero Britto uses the term ‘paint party’ though, he’s actually talking about one of the largest, most anticipated paint parties of his career, one with 1,500 kids (narrowed down from the more than 10,000 who’d signed up), ranging from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Belgium, plus roughly 500 volunteers. All in all, his paint party totaled 2,000 people. Imagine the clean up!

That’s his style though. If Romero Britto is going to give, he’s going to give as much as he possibly can; which, admittedly, can get a little overwhelming. It’s for this reason that, in 2007, he established *The Britto Foundation*, because, “All along I was helping so many charities, working with so many charities... And I just thought, ‘You know what? Maybe I should really make this more organized.’”

The focus of his organization is youth, education, and the arts. But, as he says, “If I am able to help these other charities, why not?” Some of the organizations he’s

partnered with include *Best Buddies International*, *Andre Agassi Foundation*, *World Economic and Development Fund*, *St. Jude Hospital*, *Governor’s Family Literacy Initiative*, and *Keep the Memory Alive Foundation*, in addition to contributions and donations to hundreds of organizations around the globe such as the *American Cancer Society*, and the *Red Cross*.

Romero Britto is much like his work: bright, exuberant, and happy; and when he donates his time, again, like his work, and like the paint party, it’s never on a small scale. Several years ago he worked with *Medicine Without Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders)*, when they organized a project in Dubai, bringing 40 artists and thousands of children together to create the longest painting in the world. Romero painted 80 feet of the 6 miles and 400 pounds of canvas, and the 2000 Guinness Book of World Records recognized it as the “World’s Largest Painting.”

His own dreams for his foundation? To one day, either through his studio or his art, set something up where his art receives royalties, which then go on to people in need. So that even after he’s gone, his work, his message, his help, and his love, will still live on. -DUO



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NO LIMITS!

William Faloon & The Life Extension Foundation

By Steve Goodman



One person who would certainly agree with Mr. de Grey is South Florida's own William Faloon, co-founder of the renowned *Life Extension Foundation*. "There are so many exciting areas of research being explored right now that you can't deal with all of them in the scope of a single article such as this. When I was told at about the age of 11 or 12 that aging and death were inevitable, I didn't accept that. I felt even at that time that there had to be some way, some scientific way, to slow down that aging process and perhaps even reverse it. For many decades that concept was not taken very seriously."

However, that all began to change in the early '90's. It was then that people started to look at growing old and say it doesn't have to be this way, and the emerging discipline of anti-aging medicine began to take hold. Geriatrics, the traditional medical specialty for treatment of the elderly, looked at aging and the changes that came with it as a series of inevitable symptoms, which may or may not be able to be alleviated. Anti-aging medicine, on the other hand, looks at the typical problems associated with aging, loss of vitality, cognition, etc., as the symptoms of a single disease that cannot only be treated, but may be prevented.

Not too long ago Cambridge University geneticist Aubrey de Grey astounded the world by saying, "The first person to live to be 1,000 years old is certainly alive today ... whether they realize it or not. Barring accidents and suicide, most people now 40 years or younger can expect to live for centuries."

"The idea behind anti-aging medicine," says Bill, "is that we say 'I can personally intervene into that process, and take proven scientific steps to slow it down. Even simple common sense ones such as quitting smoking, or staying out of the sun – that concept holds true of the entire body. What lifestyle you choose to follow, and whether or not you choose to aggressively intervene into what nature does to our aging bodies – that is what will dictate how long and how well you are going to live.'"

Extending Life?

Life extension is not a fable. It is a proven scientific fact. We can all extend our lives simply by doing a few simple things. The traditional medical establishment would not deny that quitting smoking, losing weight, and eating a sensible diet adds years to your life. The idea of radically extending the healthy human's lifespan, as supported by the *Life Extension Foundation* and practiced by anti-aging doctors, takes that concept a step or two further.

"We have identified 17 specific mechanisms of aging that are correctable," says Bill as he talks about some of the research funded by the life Extension Foundation. "For example, if you can replace your sex hormones to a more youthful range, you are less likely to feel depressed, you are going to have a better outlook on life. Your quality of life will be improved in such a way that you will be motivated to follow the other steps towards a healthy lifestyle."

You might imagine that the question that Bill is asked most often is: "What are the most important things I should be doing right now to stay healthy and slow the aging process?" Bill's surprising answer is "I have no idea."

He is not trying to be funny. The other unique aspect behind his theories is that life extension requires a very individualized approach to medicine, and one that is very patient specific. "Until we review a comprehensive panel of blood tests," says Bill, "and see what certain biomarkers are, see what hormone levels are, what glucose and lipid levels are, we can't develop a scientific program to extend an individual's healthy lifespan."

Bill wants people to understand that the things he and the *Life Extension Foundation* stand for are built upon a solid base of legitimate, peer-reviewed, scientific research. The Foundation is not among those hawking the latest "Fountain of Youth" elixir or anti-wrinkle cream. "The main difference between us and them is they tend to promote a single product with what they claim has such a myriad of benefits, that it may be the only product that you ever need. The *Life Extension Foundation* has been around for 30 years, and I can tell you no such 'one size fits all' product exists. That doesn't mean that there are not efficacious products that people can benefit from, but we understand that it is a matter of individualized dose, and individualized need. We are not promoting ourselves as providing any single product that is the 'Fountain of Youth'. We do fund

research that has discovered many interesting products that are already available that have had proven results."

Cryonics

If we can accept that there are practical methods to extend human lifespan even now, what about the idea of preserving a body that has legally "died" – until such time as medical science can reverse the damage, or cure the disease that caused death? This is the theory behind the science of Cryonics, and what is practiced at *The Alcor Life Extension Foundation*, located in Scottsdale Arizona.

There is no truth to the urban legend that Walt Disney is frozen in cryonic suspension, and Bill assures me that Disney's body is not among the over 80 patients "cryo-preserved" at Alcor. But Disney did believe in the possibility of freezing to extend human life and, according to Bill, rightfully so. "Actually, most people think that cryonics is further advanced than it really is. Some people believe we have already been able to revive cryo-preserved animals, but the technology has not yet advanced enough to do that yet. The fact is, though, Alcor is now better able to cryo-preserve humans, than ever before."

If you think the idea of freezing to extend life is far-fetched, or just so much science fiction, think again. There is a medical precedent for the techniques Bill is talking about. It's called therapeutic hypothermia, and it is being used today in emergency rooms and on ambulances the world over. For many years heart surgeons have been using induced mild hypothermia during cardiac bypass surgery – icing the patient to lower body temperature – to limit the chance of brain injury while undergoing the procedure. Later, the technique was adapted for use in emergency rooms and in transit to the hospital.

The idea of cryo-preservation, as practiced by Alcor, merely takes the concept of therapeutic hypothermia a few steps further. In animal testing scientists supported by the *Life Extension Foundation* have broken every record in

reviving "clinically dead" dogs, some that have been frozen for as long as 16 hours. Says Bill, "I've seen these dogs running around our facility, they're happy, they're healthy, and you would never know that they were technically dead."

What about the religious implications of cryo-preservation? Bill says upon close examination there really aren't any conflicts, and many clergymen support Alcor's research. He points out that in the

We can all
extend our lives
simply by doing a
few simple things.

early years many of the same arguments were leveled at the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and other resuscitation techniques. It had been said that if the person is declared dead, then the person's soul has left their body and man has no right to intervene by doing all of these heroic measures to revive him or her. Yet today these techniques are used routinely every day, and few theologians would argue with them. Obviously, our concept of "legal death", or "medical death" has changed over the years, with scientific and technological advancement, so the concept of a "legal death" or "medical death" as we define it today, is not relevant as to what may be possible in the future in terms of reversing the "legal death" of cryo-preserved humans.

Living to 120, 150, or more, virtually living forever through cryo-preservation, are there any limits to the human lifespan? In the not too distant future, perhaps not. As Bill puts it, "We now have a greater understanding of aging, of life, and of death on a molecular level than any generation has had before. Do we have the technical expertise to overcome aging and death? No, not yet. But we literally have a blueprint for immortality."

You might think that possibly extending the life of the entire human race is what drives William Faloon to do what he does, but actually he feels he is giving back in a smaller, and yet just as profound way. "When I think of the number of calls and emails I get from people who are suffering serious medical problems that the conventional medical establishment either has not addressed, or has caused their conditions to worsen, when I can provide those people a tidbit of information, or in some cases a lot of information, and they are able to recover, that's probably the most rewarding part of my job. I am able to do that by working with forward-thinking physicians and scientists, who are looking at what is not being done, but can be done, to save lives. We were the first ones back in 1983 to suggest low-dose aspirin to prevent heart attack. We fought a 15 year battle to get that accepted, and now it is a regular protocol recommended by cardiologists. Think of the numbers of husbands, wives, sons, and daughters, whose lives we saved by publishing that information."

And that is just one example of more than two decades of "ahead of its time" innovation and recommendations made by The Foundation. Also in the 80's LEF was the first such organization to recognize the healing properties of anti-oxidants. Throughout that decade and into the 90's other discoveries, once scoffed at, but now generally accepted, followed. They were the first to recommend Lycopene to fight cancer, and to introduce Melatonin as a sleep aid that also had anti-aging properties. Into the 21st Century, they



were the first to raise the alarm on Cox-2 inhibitors, such as Celebrex and Vioxx, which have since been linked to heart disease. LEF was one of the first to report on the anti-aging properties of resveratrol, found in grapes and other fruits. And as recently as 2007 it was LEF that introduced a form of CoQ10 that has proven to be much more effective in anti-aging than other commercially available CoQ10 supplements.

When I have the opportunity to speak with someone like William Faloon who is involved in research that is this fascinating and life -altering, I usually conclude my interview by saying "I hope to do a follow up article with you in a year or so, to see how things have progressed." This time I said "I hope to speak with you again in a few hundred years, and we can look back at this article and say 'I told you so.'"

The *Life Extension Foundation* funds two standalone research facilities in California and another in Boynton Beach, Florida. When people enroll as members of the *Life Extension Foundation*, their first step is to have a comprehensive blood test done to identify what they as individuals should do to protect against age-related disease. Life Extension operates a blood-drawing station at its headquarters on Commercial Blvd. in Ft. Lauderdale and has arrangements with blood drawing stations throughout South Florida so its members can conveniently have their blood tested.

To view the kind of avant-garde health information that Life Extension publishes daily, you can log on to their website at www.lef.org/duomag - DUO

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SUSIE LEVÁN

A Well-“Balanced” Woman

By Linda Firestone

Each of us has a journey in this life. The choices we make along the way determine the quality of that journey. In 1988, Susie Leván and her 6-year-old daughter were victims of a kidnapping. Susie “believes that everything happens for a reason.” Her self-reflective healing process that followed “helped me find more peace and understanding on many levels and gave me the opportunity to work with others during their personal healing journey.”

In the early 1990’s, Susie became a non-denominational pastoral counselor. She interned at the Hospice of Broward and began a spiritual women’s group “The Women’s Wisdom Circle.” After five years, Susie “knew it was time to take my knowledge and message to another level and get it out to more women interested in personal growth and self-development. From the personal work she did on herself, as well as the healing work she did with others, seven key components emerged and shaped Susie’s concept of a balanced life: family, friends, spirituality, career, community, health, and wealth.

In November of 1999 Susie’s visions of a women’s magazine dedicated to these principles was realized. There was then a natural progression from the work she was doing as a counselor and publisher of “Balance Magazine” (www.

BalanceMagazine.com) towards something even larger; and, in 2006, the *Work/Life Balance Institute* was founded. “We are continuing to expand and grow, always looking for more ways to serve and help women find work and life balance.” Susie explains.

Having been the honored recipient of many public recognition awards for her efforts to help women personally and professionally, including “Women of Style and Substance Award”, “Spirit of Excellence Media Leader of the Year” and “Leadership Broward Award”, Susie unequivocally states, “It is very important to ‘give back’ in any way, to make a difference in my community. I feel I have an obligation to participate in helping those who are in need. I am blessed that I can give my personal time and money to many causes that I choose to support both locally and nationally,” including, but not limited, to *United Way Broward County*, *Shoes for the Soul* and *Broward County Executive Committee of Women’s Way*.

The path to balance and giving back is exhausting; but, Susie explains, “When I wake up drained, tired and wondering how I can keep the institute going during these challenging times, I realize that in helping others I am staying positive myself. I also surround myself with wonderful women confidantes who keep me motivated, optimistic, and grounded. They remind me that I have weathered many economic cycles, personally and professionally, and I think that have come out of each cycle stronger and wiser.” -DUO

KEITH & DOREEN KOENIG

Quiet Generosity

By Ellen Crane Schulman

City Furniture President Keith Koenig and his wife, Doreen, are uncomfortable with accolades about their good deeds in the community. They believe the rewards they receive in return are even greater.

“The rewards of community involvement are the wonderful relationships you develop. I get so much more from giving than I give,” says the CEO of the successful 25-store chain of furniture stores.

The philanthropic couple has contributed their time and financial support to a litany of organizations throughout South Florida, including the *Museum of Discovery and Science*, *Covenant House*, *Holy Cross Hospital*, *Archdiocese of Miami*, *University of Florida*, *Junior Achievement*, *Beaux Arts*, *Alonzo Mourning Charities*, *Camillus House*, *Jewish Adoption* and *Foster Care Options* (JAFCO), and the *Ann Storck Center*.

In addition to quietly donating furniture to several shelters and organizations, the Koenigs have been tapped repeatedly to assist with multi-million dollar capital campaigns. Under their leadership or involvement, the Koenigs have been instrumental in raising millions of dollars for the *Museum of Discovery and Science*, *St. Gregory’s Church* in Plantation, *University of Florida’s Warrington College of Business Administration*, and the *Archdiocese of Miami*. Each year, Keith helps to raise \$75,000 or more for *Covenant House* through a golf tournament he founded in memory of his brother, Kevin.

