

STYLE+SOCIETY **SUN DAY**



Heels2Heal: **Alex and Laleh Roudi** (hosts; she's event co-chair), **Yigal Azrouël** (designer), **Miriam Smotrich** (event co-chair) and **David Smotrich**



Kevin Robertson (Miracle Babies executive director), **Nahiel Caldwell** (Heels2Heal founder), **Sandy Callan** (H2H founder), **Marjan** (MB board) and **Dr. Sean Daneshmand** (MB founder), **Shenell Malloy** (H2H founder)



Angela Davies (H2H founder), **Salem Ciuffa** (H2H board), **Reggie Smith** (MB supporter), **Kat Cowling** (H2H founder), **Kim Hansen** (H2H founder)

Feasting and miracles

STORY & PHOTOS BY VINCENT ANDRUNAS • SPECIAL TO THE U-T

The New Children's Museum mounts substantial exhibitions. The newest — “Feast: The Art of Playing With Your Food” — will run for 18 to 24 months, so special events were appropriate for its kickoff.

The most opulent celebration, “Feasting in Versailles,” occurred on the eve of the exhibition’s opening. Yolanda S. Walther-Meade co-chaired with Michelle Alexander (whose initials suspiciously match those of Marie Antoinette). Their attitude toward their guests, many of whom were costumed in finery reminiscent of the prelude to the French Revolution, was “let them eat cake” — plus five courses of delicious decadence preceding that dessert.

After a reception of canapes and champagne, guests enjoyed a dinner fit for King Louis XIV. Chefs Andrew Spurgin and Bernard Guillas, sporting matching French accents, performed outrageous skits introducing courses that began with a Fabregé egg filled with sea urchin custard. Others featured fish, pheasant, pork tenderloin, and beef Wellington, with intricate vegetable accompaniment. Cheeses and multiple desserts followed — the repast was the product of 10 royally talented chefs. Presentation was visually theatrical, with costumed footmen and ladies in waiting, and service exceeded simple attentiveness. Grammy nominee Sacha Boutros entertained with a spellbinding French rendition of “La

S•D SCENE

NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM • HEELS2HEAL

Vie en Rose” (literally, “life in pink,” or life through rose-colored glasses).

The New Children’s Museum strives to inspire children’s imagination, creativity and critical thinking. A creative time-lapse video condensed the new exhibition’s weeks of preparations into just minutes. The obligatory live and silent auctions and paddle-raise donations helped raise a substantial sum, which will help ensure that children from families of limited financial means can benefit by visiting the museum.

The evening ended with more desserts, and curated tours of the new exhibition. As for anyone who didn’t enjoy the evening — off with their heads!

Heels2Heal

The 14 stylish ladies of Heels2Heal recently held their fourth annual fashion show fundraiser and gala. For the second time, Miracle Babies was the beneficiary. Miriam Smotrich co-chaired with Laleh Roudi, who, with husband Alex, hosted the 450-guest event at their spacious La Jolla estate. The

runway showcased fashions from New York designer Yigal Azrouël, Miriam’s brother. The Moroccan theme feted Yigal’s nationality and matched the décor of the stunning home. An extended reception featured delicious cuisine and libations from 22 generous purveyors, much of it Moroccan-inspired.

Fourteen Heels2Heal members appeared on the runway, all in high heels and fashionably attired. They welcomed guests and told guests that Miracle Babies helps families who have critically ill newborns fighting for their lives in the neonatal intensive care unit. Heels2Heal believes lending a helping hand has not only an immediate impact on a family, but also far-reaching positive results in the community. Guests took it to heart, bidding big on auction items that included numerous major travel packages.

A single mother, carrying her young son, told how Miracle Babies helped her and her baby, born prematurely and with significant birth defects. This so moved guest Ramin Pourteymour, who had purchased a weeklong Fiji vacation in the auction, that he donated it to the mother and son — and generously added \$10,000 toward the child’s medical expenses.

The runway fashion show followed, presenting a stunning array of creative designs. Afterward, the party continued with more fabulous food, drinks — and even hookahs with a tempting array of flavors. Overall, nearly \$180,000 was raised for Miracle Babies.



New Children's Museum: Kristin Veko, Fatim Mayberry, Alexander Salazar, Sacha Boutros, Michelle Parker, Marie Daniels



Fernanda Dehoyos, Rachel Helmer, Michael Esposito (director of potions), Yolanda Walther-Meade, Rosa and George Walther-Meade



Keith and Amanda Clardy (New Children's Museum board), Yolanda S. Walther-Meade (event co-chair), Michelle Alexander (event co-chair), Julianne Markow (museum executive director and CEO), Celeste Hilling (museum board chair)

The above material first appeared in the U-T San Diego on the above date.

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