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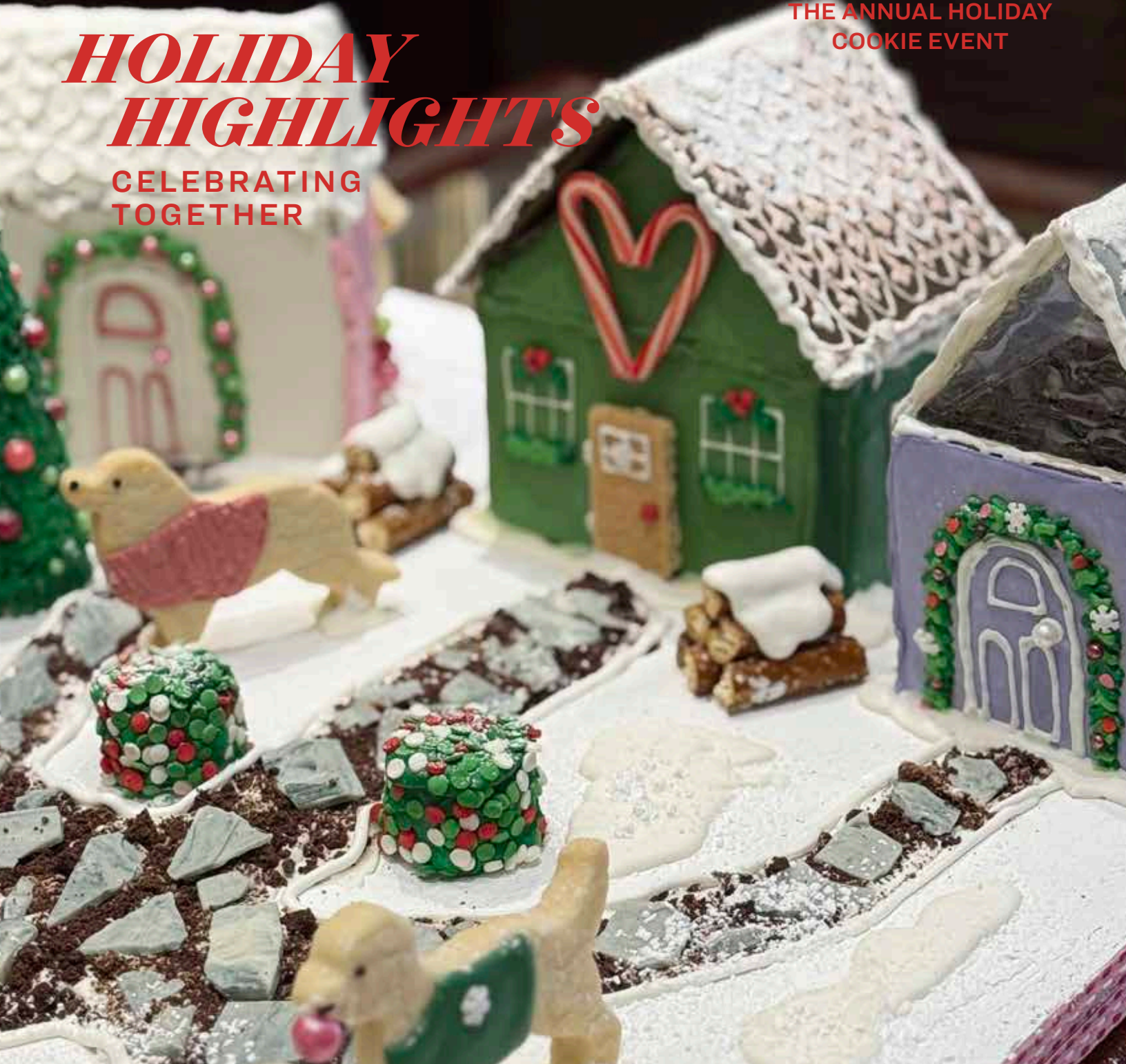
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# Celebrating

## 15 SWEET YEARS OF THE GINGERBREAD STROLL



The Gingerbread Stroll marked its 15th anniversary in 2025 with another incredible year of community generosity. Thanks to the support of local residents, artisans, and businesses, the event raised more than \$34,000—every dollar of which goes directly to charity.

Since its inception, The Gingerbread Stroll has contributed over \$330,000 to support children in need throughout Dallas County. The majority of these funds have benefited Community Partners of Dallas, an organization dedicated to helping the county's abused and neglected children.