Keith moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1961 and grew up in what he describes as a “classic middle class family.” He obtained his Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida. Upon graduation in 1975, Keith decided to join his brother, Kevin, who founded *Waterbed City* in 1971. When the popularity of waterbeds began to wane, the brothers decided to transform



Waterbed City into a broader furniture retailer. The first *City Furniture* (www.city-furniture.com) opened in 1994.

Decades before this change, however, the Koenigs had also started building their devotion to community causes. Keith recalls the *Museum of Discovery and Science* as their first charitable focus. Family friend and community volunteer, Barbara Grevior, urged him to join the board after a visit with his children to the former Discovery Center convinced him that the facility had huge potential. More than 25 years later, he remains active with the Museum.

“With this program, we felt we had to put our money where our mouths are,” says Koenig, who rarely seeks recognition for his gifts, except for one exhibit where he was able to put his company logo on an alligator, his alma mater’s mascot. “If you do good works, you don’t need to talk about it.”

After his early Museum experience, Koenig began setting aside a portion of his company’s income to support charitable service. For example, when Miami Heat’s former player Alonzo Mourning called requesting assistance for his 18,000-square-foot youth center in the depressed Overtown neighborhood near Miami, Keith responded by contributing three truckloads of furniture.

Through the business and privately, both Keith and Doreen devote themselves to giving back. Doreen, a skilled special events planner, is credited with starting the largest Museum fundraiser, the annual Bank of America Wine and Culinary Celebration. A former president of the Museum’s fundraising auxiliary, SPARK, she also is involved with the *Susan B. Komen Foundation* and the *Humane Society’s PAWS* support group.

“Doreen says we share because we’re blessed,” says Keith. “I think we’re blessed because we share.”—DUO



JESSICA JIMENEZ

Nothing Is Impossible To A Willing Heart

By Cynthia Lechan-Goodman

“It’s mind over matter... if you don’t mind, it won’t matter!” These are the words of an Academy instructor that have guided the life and career of Jessica Jimenez, that have driven this Florida State trooper with 20 years in law enforcement to do good things in every walk of her life.

On the morning of April 7, 2005 Jessica’s mind was called into action, just like every day, but this time a high school senior just one month from graduation had overturned on the Florida Turnpike and was in the canal. Fire Rescue divers pulled up the lifeless body of Katherine González. Jessica carried the young woman out of the water and with other Rescue personnel placed her on a stretcher and tried unsuccessfully to revive her. At Kendall Regional Hospital, Jessica had to give the horrible accident news to the family. She remained with the mother to hear the doctor’s further heart wrenching evaluation that Katherine was in a coma and in a semi-vegetative state.

Jessica is dedicated to serving all people, but Katherine stuck in her mind, even two years following the accident. Perhaps because Jessica’s own son in high school was preparing for his driver’s license. Or maybe it was a passage that beamed at her in the confirmation class she was attending with him. As she describes it, “God chooses a person and gives the person a task. This was my task, even though I had a lack of courage at first to make the call to Katherine’s mother, Beatriz, to find out what happened to Katherine.”

With that passage and the words of her instructor in mind, she made that call. Jessica visited Beatriz, only to find out, sadly, that Katherine was still comatose, and the mother’s

only hope was the Ocean Neurology Center, a hyperbaric oxygen facility. The neurologist there had determined Katherine could make a full recovery with their treatments; but, alas, these treatments are considered experimental, and not covered by medical insurance.

“Nothing is impossible to a willing heart” is Jessica’s motto and that is how she moved herself and the world to find a way to help. Jessica started *Katherine’s Hope*—a non-profit foundation to help Katherine, and others like her, to provide the means for them to truly take HOPE into their hearts and hands. (www.katherineshope.com)

The connections between Jessica and Katherine seemed almost miraculously intertwined. Jessica’s very first selected gift for Katherine was a purple Care Bear. Little did the trooper know that Katherine had collected the toys for years and the purple one was the only one missing from her collection. Friends, relatives, favorite pastimes, and hobbies long common to both families kept revealing themselves.

Muses Jessica, “I guess I developed the Mother Teresa Syndrome.” And, for sure, Jessica is totally involved in keeping the faith and minding what matters. To date, *Katherine’s Hope* has provided 38 treatments for Katherine that specialists have determined produced a significant response. And Katherine is just the beginning of Jessica’s huge heart and efforts to bring HOPE to help many other families who need it.

As a full-time mom, wife of a “wonderfully supportive husband”, trooper, student at FIU and advocate of *Katherine’s Hope*, Jessica says “I’m on top of the world, I look at clouds and I can jump from cloud to cloud. I feel so good about helping. I was meant to do it.” -DUO

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A COLD-BLOODED **MURDER,**
A WARM-HEARTED TRIBUTE
Parents Journey from Healing to Giving Back

By Linda Firestone

The challenge of surviving the brutal murder of a child can lead a parent down many different paths. One's response and the manifestation of that response can never be known in advance. On August 29th, 1995, Sara Jane and Ira Drescher were to experience the

horrifying reality of losing their daughter, Donnah, in a brutal attack. The truth of the event would emerge only years later: domestic violence.

For six years, over 2,100 days, 130,000 hours, the Deschers agonized over what they believed to be a cold-blooded murder by a psychotic man who had randomly chosen to

take the life of their beautiful, loving, and undeserving daughter. In 2001 the scars of their pain would suddenly give way to new open wounds. A phone call from the original detectives would horrify them as they learned that Donnah's husband, Marc, would ultimately be charged with her murder. Donnah's best friend, DeAnn, would summon up her courage and attempt to assuage her guilt by confessing that she had been having an affair with Marc and that he had threatened to kill Donnah.

Immediately following Donnah's death, Sara Jane flew out to Illinois and sent Donnah's things home to Florida. A decision was then made to bring Donnah's clothes to the Women In Distress (WID) thrift shop. Years later, after learning the truth about Donnah's death, Sara Jane would find the coincidence to be ironic. "For some unexplained reason I was drawn to bring all of her clothes there," Sara Jane reminisces.

In 2005, on the 10th anniversary of her death, the Dreschers paid the ultimate tribute to their daughter by establishing Donnah's Fund. "It was important to me to keep her spirit alive and make some good out of a horrendous event," Sara Jane comments. "Once Ira and I confirmed that Donnah was the ultimate victim of domestic violence, it seemed that Women in Distress was the most appropriate place to see if they would be interested in doing something." The fund now provides for housing payments, deposits, basic furnishings, and other necessities. "The money we raise through Donnah's Fund helps these women start over," Ira adds. To date, Donnah's Fund has helped over 72 families begin a new life.

Domestic violence touches every race, nationality, and class of people. Its destructive qualities reach beyond the immediate victim moving its tentacles out to children, parents, friends, and co-workers. Sadly, safe heavens have always been needed but were of limited availability. In 1974, Edee Greene, with other committed community

“Domestic violence touches every race, nationality, and class of people.”

members, began Broward County's first refuge for homeless women, Women In Distress (WID). Unfortunately, at the opening the agency was not licensed to accept children. A mother, in need of rescue from a violent domestic situation, came to the center for help. Separated from her children, she returned home to face her abuser, ultimately leading to her death one week later. WID rapidly responded by purchasing a facility that would house

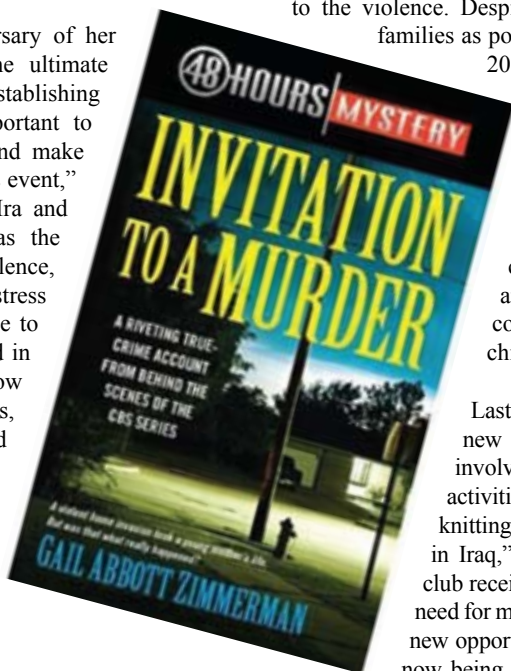
a 54 bed site and make the necessary licensing changes. With an endowment fund established in 1999 by Janet Boyle to secure future operations, Women In Distress has a new facility on 6.4 acres, with five buildings, that will have the capacity to house 100 women and their children.

According to the FBI, every day four women in this country alone die due to domestic violence. More than half of the women who are victims of domestic violence have children under the age of 12 in the home. The heartbreak is more intense as 8.8 million children are witnesses to the violence. Despite the efforts to service as many families as possible, 503 women and children, in 2007 alone, 857 were turned away!

At present, WID is the only certified domestic violence center serving Broward County providing emergency shelter, counseling, education, outreach, advocacy groups, and a 24 hour crisis hotline. WID also provides another 20,000 hours annually of counseling to women, men, and children as well.

Last May the Dreschers moved in to a new community. "I wanted to become involved in some of the community activities. There was a needlepoint group knitting afghans for the troops in a hospital in Iraq," Sarah says. The President of the club received word that there was no longer a need for more afghans, so Sarah jumped on this new opportunity to give back. The afghans are now being presented to the women at Women in Distress, a beautiful gift to serve as warm and fuzzy reminders of where they've been and to help them embrace their future with comfort and courage.

For more information on domestic violence visit: www.womenindistress.org -DUO



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We are all **ATHLETES**

We are all athletes; some are just better and in better shape than others. Frankly, regardless of our personal self-examination and in the interest of the good health, it is important that we care for ourselves as an athlete.

If you were a Professional or Olympic athlete, you would probably be treated by the gold standard in soft tissue injuries, a chiropractic approach called Active Release Technique (ART).

Generally, injuries of professionals, weekend warriors, or office employees occur from a variety of soft tissue overuse syndromes. Carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow, hip pointer, golfer's elbow, shin splints, tendonitis, or plantar fasciitis are a number of the common names for this type of injury to be found in various parts of the body.

These soft tissue injuries cause severe pain, are chronic, or can become chronic. They are usually difficult to treat, medically, since they are caused by structural dysfunction. Adhesions or entrapments within muscle layers or joint misalignments and dysfunction tend to be the culprit.

ART, when performed by a qualified practitioner, releases these adhesions causing the structure to move and function the way it ought to task. Once function is restored, the pain resolves. There

are no side effects, the problem is addressed, rather than masked, and the symptoms subside as function returns.

Athletes prefer these approaches because their bodies are their business; they must perform at 100% for as long as possible. So as "fellow athletes," we are the same: An accountant with carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) can be out of a job just as a football player with a knee injury. The medical approach for CTS is frequently a surgical approach called "retinacular release," which opens the "tunnel," but reduces the integrity of the wrist. The better and safer approach is with ART. A study of ART with CTS has been documented by Dr. P.M. Leahy, DC CCSP, who is the originator of ART. Two hundred twenty three (223) CTS patients referred by medical doctors and treated by Dr. Leahy between 1994 and 1995 had 215 successful outcomes with an average of 6 treatments. That is a 96.4% success rate.

It is difficult to accept that such amazing factual statistics have not swept the nation. But, then again, most people think of Chiropractors as low back pain specialists; and since medical doctors very rarely refer outside their profession, people have been left uninformed – "kept in the dark." Since 1995 many more advances in this technique have occurred which gifts us with yet a higher rate of success! All the more reason to look to ART, acupuncture and Applied Kinesiology...before considering "going under the knife."



Dr. Bernard S. Burton DC PA, is a Chiropractic Physician who is one of the first chiropractors in South Florida to become trained in ART. He is also a Clinical Nutritionist, Acupuncturist, and Craniopath. As a proficient doctor in Applied Kinesiology he uses this for the chronic, complicated patients with digestive and non-structural complaints.



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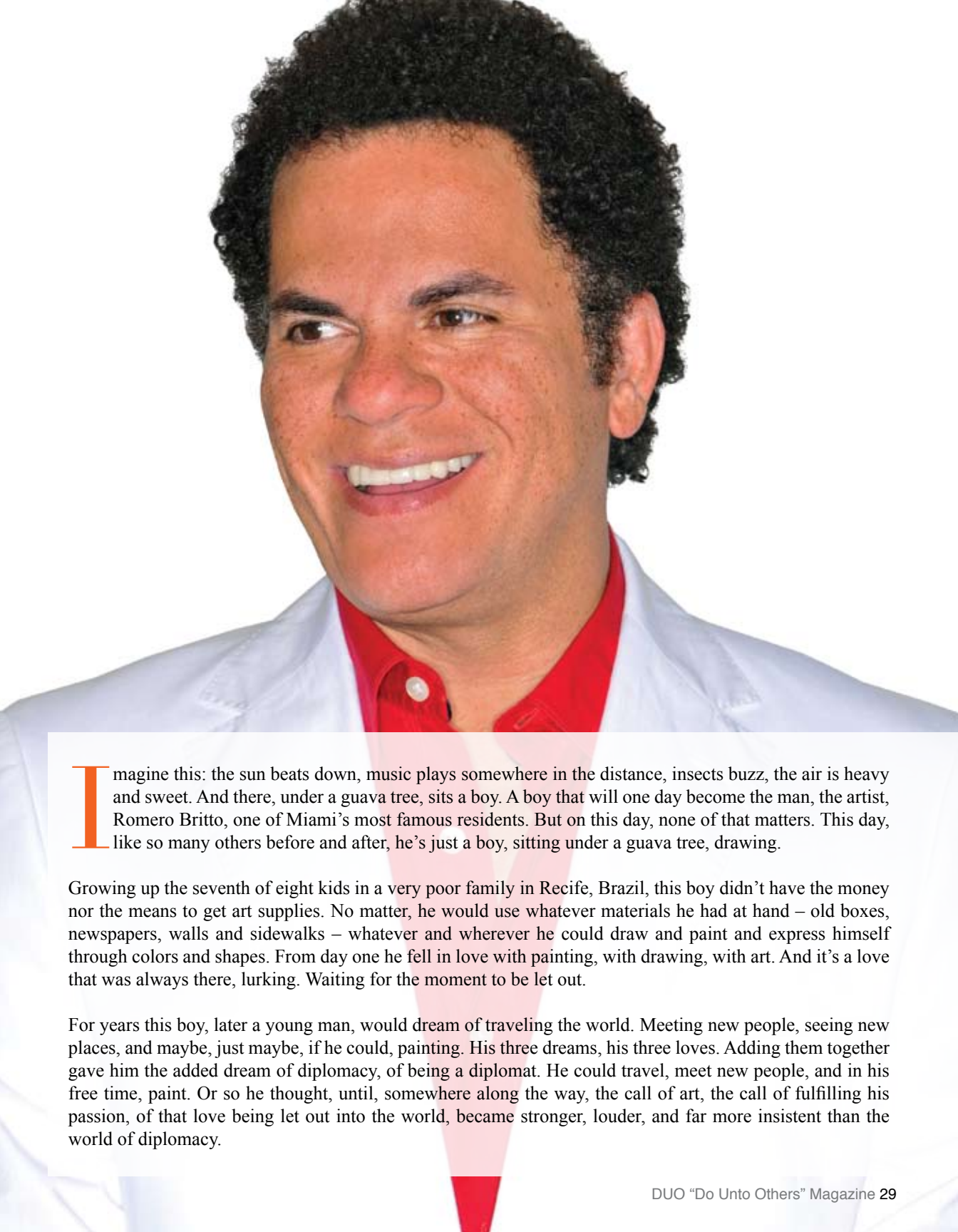
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ROMERO

BRITTO

Of Guava Trees And Happiness

By Francesca Franco



Imagine this: the sun beats down, music plays somewhere in the distance, insects buzz, the air is heavy and sweet. And there, under a guava tree, sits a boy. A boy that will one day become the man, the artist, Romero Britto, one of Miami's most famous residents. But on this day, none of that matters. This day, like so many others before and after, he's just a boy, sitting under a guava tree, drawing.

Growing up the seventh of eight kids in a very poor family in Recife, Brazil, this boy didn't have the money nor the means to get art supplies. No matter, he would use whatever materials he had at hand – old boxes, newspapers, walls and sidewalks – whatever and wherever he could draw and paint and express himself through colors and shapes. From day one he fell in love with painting, with drawing, with art. And it's a love that was always there, lurking. Waiting for the moment to be let out.

For years this boy, later a young man, would dream of traveling the world. Meeting new people, seeing new places, and maybe, just maybe, if he could, painting. His three dreams, his three loves. Adding them together gave him the added dream of diplomacy, of being a diplomat. He could travel, meet new people, and in his free time, paint. Or so he thought, until, somewhere along the way, the call of art, the call of fulfilling his passion, of that love being let out into the world, became stronger, louder, and far more insistent than the world of diplomacy.



And so, he quit. He quit the path that stretched out before him, in order to forge a new path. One entirely unfamiliar, probably more than a little scary, but filled with art, and passion, and love.

Looking back on it now, the man Romero Britto doesn't think he would have been able to do it, to answer the call, to forge that new path, if he'd been just a little older. "It's so important that the sooner you know what you love to do, that you make a move," he says. "Because the longer it takes, the more difficult it becomes. Because you become more worried and concerned and the moves are not that easy."

In his case, the moves led him to Europe, by way of Miami. Europe furthered his talents, but Miami is where he fell in love. With the place, the people, the temperature, the energy. Perhaps it was because it reminded him of his native Brazil, or perhaps it was simply that unspoken, alchemical reaction that sometimes happens. Whatever the reason, Miami became his home.

With his career, his passion, and his home clearly in focus, he began to make things happen for himself. Sometimes, they were serendipitous things, like when he left his work in a lawyer's office for the lawyer to look over, and by the time he came back to meet with the lawyer, several of his paintings had sold to eager people who just happened to stop by the office and see a pile of work stacked against the wall.

Sometimes, the happenings were monumental, like when Absolute Vodka came knocking, and hired him for a campaign

that featured his work in hundreds of glossy magazines around the world. From there, it became an avalanche: Pepsi, Disney, Evian... company after company hiring him for his bright images and easily recognizable work.

His work is littered all across Miami, with people from Gloria Estefan, to Oprah, to the late Michael Jackson as collectors. A few years ago, he did the Super Bowl half-time show. Asked what his favorite achievements are though, and he quickly picks out three: showing his work at The Louvre, in Paris; creating (and showing) the largest art installation to date in Hyde Park, in London (a 45 foot pyramid to commemorate the opening of a King Tut exhibit); and, most recently, when Harvard Professor Daniel Shapiro used Romero's art to illustrate two of his lectures.

These accomplishments, he points out, don't define him though: "The success of somebody is not one thing," he explains. Success is "a combination of many things that, if you do it, and if you are happy about it, that is the most important thing."

Perhaps the biggest component of his success – of any success, he believes – aside from happiness within yourself and your work, is being open: "It's really about me being open to opportunities," he says. "Me being open to good things in life. Because a lot of times people are not really open to good things in life. ... For some reason they are just locked into some way of thinking. I was open to all the possibilities, and every possibility, and basically that's what brought me to here, to today."

“With his career, his passion, and his home clearly in focus, he began to make things happen for himself.”



“But it’s not over,” he’s quick to add. Not even close – with pending projects ranging from dolling up the Miami Dolphins’ Land Shark Stadium, to an installation in New York City’s Central Park, and then a mysterious “something” at Rockefeller Center, Romero will be busy for some time to come. Not that he would want it any other way. Although... if there’s anything he would want more of, with all these opportunities and experiences under his belt, it’s time. “Time is everything,” he says. “It’s the most precious thing that I have. ... I always want to be able to create as much as possible, because time is so precious and it would be a waste of my life if I wouldn’t be able to do things every day, every moment. To stay without doing anything – I just can’t.”

It’s this attitude, this position, that makes people respond to his work. This wanton disregard for all things miserable and dark. To him it’s a language – the language of his art. A language that people connect with, and want more of in their lives. “It’s about ... what I’m trying to tell people through my art,” he says. “My message is the message of peace and love, and people, in general – it doesn’t matter where you come from – we all want that. We all want that peace and love. It doesn’t matter where you’re born [or] what you believe in: you want love, and you want peace. And you want to feel good, you want to feel happy. And I think that art is a universal language and I can talk to anybody, through my art.”

It’s almost hard to believe that anyone this positive, this happy, even exists. It’s an ongoing process, this attitude, this joie de vivre. And sometimes it’s a struggle too – but as with all things that really matter, it’s always worthwhile. “Happiness is very important. And we need to work on that, all the time. On keeping it, maintaining it, every day.

It’s a work in progress, all the time. People ... they expect art, and the artist, to be dramatic. ... But this is a different time, and I think too much drama sometimes is too much. I think we need things that keep us going.”

So what keeps him going? For a man that works so hard to bring happiness to others, what’s his idea of happiness? Simple. “To be in love all the time.” After a pause he adds: “And to have it back too. To be loved too. I think that’s beautiful. No matter what, if you love and you’re loved, that’s just a beautiful thing. You can go through everything.” -DUO



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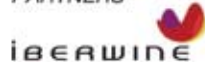


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EMERGING

GINELLE

Urban neoclassical... indescribable, and new. Consisting of sweet sultry vocals, blending R&B, pop, and classical all into one. That's how you can define Ginelle. Inspired by artists such as Diana Ross, Sade, Brandy, Mya, Beyonce, and Tamia, Ginelle's smooth and soulful vocals are a new twist on the classics.

DUO (D) How did you start your music career?

GINELLE (G): My mother enrolled me in a music school for piano when I was 7 years old. As a kid it was hard to take music seriously, so naturally I hated music school! It takes dedication and patience to play an instrument, the two skills most kids just don't have. I did stick with it, though, and started participating in bands and acting in the yearly school plays. When I was about 11, I mustered up the nerve to audition for a singing role and that was when I discovered my passion for singing.

D: What makes you stand out from other artists?

G: I am building a new sound that I call Urban Neo Classical. It's unheard of and consists of my sweet sultry vocals blending R&B, pop, and classical all into one. I'm also a little goofy sometimes and I am defiantly not afraid to be myself! My motto is "I'd rather sing before I talk, and I'd rather dance before I walk!" As backwards as it sounds, it's how I live!

D: With what other artists you have you collaborated?

G: I have written and recorded a few hooks for Sobe artist Stacks and Hollywood Jit. I also just finished working on a project with Haitian Fresh that is due to drop on his mixtape soon. There are some other special collaborations I am in the studio currently working on, but you guys have to stay tuned for the big announcement. I can't tell you who they are. Trust me, it's going to be HUGE!

D: What are some of the challenges you encountered throughout your career?

G: I started recording in the studio when I was 16. I was so



young and hopeful! I believed everything I heard. I would get all excited to meet with different A&R's and then I would get rejected over and over again. It was hard for me because I never expected to hear NO. I eventually got over it by learning to take all the critiques and use them to my advantage to better myself.

D: When is your album coming out?

G: Right now I am still in the studio working on mastering the new sound "Urban Neo Classical". I believe the album will drop when the music and the timing is right. I don't believe in rushing greatness.

D: What advice can you give to other emerging artists?

G: This is the rule I have lived by: never, never, ever, ever be gullible. No one can sell me a dream 'cause they don't sleep like me.

D: Do you do any charity work?

G: I've done a lot of charity work. I enjoy giving back. I recently volunteered with Habitat for Humanity building houses for the underprivileged. There is so much more that I would like to do. My family is from a very small country called St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It is a middle class country, but there are still villages where the people are hungry, do not have clean water, and still have no electricity. In the future I would really like to set up an organization to help develop these villages. - DUO

For more information go to: www.MySpace.com/Ohginelle

ARTISTS

Jazz Artist Aaron Bing decided music was his “thing” at an early age. Music was his place of comfort to escape from being lonely and unpopular. What he loved the most, music, allowed him to be himself unconditionally. His instruments are the wind beneath his wings and his music will take your breath away.

DUO (D): How did you start your musical career?

Aaron (A): I began my musical career at an early age. While in high school I was playing several musical instruments, creating, writing, and producing my own music. In fact, it was because of my love for gadgets and trying to fix broken instruments that I discovered my interest and later love for playing wind instruments. I would sneak into my grandmother’s bedroom to tinker with my aunt’s old and broken clarinet that was stored under her bed. I was determined to restore it and play it, which I did to the best of my ability. I practiced playing it every sneaking moment I could find. I decided then that music was “my thing”. It was my place to escape from being lonely and unpopular.

D: What and/or who was your inspiration?

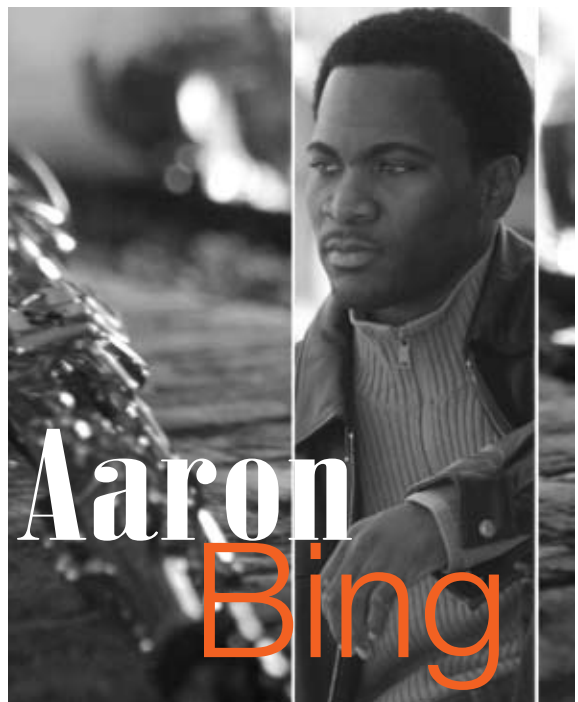
A: My grandmother, the late, Ola Mae Webster, who I affectionately call “Big Mama” raised, nurtured, and encouraged me to give my all to perfecting my God-given talents. She was the cornerstone of my inspiration. Under her guidance I spent most of my childhood in church. I would find refuge in my “secret place” learning to play various instruments. It is from this inspiration that I remember Big Mama’s voice saying to me, “Don’t forget who gave you the gift.”

D: What are the characteristics that make you stand out from other artists?

A: I experienced national recognition for my appearance on the “Late Show” with David Letterman for holding a musical note for 39 minutes and 40 seconds as a part of a Guinness World Record challenge. I have mastered learning to play 21 musical instruments, 18 of which are self-taught.

D: With what other artists have you collaborated?

A: I wrote a song entitled, “Thoughts of You,” for vocalist



Lenny Williams. Also, I wrote the lyrics and music for “Your Smile” which is found on the fourth track of my “Always” CD. Vocalist Jason Andino, an American Idol competitor, sings “Your Smile” on the CD.

D: What are some of the challenges you have encountered throughout your career? How did you overcome them?