Fifteen years in, The Gingerbread Stroll continues to be a heartwarming tradition that brings neighbors together for a meaningful cause.

To view more photos: Instagram @ gingerbreadstroll or Facebook @ thegingerbreadstroll

For more information, to sponsor or be involved in 2026, please contact Christine McKenny at 214-300-5539.



Ford Miller at Veronica Beard



Christine McKenny, Founder of The Gingerbread Stroll and Executive Vice President, Allie Beth Allman & Associates and Joanna Clarke President & CEO Community Partners of Dallas



Left to Right: Nazia Ahmed, Valerie Dillon, Ashlea McCathern, Chrissy Jenkins, Ann Marie Marthens



Okera Banks looking over a bid sheet

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# Visit with Santa

There's nothing quite like the magic of Christmas, and Nolan (10), Blakely (9), and twins Knox and Sloane (7) brought plenty of it to their visit with Santa this year.

With sparkling eyes, festive outfits, and Santa's surprised grin, this sibling crew turned a simple photo session into a memory that will last well beyond the season.

Photo Credit:  
Paige Walker Photography



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# Sweet Traditions Shine at the Annual Holiday Cookie Event

PHOTOS BY JIN KIM STUDIO AND APRIL BARNES PHOTOGRAPHY

On a gorgeous December Saturday, neighbors of all ages—with kids, without kids, and plenty of cookie-loving adults flying solo—stopped by Ed Kellum & Son for one of our favorite holiday traditions: our annual cookie decorating event! The whole space felt festive and cozy as everyone jumped into frosting, sprinkles, and plenty of creativity.

Santa made his big entrance (to the delight of pretty much everyone). He not only posed for photos with April Barnes Photography but also brought along his

North Pole Passport to show off all the magical places he's traveled this season. Mrs. Claus added her own sparkle with fresh-baked treats and even surprised guests with a little show-and-tell—freshly brushed reindeer hair straight from Comet!

With the frosting bar, candy toppings, and more sprinkles than anyone could count, simple sugar cookies quickly turned into mini masterpieces. It was one of those easy, happy afternoons that reminds you

why these neighborhood traditions feel so special.

Huge thanks to Frost Bank for sponsoring the frosting station and to Summerhill Pools for keeping everyone warm with their crowd-favorite hot chocolate bar. The Board Lady DFW wowed guests with beautiful Christmas grazing boards, and of course, we're grateful to the amazing team at Ed Kellum & Son for hosting another memorable community gathering.

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# Mamani

*Dallas' Newest Michelin Star Shines Bright*

JESSICA HOFFMANN

What a delight! From the moment you walk in, you are greeted by a view of the open kitchen, a common element in many Michelin-star establishments that flaunt the cleanliness and artistry of the kitchen—putting the food preparation front and center. Michelin star, you say? Why yes—Mamani joins Tatsu as one of two restaurants in Dallas that have earned a Michelin star, Mamani's coming less than two months after it opened!



*Jessica Hoffmann is a University Park resident. You can follow her on Facebook and Instagram @ParkCitiesFoodLover.*



Mamani serves French cuisine with Italian influences. The décor and color palette in the bar reminded me of Georgie, and I enjoyed the variety of design elements in each dining area. Your sense that you are about to enjoy a memorable dining experience is accurate. I'm excited to go back (January 4th) and jealous of those who will get to experience Mamani for the first time.

In order to appropriately do our diligence for this article—and in no way

related to my cravings or interests—we ordered most of the menu!

We opted for the in-house bread service and the Murder Point Oysters with mezcal and red pepper vinegar as our bites to get us going. Our starters were the Artichoke Hearts and the Amberjack Crudo with Citrus Ponzu. Of those first few dishes, the amberjack shined more brightly for me, and I may have taken more than my share. For our mid-course, we

split the Squash Agnolotti and the Sausage Cavatelli—my favorite of the two pastas. The cavatelli was very flavorful and large enough to be a light main if someone preferred.

For the two mains, we opted for the Veal Cordon Bleu and the Dover Sole. Both are shareable specialties, and for the veal you are treated to tableside service from the chef. For that reason alone, I highly recommend you try this dish. Additionally, it was

gorgeous, perfectly prepared, and perfectly served—exactly what you expect from a Michelin-star dish. The Dover Sole was a simple preparation and garnished with lemon zest, which made it memorable.

We passed around the chocolate mousse, a nice way to finish the meal with a bite of something sweet.