A: My greatest challenges throughout my music career have been the lack of an endorsement by a major record label. So I created and established my own record label, *Century Records*. It was through *Century Records* that I produced and distributed “Softwinds”, “Always”, “Christmas Dreams”, and now the newly released CD titled “Secret Place”.

D: Do you work with any charitable foundations?

A: I volunteer and share my musical talent with aspiring musical students in schools, churches, and community centers. Eventually, I would like to assume a more significant role in advocating the importance of music in schools. A personal interest that I have is to assist unfortunate, yet talented, youth in acquiring musical instruments and musical training.

D: What are some of your career goals?

A: My goals are to continue to perfect my uniqueness as a smooth jazz artist with an usually long-winded ability to play the soprano and alto saxophone. In addition, I want to further develop the *Century Records* label to inspire and, eventually, produce other artists. - DUO

For more information go to: www.aaronbing.com



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Atiya Sewell



Black Crop Jacket,
Leifsdottir, \$348



Wardrobe:
Cream Blouse,
Jole, \$104
Gray Skirt,
Rebecca Taylor, \$250

Gold Earrings with
Clear Jewels,
Forever 21, \$4.80



Red Bag,
Forever 21, \$34.80

Gray Cardigan,
Rebecca Taylor, \$295



Black Patent Strap Heels,
YSL Vitello, \$795



Dark Gray Suede
Platform Ankle Boot,
YSL, \$1250



Photographed by Andre Rowe Clothing/Shoes available at Neiman Marcus, Galleria Mall 954.566.6666

Safiya Sewell



Wardrobe: Vintage



Bronze Necklace with Tiger Eye Stone, Vintage



Quartz White Blouse with Bow Trim, Leifsdottir, \$228

GOTTA HAVE IT!



Heather Cream Sweater, Leifsdottir, \$248



Silver Cuff Bracelet, Vintage



Black Stretch Jeans, 7 For All Mankind, \$185



Black Lace Bootie, Christian Louboutin, \$1115



Black Suede Platform Heels, Giambattista Valli, \$1020

FALL REVISITED

"Fall has new ways to keep your wardrobe fresh and in season"

Photographed By Andre Rowe

Makeup: Adrienne C. Amenta @ www.adriennedoesitall.com

Model: Rebekah Keida for Runway Models

Stylist: Atiya Sewell

Stylist Assistant: Safiya Sewell

A woman with blonde hair styled in a bun, wearing a dark brown leather motorcycle jacket over a grey and purple sleeveless blouse, and high-waisted brown and black tweed pants. She is leaning against a white textured wall next to a window with a white frame. The text 'TOUGH LEATHER' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

TOUGH LEATHER

Grey/Purple Sleeveless Blouse,
Alice + Olivia, \$242

Brown Leather Jacket,
Tory Burch, \$795

Brown/Black Tweed Pants,
Leifsdottir, \$298



DEFINED WAIST

Grey Dress with Belted Waist,
Akris, \$995

Teagan Patent and
Calf Metallic Heels,
Tory Burch, \$375

Black Sheer Stockings,
Wolford Logic Pantyhose, \$38



ALL THINGS RED

Lila J in Red,
Diane Von Furstenberg, \$365

**Black Snake Skin
Leather Belt,**
Neiman Marcus, \$130

**Calzature Donna
in Black Suede,**
Prada, \$690

Black Sheer Stockings,
Wolford Logic Pantyhose, \$38

A woman with blonde hair styled in a bun is leaning against a large, weathered wooden post. She is wearing a black boyfriend-style jacket, a black lace-up top, black shorts, sheer stockings, and black lace-up wedge sandals. The background shows a waterfront with other wooden posts and a building in the distance.

the BOYFRIEND JACKET

Sarita in Black,
Diane Von Furstenberg, \$85

Black Boyfriend Jacket,
7 For All Mankind, \$275

Black Lace Up Wedges,
Givenchy, \$795

Black Sheer Stockings,
Wolford Logic Pantyhose, \$38



SEQUENCE REVIVED

Black Sequined Cardigan,
Roberto Cavalli, \$1565

Black Stretch Jeans,
7 for All Mankind, \$185

Black Patent Pumps,
Christian Louboutin, \$595

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\$1050



Silver and Black Suede
with Lucite Heel Boot,
\$1075



Black and
Patent Leather Cut Out Boot,
\$1025



Black Suede Embellished
Ankle Boot,
\$3490

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Alice + Olivia by Stacey
Bendet, \$242

Purple V Neck Dress,
Alice + Olivia by Stacey
Bendet, \$198

Tessa Jacket,
Elie Tahari \$598

Lucite Necklace,
Neiman Marcus, \$170

FALL *at* PLAY

Photographed By Andre Rowe



40'S & FABULOUS

Cathedral Dress,
Leifsdott, \$328

Fish Net Stockings,
Spanx Control-Top
Fishnets, \$28

T-Strap Black Heels,
Christian Louboutin, \$855

THIS SUITS YOU



Quartz White Blouse,
Leifsdottir, \$228

Blue Needle Skirt,
Leifsdottir, \$258

Maldonado Rocha Snake Heels,
Tory Burch, \$396

Model: Melissa Bell | Wardrobe available at Neiman Marcus, Galleria Mall 954.566.6666

DRAPE HOUR

Golden Tiger Dress,
Diane Von Furstenberg, \$298

Fish Net Stockings,
Spanx Control-Top Fishnets, \$28

Very Prive Glitter Heels,
Christian Louboutin, \$775

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Navy Blue Suede Heels, Yves Saint Laurent, \$798



Taupe Suede Flats with Gold Buckle, Tory Burch, \$295



Blue Suede Flats, Manolo Blahnik, \$395

Black Suede and Patent Platform Heels with Pearl Detail, Chanel, \$1045



Gray Suede Sloched Knee High Boots, Christian Louboutin, \$1275



Black Suede Knee High Boots, Tory Burch, \$550



Egg Plant Suede Knee High Boots, Chanel, \$1325



Black Patent Platform Heels, Christian Louboutin, \$735

Photographed by Andre Rowe

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STONE ROSE

Fit for a business executive, a fashionisto or for the one that leans toward the easy-to-wear wardrobe picks, Stone Rose (www.livestonrose.com) is a “must-have” apparel staple. Inspired by the day-into-night lifestyle, the line of men’s wovens offers a vibrant collection of contemporary styles.

“Woven shirts have become a significant part of both my work and social attire,” says Jonathan Sharvit, founding partner of Stone Rose. “Finding it difficult to purchase this men’s staple at a moderate price, I viewed this market void as a business opportunity.”

The brainchild of Sharvit and childhood friend (and

designer), Shai Medalsy, the two Montreal transplants brought inspiration to reality launching the brand in April 2007. The brand’s defining characteristics encompass style, comfort, and versatility with a button down that easily changes its feel by the flip of the cuff or the pop of a collar.

Following the brands mantra of “living in the now,” Medalsy, has wasted no time growing the business. A collection of winter blazers is already available, this just after the celebration of their first flagship store opening in the Dominican Republic.

“A recession is what you make of it,” says Medalsy. “I see it as an opportunity for growth. We have a great product, at a great price point, now is our time to shine.”—DUO



MEN'S



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Armani Collezioni, \$505

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Abas for Neiman Marcus, \$30

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Salvatore Ferragamo, \$475

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Prada, \$1100

Shave Kit,
The Art of Shaving, \$60



Photographer: Amanda Breitt BreittAmanda@aol.com

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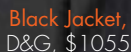
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HOT HAIR BUZZ

Brazilian Keratin Treatments

By Sharon Athanasiou

If shinier, smoother tresses with zero frizz sounds appealing, then a Brazilian keratin treatment may be just what you're looking for on your next visit to the salon! With its homemade beginnings in a kitchen somewhere in Brazil, La-Brasiliana's Keratin Treatment With Collagen takes your average head of hair and transforms it into a mane of the most lustrous locks that seem to be spun from pure silk.

"This is not a straightening treatment," says Linda Vazquez, owner of Boheme Beauty in Pembroke Pines. "It eliminates frizz, softens curls, flattens, and adds manageability."

Following the La-Brasiliana treatment expertly done on my hair by Linda, which includes applying the treatment liquid and then painstakingly sealing it in with a 450-degree (yes, it has to be that hot!) flat iron, for the four days that followed, I wasn't allowed to wash my hair (in the midst of a heat wave, not too fun), use clips, or wear a ponytail. But the results, which last about 3 months, were dramatic and immensely worthwhile: My hair morphed into a total state of sleek, glossy, picture-perfect health like I've never had before. Although I didn't become pin-straight (again, this is not an actual straightener), as an added bonus, my hair certainly did get straighter than it was.

"Keratin is strengthening, and fills in any areas that are porous," according to Linda. The collagen improves elasticity. And, Linda adds, even bleached blondes can do this treatment with absolutely no damage.

The post care is simple: Avoid shampoos or styling products containing sodium (i.e., sodium lauryl sulfate), which would leach out the keratin. Visit www.la-brasiliana.com to find a salon offering the treatment near you, and to view their sodium-free product line, or call Boheme Beauty to arrange an appointment at 954-435-5160. -DUO

BEFORE



AFTER





Essential Wholesale Sulfate-Free Clear Baby Shampoo (www.essentialwholesale.com): A mild aloe-based formula with the calming properties of lavender and chamomile.



Philip B Maui Wowie Beach Mist (www.philipb.com): Sea salt, aloe vera, and exotic plant oils give your hair volume, fullness, and an "I just came from the beach" texture.

NATURALLY BETTER (for your hair!)

As "going green" continues to become a priority for so many, why not take a step in the right direction with your hair care? Seek out products with ingredient lists that focus more heavily on botanicals, and less on chemicals that may be harmful to you and the environment. Here are some of our top picks.



Ren Glycolactic Skin Weleda Rosemary Hair Oil (www.weleda.com): A few drops deeply condition hair and scalp, while restoring luster, with clover, lavender, and rosemary.



Carol's Daughter Black Vanilla Leave-In Conditioner (www.carolsdaughter.com): A convenient spray-on that includes calendula, rosemary, and sage to detangle, refresh, and replenish moisture.

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Sandra Franco, MD, and Alejandra Perez, MD, founding directors of Memorial Breast Cancer Centers, were recently joined by breast oncologists Carmen Calfa, MD, and Aruna Mani, MD.



Sandra Franco, MD
Director

Memorial Breast Cancer Centers
Hematologist/Oncologist



Alejandra Perez, MD
Director

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Business on Brickell, Finally Boutique-Friendly

Smaller firms that covet the Brickell area, but not the square footage price tag, are moving to Miami's premiere business address, Latitude One. At the center of the Miami River Renaissance, Latitude One features 230,000 square feet of masterfully-designed, Class-A office space designed by the world-renowned architectural firm Arquitectonica with floor-to-ceiling windows revealing unobstructed views of Biscayne Bay and the Brickell skyline.

Specializing in boutique office suites starting at 647 square feet, Latitude One's turn-key, move-in ready units and fully-furnished executive suites are ideal for small attorney offices, fund managers, insurance agents and accounting firms as well as creative professions including advertising and graphic design. Latitude One worked with Roundhill Interiors, a leader in commercial build-outs, to develop custom concepts for timely construction and design. Independent office space with flexible lease terms starts at \$25 a square foot.

"Latitude One has successfully filled a niche with boutique firms, who some say are better positioned financially in this economy, by offering smaller spaces that are big on design with flexible, short-term leasing solutions," said Karen Fish-Will, President of Peabody Real Estate, LLC and Vice-President of Peabody Properties Miami which manages Latitude One. "Also, in an effort to grow and expand with our tenants, we are currently developing a larger 9,000-square-foot executive suite floor that we expect to be ready for the fall."

Distinguished by an elegant lobby and an array of professional amenities, Latitude One stands in the heart of Brickell's residential, financial and entertainment district which is home to more than 100 international and domestic financial institutions, the state and federal courthouses and only 15 minutes from the Miami International Airport.

"In addition, Latitude One is located within Brickell's enterprise zone, an address that translates into huge tax benefits for business owners including credits for wages and property and sales tax breaks," said Fish-Will.

Latitude One's architectural blueprint can accommodate almost any floor plan configuration up to 19,000 square feet with column-free space and state-of-the-art amenities. Beneath its imposing architectural design is a relaxed atmosphere uncommon to similar, major metropolitan areas. At the focal point is the Riverfront Promenade, which boasts a unique ambiance and world-class bistro with indoor and outdoor seating along the waterfront.

Latitude One is easily accessible to all major thoroughfares and only a short walk from the Metrorail and Metromover station. The building features valet parking, a secured, private parking garage, visitor screening and photo badges upon entry and high-speed elevators. Other on-site amenities include an OXO concierge dry cleaning service and Pronto Car Wash.



Latitude One, Miami's first high-rise building to use steel in place of concrete construction is built to withstand a Category 5 hurricane carrying winds greater than 155 m.p.h. All the windows, including the curtain walls, throughout Latitude One's 230,000 square feet of office space are hurricane impact-resistant and meet the Miami Dade Hurricane Code of 175 m.p.h. wind resistance. The 24-story building also boasts a generator to maintain emergency power for commercial tenants during and after the storm.

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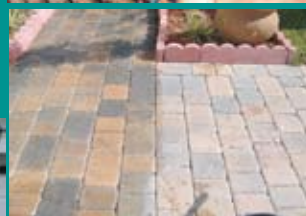
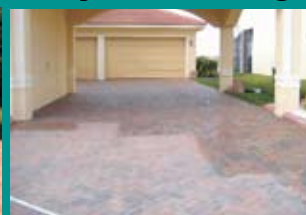
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SUSAN "SUSIE Q" WOOD

Susan 'Susie Q' Wood describes her current artwork as "quantum expression," a reflection of the energy of life itself - the energy of all things. Her artistry seems to be ever-evolving, much like "Calliope," her painting that is never-ending.

Like many prolific artists, Susan was always "the painter." She began painting as a child with coloring books and paint-by-number kits. Early on, she became comfortable with coloring and drawing outside of the lines. As an adult, in the 70's her paintings were psychedelic, in the 80's impressionistic, and in the 90's photo-realistic.

In 1999, Susan took a hiatus from painting to focus her creative energies on being the publisher and editor of the first Broward County edition of "Natural Awakenings", a healthy lifestyle monthly magazine. Additionally, Susan took on the task of developing and producing the first annual "Expo of Heart". Over seven consecutive years, the event grew to serve over 2,000 people.

Susan recognizes the co-creative artwork as a way to give back to the community. She participated in events such as, Goin' Green (Museum of Science & Discovery), Water Matters, Eco-Challenge and Green Expo 2009. She has co-created artwork in Florida, California and Japan. As a member of ArtServe and the Broward Art Guild, she states, "I'm grateful to be able to share my work with so many others in a way that is fun and non-judgmental."

For additional information about Susie Q's co-created work or gallery events, visit: www.SusieQwebsite.com. -DUO





Copyright Marlyne Alexander

URAYOÁN “YOA” RUIZ PANEQUE

Urayoán “YOA” Ruiz, a graduate of Florida International University, attributes his motivation, enrichment, and strong sense of identity to his family in Puerto Rico and Cuba who brought him up to appreciate and acknowledge, with great pride, his Hispanic roots.

Yoa’s work focuses on stretching the boundaries of creativity. Starting as a photo-realistic painter, he constantly felt challenged to try something new. His artistic style has been an evolution that has led him to develop an approach that is uniquely his own.

The true essence of his ‘Signature Series’ reflects music, nature, love, and the positive things in life. His diverse color palette captivates audiences and invites them to come closer. Yoa’s paintings (www.yoaart.com) are filled with patterns, shapes, and lines that create movement and often lead viewers to look for symbols and meanings. Done entirely freehand, without the use of stencils or projections, the “unique” patterns in every one of his creations is what makes his work so well-received in the art world.



Yoa’s work has been featured in publications such as the Miami Herald and Art Business News. He currently resides in Miami, with his beautiful wife Cathy, where he is continuously working on new projects. -DUO





LIGHT, COLOR, *ACTION!*

Art Space in Miami Shines Through the Darkness

By Cynthia Lechan-Goodman

A haven of art was born in the gritty Miami neighborhood of little Haiti and has become a safe, precious, and thriving location ever since. Founder, Rachel Hughes, with her steadfast Zen-type wisdom, and artist, Veronica Rivera, emoting the intensity of her love and passion, have created a place that is more than just a gallery or an art school. They have created an artistic oasis.

An artist herself, Rachel founded the studio in 2007 with the knowledge of the power of art to transform kids' lives based on her own experiences. Rachel's deep insights come from her personal experience as an at-risk teen. Growing up in poverty and a dysfunctional family situation she reveals that she had given up on life, but through art, and a caring mentor, everything changed for her. She went on to

obtain degrees, certificates, and experience in art education, marketing, program development and planning, media and design, established a mural business, and created school curriculums and programs for inner city and at-risk kids. Since 1985 she has developed and instructed Creative Vision Arts Education Programs for Children and Teens as a volunteer! Her passion is her payment. The success of her children her reward.

Rachel describes these community kids as severely at risk, below poverty level, many with no running water, daily hunger, without any exposure to anything at all out of the neighborhood.

Coming into Art Space through the purple door, adults and children are met with a colorful warm and inspirational mural. The top of the stairs opens to ample breathing space,



in stark contrast to the oppression of the neighborhood outside. Supplies line the walls, along with an intriguing exhibit from the *Rosential School of Marine Science*, part of co-founder and art teacher Veronica's current program on water conservation for kids ages 7-12.

Veronica, a passionately inspiring environmentalist, is exploring ocean conservation with her kids as the basis of the message for their artwork. But it has not been an easy process. Veronica describes, "In my first program on water conservation I asked them to draw something that would tell people to save water, with them as a hero. This time I asked my teens to think up an idea for a clean beach poster. Both of these were exercises where they had the chance to use their own ideas in the art. It wasn't a lesson plan where they follow instructions to create. But they had no idea of what to draw. Their initial reaction was moaning and complaining, didn't know what to draw, so they gave up! At first some would say they hate art or they don't know how to draw. Last week two boys refused to do it so I came up with a solution. I pulled them aside and had a little lesson on how to draw a shark. Theirs was better than mine, and they were happy that they did it, so I asked them to practice it in their sketchbooks and then use their shark sketches for creating their clean beach poster." Veronica adds that it takes a while for them to get the spark. "If they don't understand, or don't think their work is good, or they find it too challenging, they give up trying, that's why we need mentors for kids," she says.

So how does this transformation with the kids get started? When kids come in, Rachel says, they only care about three things: money, food, and getting a job, even if a kid is 8 years old. Career relevancy was the answer Rachel found. For these kids, Rachel explains, even if they feel they are not good at art, she can show them how art can help them to get a job. With her initial interview with each one, she shows them samples of a MySpace page complete with pictures of art work accomplished, a bio, and a resume, all of which she can help them achieve. The studio is affiliated with DASH High School and their portfolio requirements. This same portfolio preparation standard is beneficial for

students applying to any arts college or career school. The focus of the program is to use the arts as learning tools to develop life skills and stimulate creative thinking.

Veronica has seen the transformation. She says, "Her kids are pretty much hard on the outside. They act like they don't want to be there, nervous. Because parents don't encourage them, they are shut down and withdrawn. Few parents are supportive, some left kids there for me to walk home at 8pm. I arrange field trips to take kids out. It's tough to get applications signed, but in two or three days they're hugging me, and now they say they can't wait to go to sleep in order to wake up and come in to study art!"

The staff at the center consists of some excellent professionals and mentors—all volunteer. They include: a bilingual speech language pathologist, a certified mental health professional, a life skills professional. And programs here are not only for the kids, but for everyone. Several workshops are on the plans including one on magazine publishing, and one on animation. Upcoming workshops are also planned for adults and families including a 3-day Saturday Eco/Art Workshop, and there is a monthly Open Studio.

Rachel's goal is to make the center a complete holistic environment with both professionals and mentors with expertise in the range of arts: dance, nutrition, music, performance, etc. "We have worked to create a safe creative location, where qualifying mentors, many who would not normally sign up for mentoring in ghetto areas, are encouraged to travel to where they can feel safe, meet and participate as a mentor for this population of at-risk youth. Artists can have a work and exhibition space while demonstrating their craft to the kids, and then the kids also benefit by seeing work in progress," she says. She envisions the center to be a place of unity in a community that divides the rich and poor, with art as the ties that bind.

Art brings many things to many people. But when asked, "What does art bring to these kids?" Veronica's answer is as simple as it is beautiful and profound, "Art brings peace".-DUO



ART AND COMPASSION IS LOVE IN ACTION

By Sandra Bueno

At first glance Art and Compassion seems merely to be providing meals and groceries to the homeless and working poor men, women, and children of West Palm Beach. What many do not realize is that this nonprofit ministry, run by the physical and spiritual commitment of Pastors Olga and Marvin Smith, who spend a great amount of time during the week at street level building relationships and assessing intervention, features an artistic creative component using visual art, drama, poetry, dance, music, and theatre to bring a message of hope and transformation to the needy.

Through the artistry of the couple's three adult daughters and professionally trained and inspirationally-led artists, writers, composers and visionaries, the homeless are given an opportunity to see and feel the power of art and break through societal molds, bypassing prejudices and reaching the soul.

The ministry's Musical Director, Jazz and Latin World Music composer and instrumentalist, Barry Stoffberg, who has worked with Teddy Mullet (trumpeter/Brass Director for Gloria Estefan's band) and Rashawn Ross of the "Dave Matthew's Band," are two volunteers responsible for motivation and transformation. "We create a receptive atmosphere of good vibes, uplifting and inspirational, helping the homeless be receptive to what the ministry has outside of the plate of food we give them," says Barry. These dedicated volunteers and a handful of devoted others share and live the ministry's slogan: "Compassion is love in action."

One-on-one counseling is offered to evaluate the individual's preparedness to get off the streets through an out-of-state recovery program. When the homeless are

ready to get off the cycle of their addictive life-controlling issues like drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, sexual addiction, violence, physical, mental, and emotional abuse, Art and Compassion presents a bridge to recovery utilizing poetry as the spoken word and original music as therapy for self-expression and acceptance.

What started in 1996 as an outreach for pregnant and battered women and children now has participants sharing the stage and mingling with vocal and instrumental artists from the local universities, and even celebrity artists such as Hillary Duff who served at a feeding, and local authors like David Geliebter, whose book "Underbelly" (www.hopeandpromise.org) is the riveting tale of a young person's transformation by the intervention of Art & Compassion.

"Our ministry is one of hope and redemption," says Pastor Olga Smith. Without much of a budget, and relying on the supernatural force of faith, they are able to provide meals twice a week, distribute groceries from their food pantry, while providing intervention and prevention strategies for victims of abuse. Offering entry and transportation to recovery/rehabilitative centers around the country, advocating for the rights of the homeless and the disenfranchised, undertaking mission trips to third world countries, including Cuba, providing hurricane relief/disaster assistance, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration and gift outreach, Art and Compassion exceeds your ordinary ministry. "Though the ministry uses food as bait, the purpose of using the arts and its resources is to minister and help those in need," says Pastor Smith.

To contact Art and Compassion call 561-683-0707 or visit them online on FaceBook.-DUO

The mission of Art and Compassion is to provide hope and redemption for men, women, and children who are trapped by homelessness, generational poverty, violence, drug addiction, and prostitution. It is the organization's calling to reach out and meet the physical and spiritual needs of these people.

Underbelly: The Palm Beach No One Talks About by David Martin Geliebter, is an insightful, honest, look into the minds and hearts of the homeless in Palm Beach County. Told in their own words, with detailed accounts by the people who continue to live in pain day after day, this book gives an identity to those once faceless, destitute souls that might otherwise have fallen through the cracks of society. The irony that in one of the most affluent communities in the country such circumstances exist and are completely overlooked is a compelling part of the story in itself.



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Art and Compassion is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



Art and Compassion Inc.



The P.A.T.H. To CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Exploring Creative Avenues In Miami's Hip-Hop Culture

By Cat Wagman

Every dream shines a light on a path to be followed. The challenge is to have the courage to create a path that others can follow. Seth “Brimstone” Schere has lived and experienced the volatile dynamics of the hip-hop culture in Miami. Through it all, he discovered new opportunities for young people who just needed successful mentors to show them the way.

Pulling from events, social media networking, and relationships he developed, he gathered a willing team of well-known hip-hop culture pioneers such as local writers, performing artists, entrepreneurs, and motivational speakers. Then, with the financial support of the Miami Light Project, he created the community program known as P.A.T.H. (www.myspace.com/pathmiami).

By Preserving, Archiving and Teaching hip-hop History, (P.A.T.H.) gives Miami's troubled youth a safe, legal venue to express their creativity. Whether it is writing, urban art, mc'ing, rapping, dj'ing, b-boying or b-girling, the lessons taught and demonstrated by Brimstone, his guest artists and speakers are changing the perceptions. They are changing the self-defeating beliefs of these youth by giving them the opportunity to live and experience their dream careers.

P.A.T.H. is also changing the public's preconceived notions as well. For too long the mysterious side of the hip-hop culture has led to misconceptions, which have had a profound impact on personal, family, and community relationships. By grounding the P.A.T.H. program in reality and legitimacy, Brimstone has developed a broad curriculum to help the youth who have the chance to participate. One group, in particular, includes those who have dappled in “writing.” They usually don't know exactly what they are getting into when they illegally “tag” (writer's signature handstyle, the simplest form of graffiti)

or do a “throw up” (writer's name done to cover someone else's tag) on a wall.

By taking these youth off the streets, and sharing “The Laws of Writing,” Brimstone educates them, first, on what could happen to them — getting a serious beatdown, arrested or worse. Then, he shows them how they can turn their lives around in a positive way by redirecting their creative energies.

“Hip-hop saved my life,” says Brimstone. “It gave me direction. Hip-hop culture and its philosophy of creative expression — through its art, dance, music, promotion, and fashion — these are the successful career paths I want to share with others.”

In 2008, P.A.T.H. became a fully-funded, four-week summer camp program for 25 kids. However, due to the economy and severe budget cuts, in 2009, the P.A.T.H. program was cut back to a partially funded, one-week program. Once P.A.T.H. gets its 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization status, it can expand its search for funding through grants and other donations from the public and private sectors.