The bar is chic for a cocktail before or after dinner, and you will have no trouble finding wine with the 60-page

wine list. Ooh la la! One of our party took the lead with the sommelier, and we had an amazing Italian Barolo to pair with our meal.

Also not to be forgotten was the top-notch service that you can expect from a Michelin-star restaurant. The staff were friendly and joked with me, but were also present without being in the way. Tough to balance, perfectly executed.

Is it January 4th yet? I guess it will be by the time y'all read this!



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# The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary 35th Anniversary Fashion Show & Luncheon

## A Star-Studded Celebration

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is gearing up for an extra-special event to mark its **35th Anniversary**—the 2026 Fashion Show & Luncheon. Scheduled for **April 21, 2026**, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, this premier fundraising event will take place at the **Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, TX**. The celebration is set to honor the Auxiliary's incredible legacy of service and fundraising, which has provided over \$18 million in grants to 19 Salvation Army facilities in North Texas since its inception in 1991.

Founded by Margot Perot and 29 women, The Auxiliary has grown to nearly 400 members. It continues its mission to support The Salvation Army of North Texas, the region's largest social services provider. The funds raised from the luncheon help meet the critical needs of men, women,

and children experiencing poverty, homelessness, and addiction.

This year's event, chaired by **Katherine Coker**, is planning a phenomenal celebration. "The Auxiliary's 35th anniversary is more than a milestone—it's a tribute to the incredible women whose vision, dedication, and hard work have touched countless lives," says Coker. The event will draw approximately **700 guests**, including community leaders, press, fashion enthusiasts, and philanthropic supporters.

A dazzling group of honorees will be recognized, including **Lisa Troutt** as the Honorary Chair, **Margaret Hancock** for the Margot Perot Service Award, **Gene Jones** for the Legacy Award, and **Marilyn Spencer** for the Love in Action Award.

The fashion show features a blend of new and preowned couture clothing,



Kimber Hartmann, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary President Katherine Coker, Salvation Army Fashion Show & Luncheon Chair Gene Jones, Legacy Award Recipient Margaret Hancock, Margot Perot Service Award Major Carolynn Webb, Area Commander Kathie King, Luncheon Advisor and 2024 Margot Perot Service Aw



Candace Winslow dazzled in a stunning red couture gown designed and hand-painted by the talented Patti Flowers. This show-stopping piece was the grand finale look of 2025 event! Our 2026 FS&L Chair Katherine Coker sparkled in a Monique Lhuillier dress.



Longtime Auxiliary member Maggie Kipp wore an elegant Carolina Herrera gown and the 2025 FS&L Chair Stacey Walker graced the evening in Roland Nivelais.

### FROM RUNWAY TO CHARITY BALL

These gorgeous gowns purchased at the 2025 Salvation Army Fashion Show & Luncheon were worn at the recent Crystal Charity Ball.



Meg Salter, Sheree Davis, Katherine Coker



Margot Perot and Katherine Coker

And, in an exciting new development, the Auxiliary is introducing an **Emerging Designer Contest**. This inaugural contest invites emerging designers to submit original, couture fashion items to be featured in the event's runway show and Chic Boutique Pop-Up Shop. Winning entries will be included on the runway, and others will be available for purchase in the Chic Boutique and After-Sale, with all proceeds benefiting The Salvation Army programs. The pieces being accepted include women's apparel in sizes 4 through 10, as well as accessories like jewelry, handbags, belts, and scarves. The **Submission Deadline is March 2, 2026**. Submitting a design is a unique opportunity to gain visibility and have work featured in front of a significant audience.

(Emerging designers whose pieces are selected for the runway will also have their looks featured in the program and online auction. All submitted entries will be photographed on a

professional model and highlighted on a "wall-of-fame" at the event with designer recognition.)

Designer apparel is needed for the Runway and gently-used women's, men's and children's clothing, shoes and accessories are needed for the After-Sale. If you have clothing you would like to donate or have questions, please contact Katherine Coker at [katherine\\_coker@yahoo.com](mailto:katherine_coker@yahoo.com) or 214.213.1262 to schedule a home pickup, or items can be dropped off at Tootsies, 8300 Preston Road, Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more event and contest details, please visit <https://salvationarmytx.org/north-texas/fashion-show> and follow @sawadallas on Instagram and Facebook.