Building personal independence, responsibility, and self-esteem are a few of the benefits P.A.T.H. brings to the table. As support grows for this community program, Brimstone is looking forward to establishing P.A.T.H. to other cities across the country. Ultimately, he's laying the foundation to open a school solely devoted to the hip-hop culture. “A path is something you choose to go on,” says Brimstone, “and to able to offer P.A.T.H. as a positive choice to others is one of many things I choose to do. I feel so blessed when people come up to me on the street, or after one of my performances, and they tell me how I helped them change their lives forever through hip-hop.”-DUO

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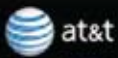
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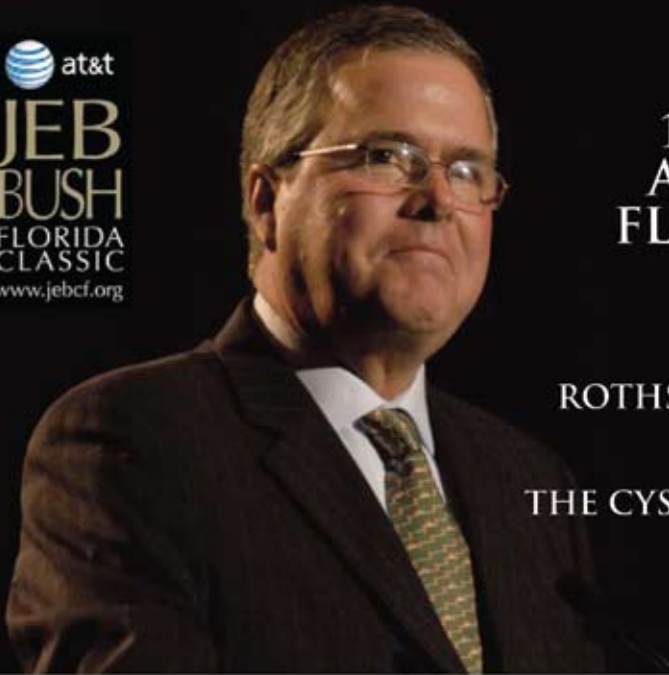
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LINDA BOWMAN: DEFYING *the* ODDS *with* EVERY BREATH

By Stu Opperman



The specter of death has been a constant companion for nearly all of Linda Bowman's 48 years. At the age of three, doctors hit Linda's parents with a devastating prognosis: "Your child has a genetic condition," they reported, "and likely won't live to see her 9th birthday."

That disease, cystic fibrosis (CF), attacks the lungs and digestive system with unusually thick, sticky mucus and has a daunting reputation for taking its victims young. By the time she was a teenager, struggling with the self-esteem issues most go through at that age, Linda carried the added burden of being told her life would probably be over by 18. "The life expectancy issue was huge," she says now, with obvious understatement of the years that featured CF-related juvenile diabetes, numerous hospital stays, and an admittedly "haphazard" lifestyle. "I didn't follow CF protocol or take care of myself. I just wanted to be a 'regular' teenager. I didn't know what life was supposed to be about, and assumed I wouldn't have the time to figure it out," Linda says.

CF robbed Linda of the college experience. She dropped out after constant digestive and pulmonary issues, which led to depression and a feeling she "couldn't compete." However, the disease seemed to go looking for an easier mark in the years that followed. Linda also took a more aggressive stand against cystic fibrosis during her mid-20's, prioritizing exercise, nutrition, and holistic practices into a daily regimen that improved her life.

Today, Linda continues to fight the good fight and keep a positive attitude. New drugs, inhaler therapies, CF care centers, and a commitment to research by the *Cystic Fibrosis Foundation* (CFF) (www.cff.org) have saved others from the same deadlines Linda faced. However, additional resources are still needed to find a cure. That's why the Boca Raton resident is committed to the *AT&T Jeb Bush Florida Classic* (www.jebcf.org), a multi-event

fundraiser chaired annually by the former Florida governor that has generated approximately \$4.5 million for CFF since 1996.

Linda has shared her experiences with event attendees, something she believes is her calling. "God has chosen me to convey this message and it is my responsibility to give those who haven't been touched by the disease a window into our world. It's a physical and emotional roller coaster every day. We're literally fighting for our lives, but I'm happy if hearing my story gives a clearer picture of the reality of CF," Linda says.

Approximately 1,100 people in Florida face a daily struggle to breathe and break down and absorb food, since the mucus they produce clogs the lungs and obstructs the pancreas. CF is a particularly insidious disease, with its sufferers never quite sure what tomorrow will bring or whether there will be a tomorrow at all.

"Linda is an inspiration to all of us committed to beating this disease," says Chris Landshut, Executive Director of the *Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's* South Florida office. "She's a living, breathing example of what is possible and a role model for younger CF patients who are empowered seeing she is not in a wheelchair or on oxygen. Linda provides hope."

Linda says she is optimistic for the next generation of cystic fibrosis sufferers. The defective gene that causes CF was identified in 1989 and life expectancy has doubled in the past 25 years. Yet she is uncomfortable with the plight of others her age and beyond. "Lots of older people are really suffering and dying, but still aren't seen as sick enough to qualify for transplants. It is a huge problem we're facing. Our fight doesn't get nearly the headlines. Other issues do simply because there aren't that many of us," Linda says.

Meanwhile, more than 45 years after doctors first projected the end point of her life and a decade past the median age of survival for those with cystic fibrosis, Linda Bowman continues to live on the clock. - DUO



REEL World

BILLY CORBEN: *A "Cut" Above the Rest*

By Rachel Galvin



With very little patience for the “development hell” (the lengthy time it takes to get a film off the ground) often intrinsic to the Hollywood scene, filmmaker Billy Corben is content to do it himself. “We are very production oriented,” he says.

Using the documentary as his form of expression, this storyteller and his Rakontur team (his company) has created some of the most unique concepts and film ideas that sometimes the A-list production companies “don’t understand,” but that the public clamors for. Perhaps he is best known for “Cocaine Cowboys,” a documentary with what turned out to have an instant cult-like following, about the drug industry in the 80’s in Miami. “When we went to pitch it, nobody got it,” he admits.

This truth-teller began his venture into the cinematic scene with his longtime pal Alfred Spellman by playing around with cameras at an early age. But, professionally, their first foray was the movie “Raw Deal: A Question of Consent,” a documentary of an alleged rape of an erotic dancer on the campus of the University of Florida. Luckily for Billy, the film not only got attention, but was shown at Sundance. That was enough to get people to take notice and to encourage him to pursue his dream.

The timing for his classic “Cocaine Cowboys” was perfect. Grand Theft Auto had just hit the top of the popularity

charts for the video-gamer crowd and the “Scarface” DVD had just surfaced. In addition, Michael Mann’s “Miami Vice” was coming out. It was obvious the nostalgia factor was in perfect synchronicity with this concept.

Spellman knew all about the personalities behind the early Miami drug trade and, before they knew it, the dominoes fell into place. “Spellman was a real buff,” says Billy. One by one, the team started obtaining interviews with the actual people behind the drug wars, starting with Jon Roberts. “It was about finding the right person at the right time,” he mentions, as he explained becoming a pen pal with the hit man before meeting him in person. “The Florida Department of Corrections was terrific.”

The resulting film became popular before it was even released as bootleg copies were circulated and people on the street just had to get their hands on this material. “I went to the flea market and I saw it playing,” Billy says. “Between the time it was at Tribeca and the theatrical release, people at the barber shop had seen it 30-40 times and could recite it by heart.” Embracing this, rather than going against it, Billy and crew chose to capture the momentum by documenting it in a web series called “The Streets of Miami: The ‘Cocaine Cowboys’ Phenomenon.” Billy explains why people are so thirsty for what he offers. “We’re real. We know what we [and people] want to see,” he says.

It is perhaps this underground popularity that, in an unusual twist, has brought Hollywood to his front doorstep. Not only has “Cocaine Cowboys” gone on to sequel status (Look for “Cocaine Cowboys II: Hustlin’ With The Godmother” on

DVD.) The third installment is on the way, but now concept heavy hitters Michael Bay and Jerry Bruckheimer will be working with Rakontur on an HBO TV show based on the concept.

When asked why he felt the Hollywood top producers wanted to work with him on this new HBO venture, he says, "Because they know we get s*** done."

He has been pleased with the faster-than-usual development pace. "It's been rapid development so far. If all goes well, we should be in front of the cameras by 2010."

Since he won't be in the director's chair for this one, what will be his role as an Executive Producer? "The Executive Producer's main role is to ensure authenticity and attention to detail," he explains.

His first step has been to give a tour to "Cold Case" creator Meredith Stiehm, who will be writing the script, showing her locations in Miami that he terms "frozen in time," that could easily be used as "period" locations without a major change. "She has incorporated many of them already into the script," he says.

In the meantime, Billy is not staying still. His mind is abuzz with activities and ideas. He is developing a half-hour series for Adult Swim called "Square Grouper" with Pharrell Williams and is working on a graphic novel. He is putting together a stage play with, as he describes, "the most riveting and chilling information." He is also creating a "photo book" for MTV, working with hip-hop artists on music. Nothing seems out of reach.

He has already done a web series called "Clubland," a behind-the-velvet-rope look at the challenges of running a nightclub, and now co-owns what has been titled Best Bar in 2009 by "Miami New Times," the Bella Rose, located in SoBe. It was quickly a hotspot for celebrities like Justin Timberlake, Tom Cruise (and Katie) and many others.

Rakontur is currently working on a documentary called "Dawg Fight" about kids in Perrine taking their aggressions out in the makeshift boxing ring in the backyard, rather than shooting it out in gang turfs, a concept given a lot of credence lately through programs such as the Broward Sheriff's Office's "Gloves Not Guns."

Currently filming a documentary called "The U," chronicling the history of the University of Miami football program for ESPN, and finishing up "Limelight", a film about famed nightclub mogul Peter Gatier, it is evident that Billy's future is as bright as his smile...and equally as addictive for the myriad of fans who are anxiously awaiting their next Corben fix. -DUO

Keep up to date with their projects at www.rakontur.com.

Besides being a journalist, Rachel Galvin has been involved in the film industry for over 10 years as an actor, producer and more. Check out her blog/networking portal at www.independentstreak.ning.com or www.rachelgalvin.net.





ISRAEL DAYAN

"Art Imitating Life"

By Rachel Galvin

Israel Dayan knows everything about "Art Imitating Life". A visual artist and documentary filmmaker who came to America at the age of 24, Israel spent the better part of his life learning how to mentor young students through the medium of filmmaking. Born and raised in Israel, and having spent many years teaching television production and managing a local television station, it was his work in the Joint Distribution Committee of Jerusalem in a special program helping youth and new young immigrants from Russia adjust to the new country that convinced him to launch Orange Stain (www.orangestain165.com), a truly innovative program rapidly gaining momentum in Israel and the United States.

From field trips to social events to classroom projects, Israel is a seasoned artist whose degrees in Cinematography and Television Production bring so much more to the plate, or should we say palette, than just teaching kids how to paint. His unique visual arts program combines teamwork, audio/video skills and visual arts.

During each session the children work on a different project and short film and see their results the following week. The multi-dimensional aspect and quick-return, so to speak, are due to the challenges dealing with this new generation of kids, children who can flip through multiple channels, listen to iPods and play video games all at the same time. "This is the MTV generation," explains Dayan. "They need a lot of stimulus."

It is the self expression and emotional content of this work that also brings the parents in to the mix as they

work together with their children in the preparation of a collaborative film production. Students make characters out of clay and bring them to life utilizing stop-motion photography, create puppets, make murals and sets and backdrops and have the thrill of seeing the film screened before a live audience.

Working with emotionally challenged children is one of Israel's greatest passions. Recently contracted to launch his program at the PACE Center for Girls, Broward County, recognized as the most effective program in the nation for keeping adolescent girls out of the juvenile system, Israel will be mentoring students who come from difficult life situations. He will teach their hands to be the expression of their hearts as they paint their hopes and desires on the canvasses of their future. Israel Dayan is grateful to be living his own dreams...in the work that he does helping others. -DUO



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Arie Setton of Sea & Sun with Dina Manzo and daughter Alexia

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More than 400 international style setters, celebrities, and media packed in to watch a bevel of beauties, dressed in the 2010 collection of tattoo art-inspired Ed Hardy Swimwear, strut their stuff down the runway during the 5th Annual Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week: Swim. Keeping their look fashion forward, Ed Hardy Swimwear showcased an eclectic mix of edgy designs, pop colors, and curve-hugging Lurex fabrics. DJ Irie spun the latest hip hop tracks with front row seats filled by celebrities such as Jeffrey Donovan of "Burn Notice"; Brian and Brandon Casey of Jagged Edge; Cindy Taylor of E!'s "Wild On;" Ariel Stein, George French and Lina Fidler of "Miami Social;" Anchal Joseph of "America's Next Top Model;" Dina and daughter Lexi Manzo of "The Real Housewives of New Jersey."



AMANDA, WE STAND BY YOU!

Recently, The Wasie Foundation and the Jessica June Children's Cancer Foundation held a fundraiser for Amanda Blake, a 15-year-old South Florida girl who suffers from osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer.

The goal of the event was to help the family pay for their household bills, since single dad David Blake was forced to leave his job to care for his daughter. The community, including Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti, rallied behind the Blakes to raise funds in excess of \$13,500.



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JENNIFER ANISTON

Why? So she can be there to give us the courage to keep us going on days when things aren't going quite the way we would like. This ravishing actress is the epitome of the saying, "When at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Starting her career in Hollywood in 1990, Jennifer considered giving up her acting career after a string of cancelled shows. It was in 1994 when Jennifer picked herself up and dusted herself off and landed the role of Rachel in "Friends", where she wow'd the television audience until the show ended in 2004, bringing with her five Emmy nominations, including a win for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series. Placed on the 2007 Forbes List of the 10th richest women in the entertainment industry, Jennifer also held the 17th spot on the 2009 Celebrity 100 List based on earnings and fame, and she shared the Guinness World Book Record in 2005 with her female costars as the highest paid TV actress of all time with her \$1 million-per-episode paycheck for the tenth season of "Friends."

Married for five years to actor Brad Pitt and in and out of several other relationships within the last few years, this 40-year-old blonde bombshell is more secure and at peace with her mind and body than when she was in her twenties, as her series of nude photographs in the pages of the January 2009 issue of GQ reveal. When she is not too busy adding to her film credits that include blockbusters such as "Along Came Polly", "The Break Up" and "He's Just Not that Into You", Jennifer spends her time "giving back" by making commercials for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and supporting Friends of El Faro, a grassroots non-profit organization that helps raise money for an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. In 2007 she received GLAAD'S Vanguard Award for her contributions to increased visibility and understanding of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, a fitting award for someone who is truly a friend to anyone who has had the pleasure of being with her. -DUO

DUO

would like some pointers from...

Andy García

On how to be the perfect father (four children), husband (married 23 years), actor, producer, director, composer, and musician. This multi-tasking extraordinaire and graduate of our very own Florida International University, has managed to round up over 60 movies and TV credits, including “Ocean’s 11” and its two sequels, and “The Godfather 3”, and is silently working his way through the entertainment industry without the ordinary fanfare (He doesn’t even have a web site or Twitter page!). As an actor he has won several Emmy and Golden Globe nominations; as a musician he has produced several Grammy-nominated albums; and as a father he was awarded “Father of the Year” in 1998. Andy

García’s loyalty to his Hispanic heritage and his Cuban roots has earned him many awards, including the coveted Harvard University Foundation Award for the Performing Arts and Intercultural Relations for his work with at-risk children and persons with cancer, and the Hispanic Heritage Award for the Arts. His charitable contributions to a Star for the Night and H.O.M.E. exemplify his care and concern for children with mental and physical challenges and to providing homes for individuals and families with disabilities. Add his charm and good looks (and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame!) to the mix, we would say Andy is the perfect person to give DUO some pointers; wouldn’t you agree?—DUO

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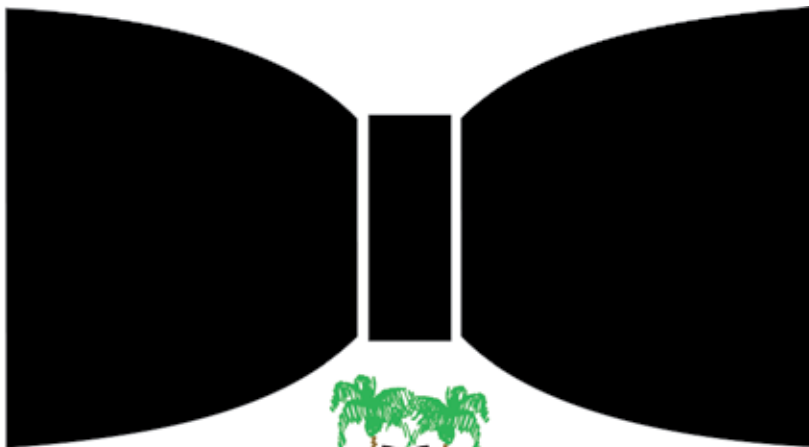
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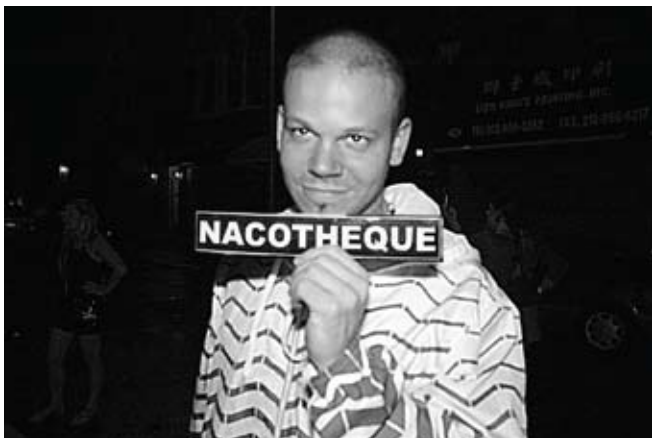
NYC

DUO Magazine joins forces with our neighbors in New York to bring you the hippest, hottest and latest in Entertainment, Fashion and Philanthropy.

South Florida's Own
SYESHA MERCADO
Appearing in "Dreamgirls" on
Broadway

Sysha Mercado, our very own South Florida rising star, fast-passed by Deco Drive to American Idol, where she wow'd judges and America as second runner-up, has been cast in the leading role of Deena in the touring company of *Dreamgirls*, opening at the Apollo Theatre in New York City in November of this year. Directed and choreographed by Robert Longbottom "Bye Bye Birdie" and co-choreographed by Shane Sparks *So You Think You Can Dance*, Sysha is joining the ranks of some major heavy hitters in the entertainment industry and we wish to express our congratulations and best wishes on her recent claim to fame. -DUO





NACOTHEQUE: MAKING NOISE IN NY



After two years of awesome nights every second and fourth Saturday at Fontana's in NYC the producers have decided to go back to doin' it old school. Originally Nacothèque was a mobile, underground, alternative Latin dance party in NYC where producers Marcelo Cuning and Amylu Meneses put together special one-off parties wherever and whenever. After about a year and half of club hopping Nacothèque was invited to start a bi-monthly party at Fontana's and called it home ever since. After October 2009 there won't be anymore pre-scheduled monthly parties at Fontana's.

"We're not ending Nacothèque, just going back to doing it when there's something special to celebrate like an album release party that we really love or an after-party for a band we love," says Amylu. The producers will be taking this time to focus on other projects as well as catching up on some much needed sleep. "Thanks to everyone that has supported us in our more than three years of existence. We've met lots of amazing people and we have nothing but good memories behind the parties. But don't fret, it's not the last you've seen of us," says Marcelo.

Our upcoming events include: Saturday, October 10th - special live performance by the lead singer of Porter JUAN SON, and October 24th - the Nacothèque Halloween Costume party with a very special live performance by Mexico City's reina of anarchy cumbia AMANDITITITA. She'll be filming scenes for her next music video during the party!—DUO

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NYC STYLE



DESIGNER'S SPOTLIGHT Words & Fashion By Viviana Marcela Pinzon

KWAME &

Somehow, you don't expect a Harvard MBA to be late to a meeting with a reporter. In my mind, Ivy League people are at least 20 minutes early for EVERYTHING. But then, Kwame Jackson does not come across the way you expect, period. The first thing you notice about him is his demeanor. 6'3, perfect haircut, perfect posture, perfect smile and the kind of

energy that makes you feel as if he probably has a dozen other projects going on as he speaks.

We meet for the first time at a photographer's studio in midtown Manhattan. The 'Apprentice' Season 1 finalist has come to chime in on an editorial fashion layout that will accompany a story about his men's accessory line, Krimson Ties. He's exuberant and single-minded about how his brand should be portrayed. It's the kind



Reversible Bubble Cardigan,
Charlotte Russe, \$18.99

KRIMSON *TIES*

of vigor that contributes tremendously to his youthful manner. From a successful career on Wall Street with banking behemoth Goldman Sachs (a post he willingly left to appear on the first season of a reality show which he had no idea would turn out to be a mega-hit) to campaigning for Barack Obama before most Americans knew who the then state-level politician was, Kwame Jackson is determined to guide his fledgling luxury brand into a globally relevant go-to label

for men who want to project confidence and old-fashioned polish.

His ties have been spotted on everyone from ESPN's Tony Realto to NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg (who gave both designer and label well-earned praise at a recent press conference). A motivational speaker and fashion entrepreneur, read on to learn what makes Kwame Jackson far more than just a reality show castoff.



Pencil Skirt,
The Limited, \$69.50

Blouse,
The Limited, \$44.50



Jerri Ultraskinny in Painted Grafitti
William Rast, \$97.99

DUO: *When did you get started designing?*

KJ: In 2004. In response to the positive reviews that I got to what I wore on ‘The Apprentice.’ Instead of going out and endorsing someone else’s product, I decided to start my own. There wasn’t a brand that spoke to me or to the Gen X professional. I know what these professionals want as well-educated and well-traveled entrepreneurs.

DUO: *What inspired you to create your company?*

KJ: The brand was inspired by two facets. The ‘Great Gatsby’ iconic image, the turn of the century Harvard student walking across the campus for example. The other was my fraternity. Arthur Ashe, Johnny Cochran, Bob Johnson were all Kappas. Channeling the global, well-dressed professional, a return to the age of the gentleman, all these

were inspirations. People don’t know how to dress properly or be gentlemen anymore, I think it’s a lost art. Hopefully we inspire a return to that. We are seeing a return to this through everyone from Barack Obama to R&B singer Ne-Yo. I want Krimson to be a part of that.

DUO: *How did you come up with the name for your label?*

KJ: Kappa and Harvard. Krimson is a basic color, it’s rich and deep. We’re in the luxury lifestyle business. You are going to reach for a Krimson tie when something special is about to happen. We help you be inspired for the occasion, whether it be leading a meeting, closing a deal or proposing to your girlfriend. Adrian Fenty, the youngest mayor in the history of Washington D.C., wore a Krimson tie on the day he had to address the Supreme Court, for example. That’s the mover and shaker mentality we want to target.

DUO: How did you get started. How did you lay the groundwork?

KJ: I leapt before I looked. A lot of people said ‘You have to do a market study, you have to do this-and-that’ but I knew I had a finite window. I started test marketing in small NYC boutiques, talking to manufacturers. What I found was that I didn’t have the retail or design background to scale the product to a national level. So I put it on the back burner for a while.

I wound up having a conversation with my fraternity brother, now business partner, Corwyn Thomas who had significant Asian/Italian silk manufacturer relationships and knew the business. Combined with my marketing background, we were able to rebrand. We started knocking on doors. I had to go out and slog it away. Now we have a sales relationship with Macy’s and we’re going to continue building.

DUO: Was this your first design or fashion venture?

KJ: Yes. I’m not a formally trained designer. My professional experience and understanding of marketing informed my sense of style and what people want to wear in professional environments. You have young, urban, skater or Hollywood skinny ties. On the other end of the spectrum, you have classics like Hugo Boss. No one was out there who was 35, a trained professional and could say to their peers, “Hey this what we want to wear.” I saw a void and knew I could fill it.



Halter Jumpsuit,
The Limited, \$69.50

Bracelets,
The Limited, \$24.50 each

Ivory Boots,
Lacoste Footwear

Green Tucked Pleated Peacoat,
The Limited, \$148

White Button-Down Shirt,
The Limited, \$44.50

Velvet Shorts
The Limited, \$49.50



Fur Shrug,
The Limited, \$128

Halter Jumpsuit,
The Limited, \$69.50

Black Bangle Set
Charlotte Russe, \$4





DUO: Your brand philosophy seems to be structured around the idea of a lifestyle more so than simply menswear. How would you describe your vision as a designer?

KJ: I want to empower people to feel confident, professional and inspired in all they do. That happens through giving them a brand experience. It gives them a certain degree of belonging. A brand is a promise that you'll deliver each time. To me the Krimson promise is the sophistication and refinement people can count on. How you choose to adorn yourself enhances things already in place such as your confidence and education.

DUO: How did you choose the basic styles in your line? What are the differences?

KJ: Our ties come in three varieties: beginner, intermediate and advanced. It's about having something for everybody. There are core classic pieces that everyone can use. The advanced variety are comprised of our more fashion forward styles with vibrant colors and rich textures. I always tell people if you're a beginner you may not know how to match up [a look which includes] one of our advanced ties. We know what the boundaries are, but we want to play with them.

DUO: What is your creative process like? Do you start with sketches and go forward?

KJ: I'm inspired by moods and colors. Patterns and textures that remind me of something I've seen in my mind. My co-designer and I go back and forth to get to a color, texture, and pattern that we both like. Sometimes we don't agree, yet these might become some of our best selling styles. We try to be relevant to the times while also trying to define them. We want to channel the refinement you saw in Frank Sinatra or James Bond back into the modern day work force.

DUO: What sets Krimson apart from other small, start-up accessory lines?

KJ: Fundamentally, I'm extremely ambitious and driven. I left Wall Street to be on a reality show because I believed there was something bigger and better for me, even though I didn't know what it was. I've heard hundreds of "no's." Now we're sold in the largest department store in the country Macys, and we have been the only neckwear brand to be featured on Oprah's "O List." The point is, you have to keep pushing.

DUO: In what direction do you hope to take Krimson in the future?

KJ: To become firmly established in the men's accessory space. The immediate next step is tie tacks, fragrances, cufflinks, and pocket squares.

Photographer: Eric Hason (www.ericchason.com)

Hair: Yukiko Tajima (www.yukikotajima.com)

Makeup: Aki Maekubo at Artistic Cube Agency

Model: Yelena at Race Models Management

(www.racemodelsmanagement.com)

MORESCHI

A high-angle, close-up photograph of a person sitting in a dark leather chair. The person is wearing a light blue sweater, grey wool trousers, and black leather loafers with a silver buckle. Their right hand is resting on their right knee. In the foreground, a round, dark, reflective table holds a glass of wine. The floor is dark wood. The overall aesthetic is sophisticated and minimalist.