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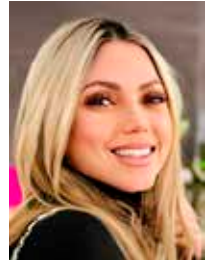
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"Our girl came from a breeder in California. She's one of three sisters, all long-haired and full of energy! With all that personality and hair, keeping her looking her best isn't always easy. That's why we absolutely love Dallas Mobile Pet Spaw. The convenience of having them come right to our home is amazing, and our pup actually gets excited when she sees the grooming van pull up! She always comes back looking beautiful, smelling great, and feeling so happy. We couldn't imagine using anyone else!" -Carolyn (Pet Owner)



**DallasMobilePetSpaw.com**





# THE PARTY CRASHER

BY ROSANGELA ZURAWEL

Rosangela Zurawel, a resident of University Park, is a REALTOR®, designer, mother/wife, and party crasher extraordinaire. If you'd like your "party crashed" and covered by us, contact her at (469) 236-6819 or rosangelazurawel@gmail.com.

## The YWPN EmpowerHER Dinner Presented by Westwood Wealth Management

Benefiting the Young Women's Preparatory Network, this inaugural dinner was truly one of the most fabulous events I have covered. Hosted by Christy Thompson in her magnificent University Park home, the evening was refined, purposeful, and beautifully choreographed and executed. Chaired by Lone Star Monarchs' Co-Founders, Regina Bruce and Dr. Carla Russo, and their team of volunteers, together with The Women of the Lacerte Family serving as honorary chairs, and Lynn McBee, YWPN's CEO, the sold-out dinner celebrated the mission of empowering young women through college-preparatory public education in Texas and beyond.

The night dazzled in every detail—from the delicious cuisine prepared by five female celebrity chefs, outstanding entertainment from students and professionals, to the radiant presence of Lone Star Monarchs' team member and Ukrainian fashion designer Anna Berman, whose exquisite fashions created especially for the chairs, models and ballerinas added undeniable glamour. Adding an international touch, Oleksandra Semenchenko, Fashion Editor of Vogue Ukraine, traveled to Texas exclusively for this event.

The EmpowerHER Dinner was an unforgettable evening of elegance, empowerment, and inspiration.

Photography by Danny Campbell, Thomas Garza, Rob Wythe and Rosangela Zurawel.



Honorary Chairs, The Women of the Lacerte Family: Quincy Lacerte, Joyce Lacerte, Monroe Lacerte, and Madison Lacerte, pictured with Dinner Chairs, Dr. Carla Russo and Regina Bruce (center). Not shown: Megan Barrie-Schwarz, an honorary chair.



Featuring custom designs by Annabelle Couture; Serhii Baranov, Joe Russo, Dr. Carla Russo, Regina Bruce, John Pickett and Anna Berman with models and American Classical Ballet dancers



Jeanne Lewis sponsored the specialty cocktails created by Alex Parra.



Rosangela Zurawel with Vogue Ukraine Fashion Editor, Oleksandra Semenchenko



Beautiful and delicious dish prepared by Chef Mollie Guerra



American Classical Ballet dancers



The Celebrity Chefs: Dunia Terselich Borgia, Executive Pastry Chef, Co-Founder of La Duni Baking Studio; Leigh Hutchison, Chef/Owner of Via Triozzi; Mollie Guerra, Chef Mollie G Custom Cuisine; Anastacia Quiñones-Pittman, Culinary Director and Co-Owner of Elidi; Janice Provost, Chef/Proprietor, Parigi pictured with Lynn McBee, CEO, YWPN (center)



The always fabulous and creative Kunthea Mam-Douglas, designed her own headpiece and earrings



Westwood Wealth Management, Presenting Sponsor: Jill Meyer, Brian Casey, Susan Byrne and Suzy Conley



Elizabeth Smith and Kimberlee Sharp



Impeccable florals by McShan Florist



Anna Berman with American Classical Ballet dancers, wearing designs by Annabelle Couture

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# CLEAR LOSS CONSULTANTS

*Building Trust Through Decades of Expertise*

When disaster strikes your home or business, having someone in your corner who truly understands construction can make all the difference. That's exactly what Tom Rosenthal brings to families and businesses across North Texas through his company, Clear Loss Consultants. With decades of experience and a reputation for integrity, Tom has become a trusted ally for those navigating the complexities of property damage and insurance claims.

Tom's journey to becoming a public adjuster began long before he ever heard the term. After arriving in the Dallas area in 1979 and attending school in Garland, he spent over 20 years building a reputation as a general contractor. His dedication to quality work and deep understanding of construction earned him recognition throughout the region. This foundation of trust and expertise would later become the cornerstone of Clear Loss Consultants.