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Photo: Eric Hason, Make-up & Hair: NuBest Salon, Karima Tadoro, Shamon DeRosa, Jewelry: karenviviwers.com, Location at: Leonard's www.ladvicevita.com



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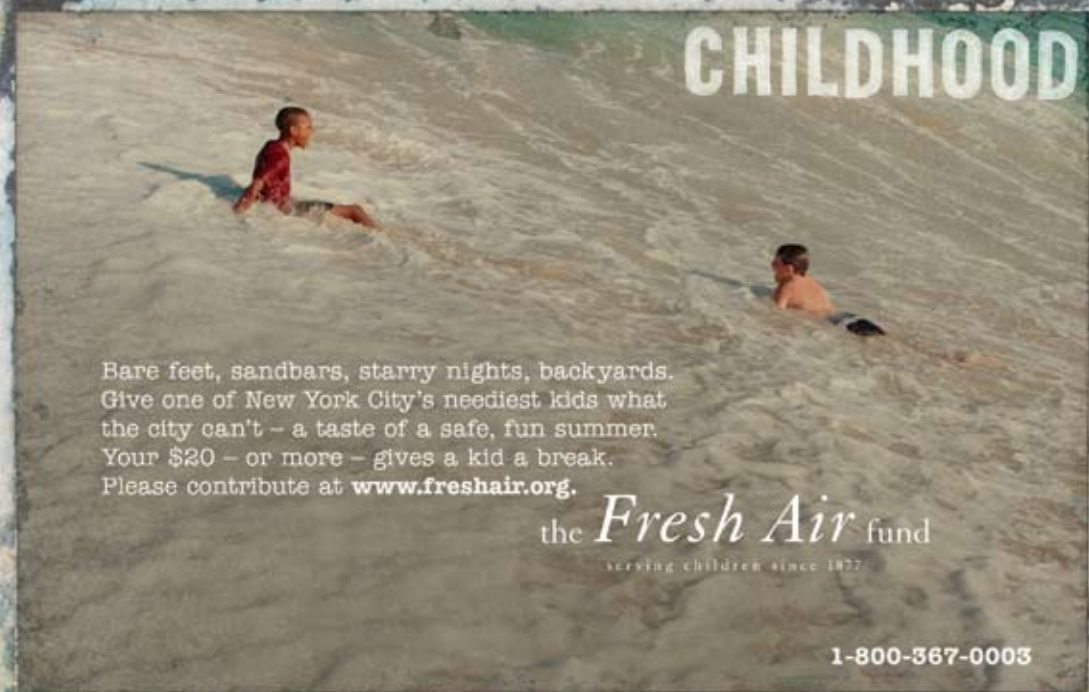
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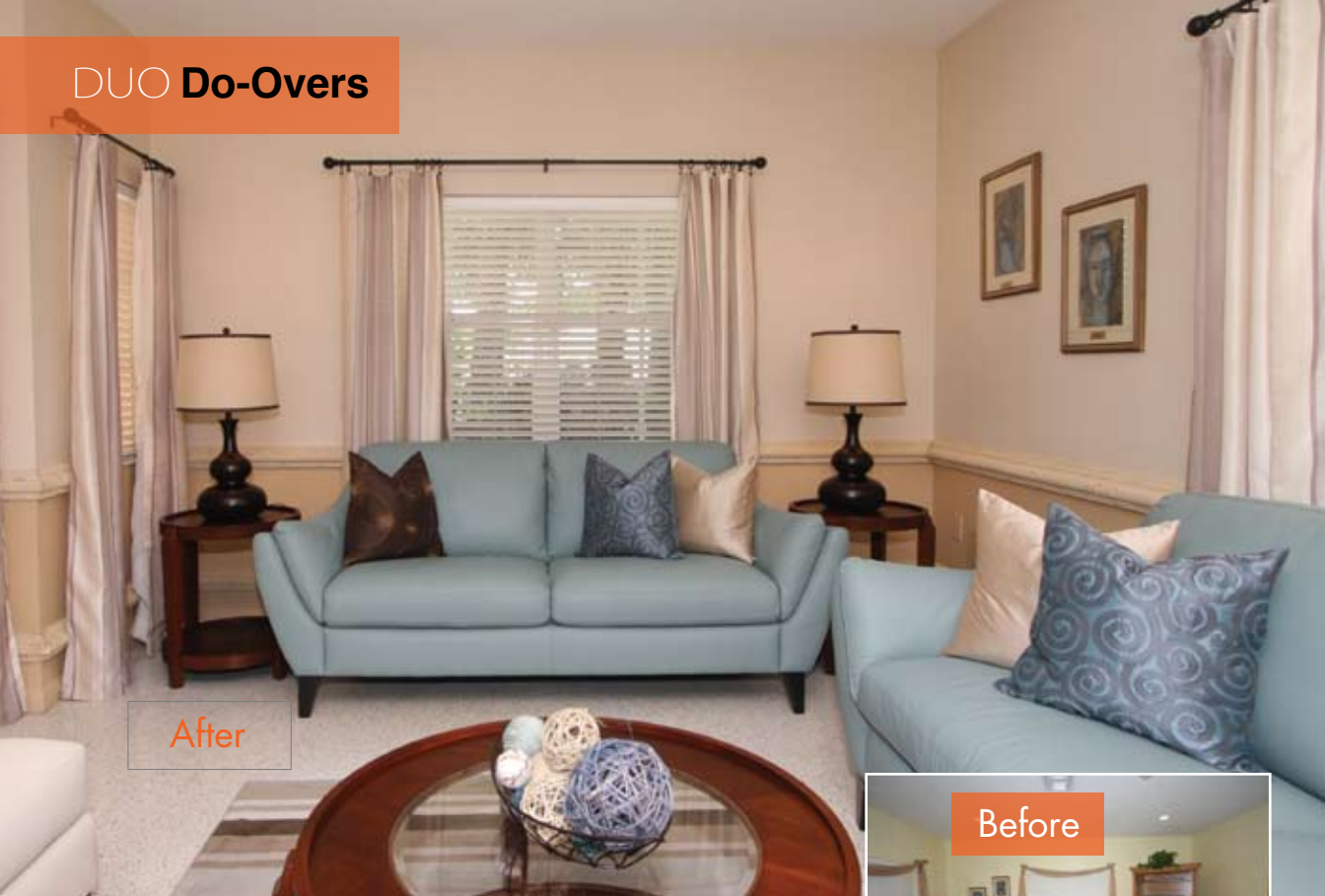


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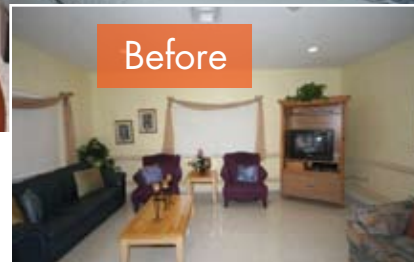


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After



Before

Martin's MAKEOVER *Magic* Ann Storck Loving That Lobby



By Martin Amado
www.martinamado.com

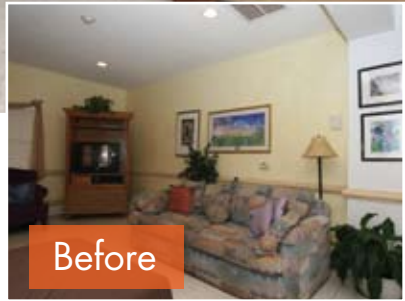
The Gizmo House living room was initially a challenge because not only did I have to make the new design pleasing to the six residents that live there, all with different personalities and styles, but I also had to keep in mind their needs. The goal was to update the look of the space by replacing all the mismatched and torn furniture, highlight the artwork on the walls, and provide enough seating for the residents and their families to enjoy spending time in the living room.

I began by painting the walls a warm, yet neutral color because I knew I wanted the beautiful artwork done through the Ann Storck Center's Expressive Arts Program to be the focus. Painting the upper portion of the walls a creamy off white and a darker khaki below the chair rail allowed the architectural molding of the room to be appreciated much more.

The new furniture needed to be durable, so the best choice was leather for the main seating because it's easy to maintain and looks better with time. However, instead of typical brown or black leather, the powder blue sofas



After



Before

and butter cream accent chairs reflect a more contemporary style. The new color scheme creates a serene and inviting environment with cool shades that remind us of being near the beach ... definitely captures the South Florida lifestyle! This is balanced by the darker wood tones of the end tables, armoire and coffee table that add a richer contrast in the room without overpowering the space.

One of the simplest changes that made a big difference in the room is the new furniture layout. Before, the old armoire was tucked away in the corner, but by placing the new espresso-color armoire in the center of the wall, it not only becomes a focal point, but also distributes the visual weight of the furniture evenly throughout the room. This move allowed us to frame the armoire nicely by adding an accent chair on both sides, which helps to balance the two sofas on the opposite side of the room. Now the living room can accommodate seating for ten, including the new ottoman, without having the furniture appear to crowd up the room.

The same consideration for style and function was given to the nesting coffee table. Its round shape doesn't interfere with the traffic flow and the scale is perfect because it can be moved for easier wheelchair access if needed. Every design choice was made with the residents in mind. Yes, I wanted the living room to be beautiful, but most importantly, it had to be livable.

The final layers that brought the entire design together were the window treatments that I purposely kept in a similar

shade to the wall color, so that your eye is drawn to the artwork; the area rug that defines the seating area and adds softness to the terrazzo floors; and finally, the toss pillows on the sofa and chairs help to unify the colors throughout the room. A great tip is to use down toss pillows because they will always retain its shape -- just fluff and it looks brand new -- more elegant, too. Of course, the artwork now complements this beautiful backdrop.

I absolutely love how this space turned out! It makes a great first impression when you walk into the Gizmo House and has a contemporary and casual style that appeals to everyone. After getting to know the residents and the amazing work the Ann Storck Center (www.annstorckcenter.org) does, it was truly a privilege to be part of this makeover and a very rewarding experience on so many levels. It's a great example of what can be accomplished when companies and individuals come together for a good cause and for the good of others. Thank you to DUO Magazine, City Furniture, Lowe's, Ricardo Smith of America's Total Home Improvement, and the many individuals involved, who collaborated with me throughout the entire process. Seeing the smiles on the residents' faces made it all worthwhile!-DUO



the BELLE *of*
BISCAYNE BAY

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

By Karen Holly Berliner



O

nce upon a time back in the year 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon traveled by ship to St. Augustine. After having his fill there, yet thirsting for more as explorers often do, he sailed even further southbound down the dreamy blue waters of the Floridian coast. In the midst of his journeys, he happened upon a lush and undiscovered estuary, later to be named Biscayne

Bay. Today this area remains just as desirable to tourists and visitors alike as it was then, and is, in fact, the proud home to Vizcaya, one of the grandest Estates in America.



The Pauper Becomes a Prince

Much of the character of today's Vizcaya, (romantically named for a Spanish Basque Province) ties in with its rich history and a New England based family named Deering who enjoyed great entrepreneurial success. After years of hard work and by the close of the 19th century, they grew to become one of America's wealthiest lineages. William Deering, the patriarch and founder of the famous farm equipment manufacturer *The Deering Harvester Company*, set out to build his quintessential dream palace in the untouched picturesque and subtropical Miami, Florida. He purchased land there and built a home in Coconut Grove, just south of the area. His son and heir to the estate, agricultural industrialist, James Deering, was at that very same time, climbing his own social rungs en route to the top, fast becoming an active partygoer and traveler in his own right. Being a wealthy bachelor of refined taste, he dedicated the rest of his years to Vizcaya. Along with a dream team of young designers including a New York painter named Paul Chalfin; an architect, F. Burrall Hoffman and a Colombian born landscape architect, Diego Suarez, he traveled abroad

surveying residential architecture for ideas and obtaining components that would later be expressed in Vizcaya. Together this foursome created the main house, designing it to deliberately mimic an Italian Renaissance style estate. From the stately buildings to the European decorative elements and furniture, Vizcaya showcased James' travels to Italy and fast became famous for adapting European cultural traditions to Miami's indigenous landscape.

This property was the beloved home to several generations of the Deering family. James himself used Vizcaya as his annual winter home from Christmas 1916 until his death in 1925. Sadly, the hurricane of 1926, which devastated much of Miami, damaged Vizcaya and its surrounding grounds and gardens. Deering's heirs contacted the estate's original designer, Paul Chalfin, who oversaw the first restoration of Vizcaya in 1933. Attempting to operate the estate as an attraction they kept the estate going, but another major hurricane in 1935, overruled their efforts. In 1952, Deering's heirs generously signed over Vizcaya to Dade County on the condition that the property be used as a public museum in perpetuity.

Vizcaya Today

Today, Vizcaya (www.vizcayamuseum.org) plays a leading role in showing Miami-Dade County as the culturally rich place that it is, with its unique architecture, gardens, interiors, and decorative arts. Furthermore, Vizcaya represents the “American Renaissance” and helps visitors understand Miami’s extensive place in history. Now a National Historic Landmark and a museum accredited by the American Association of Museums, Vizcaya stands, as it always has, in its entire splendor, a beautiful old mansion on the bay of Miami and open to the public.

Set amidst beautifully landscaped gardens and fountains, the main house offers 34 decorated rooms of antique furnishings and art objects spanning 2000 years. Joining with this, the original estate of 180 acres showcases European inspired formal gardens flanked by native mangroves and massive hardwood trees, a fragrant tropical garden, extensive lagoon gardens, and a village that services the property. The house cleverly combines European marble and Floridian limestone while the Italianate gardens rely on plants capable of thriving in Miami’s climate. It is filled to the brim with 15th century furniture and decorative arts and is, by far, an eclectic masterpiece.

Key features include several ornate fountains, a central pool surrounding an island, the elevated mound with its small house, or “Casino,” statuary, and a number of themed gardens such as the *Maze Garden*. Although the house appears to be only two stories high, between the public rooms on the ground

Vizcaya represents the “American Renaissance” and helps visitors understand Miami’s extensive place in history. ” ”

floor and the bedrooms above, there is a middle level with more than 20 rooms that were originally constructed for domestic staff quarters. These rooms will soon be opened to visitors so that they may better learn the intricacies of the place.

Several key projects are in the works, all critical to the preservation and growth of the museum as a vital cultural resource in Miami-Dade. With funding, Vizcaya’s main house and gardens will be improved. Upgrades will include the restoration of historic interior elements, repairing historic windows and doors and upgrading hurricane protection systems. The museum also plans to renovate 11 historic endangered buildings on the west side of South Miami Avenue that have never been open to the public.

Christmas and holidays are a special time to see the Mansion, which is beautifully furnished with antique and European furniture. It is open to the public every day but Christmas, and the Vizcaya Volunteer Guides offer tours in 13 languages.

Over the years numerous dignitaries have visited the estate, including Queen Elizabeth II, Pope John Paul II, Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, and King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain. To its credit, the site is a popular venue for weddings and other special events, and is frequently used by photographers and filmmakers alike.

Vizcaya started out as a pauper’s vision and evolved into a Prince’s paradise. How’s that for an American success story? -DUO





VIZCAYA

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