The transition from contractor to consultant wasn't accidental, it was a natural evolution of Tom's career. His sharp mind and extensive construction experience caught the attention of insurance carriers, who recruited him to work as a building consultant. This role allowed him to combine his hands-on knowledge of construction with the complex world of insurance claims, giving him a unique perspective on how to help families and businesses recover from disasters.

What sets Clear Loss Consultants apart isn't just Tom's background, it's his unwavering commitment to integrity and his selective approach to cases. "We assess the damage and validity of each case to ensure it meets our standard," Tom explains. This means the company doesn't take every claim offered to them. Instead, they focus on cases where they can make a genuine difference, ensuring their clients receive the best possible outcome. This dedication to doing the right thing has earned Clear Loss Consultants a reputation for honesty and reliability in an industry where trust is paramount.

The results of this approach speak for themselves. "90% of our new clients were referred by a former client," Tom shares. In an industry where word-of-mouth referrals are a testament to quality service, this level of trust and satisfaction demonstrates the value Tom provides to families facing their most challenging moments. These referrals represent lives changed and homes rebuilt, thanks to the expertise and care of Clear Loss Consultants.

Perhaps most telling is that 97% of Clear Loss Consultants' new clients had never heard of a public adjuster and didn't know they had that option. This reveals a significant gap in knowledge that Tom works tirelessly to bridge. Many people don't realize they don't have to face insurance companies alone, and Tom's mission is to educate and empower them. By providing guidance and support, he helps clients



**"97% of Clear Loss Consultants' new clients had never heard of a public adjuster and didn't know they had that option."**

understand their rights and options, ensuring they receive the compensation they deserve.

The company's track record includes thousands of success stories, with clients recovering substantially more than initial insurance offers. Clear Loss Consultants was called by a former Dallas Cowboy great. The insurance company offered him \$20k for his loss. Clear Loss Consultants settled his claim for more than \$300k. Stories like these highlight the tangible impact of Tom's work and the difference his expertise can make in people's lives.

Tom's philosophy centers on doing the right thing, never compromising on honesty or integrity.

The company won't compromise or exaggerate damage for higher payouts. This principled stance has built lasting relationships throughout the community and earned the trust of countless families and businesses. In a field where ethical standards can sometimes be overlooked, Tom's commitment to transparency and fairness sets him apart.

Beyond the numbers, what truly drives Tom is the opportunity to help people during their most vulnerable moments. Property damage can be overwhelming, and dealing with insurance companies can add to the stress. Clear Loss Consultants provides a sense of security and peace of mind, knowing there's someone in their corner who genuinely cares about their well-being. Tom's combination of construction expertise and ethical standards ensures his clients are supported and treated with respect and dignity.

For families facing property damage, knowing there's someone with Tom's unique blend of experience and integrity can make all the difference. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by insurance complexities, but having a neighbor who genuinely cares about doing right by his community is invaluable. Tom Rosenthal and Clear Loss Consultants are more than just a business, they're a lifeline for those in need, building trust and restoring hope one case at a time.

Learn more at [www.clearloss.com](http://www.clearloss.com).



Tom Rosenthal



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DSOL DEBUTANTES



Photo by Gittings

## A Sparkling Night of Heritage and Harmony

*Dallas Symphony Orchestra League Honors the 2026 Debutantes*

The Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center glowed with holiday elegance on November 26, 2025, as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League welcomed the 2026 Debutantes for an enchanting evening of celebration.

DSOL President **Claire Catrino** greeted the debutantes, honor guards, and their families with heartfelt warmth, setting the tone for the night.

“The Presentation Ball is one of our most cherished traditions of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League,” she shared. Honorary Chairs **Fanchon** and **Howard Hallam** were represented by their son, **James Hallam**. The Hallam family’s enduring commitment to the Dallas Symphony has shaped generations of support, including Howard’s tenure as Chairman of the Board of Governors and the family’s pivotal leadership gift that helped create the Kim Noltemy Young Musicians program. Their generosity also includes endowing the DSO Co-Concertmaster Chair.

A cherished highlight came when **Richard Eiseman** of **Eiseman Jewels NorthPark** personally presented a gift to each debutante — a touch that added sparkle to an already dazzling evening.

This year’s festivities carry special significance, marking major milestones for the community: the DSOL’s 80th anniversary, the 40th Presentation Ball, and the 125th anniversary of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

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