

# MICHIGAN AVENUE

## Danica Patrick

ON TRACK AND IN STYLE

WHITE HOT! SPRING FASHION

+ Joseph Altuzarra, Nicole Kidman, Dian Parkinson



Jimmy and Eleni Bousis with me and my husband, Tom, at the Joffrey Ballet's Couture & Cocktails gala last fall

# Fashion Rules

Seeing designer Calvin Tran on Bravo's *The Fashion Show: Ultimate Collection* reminded me of how we met: In 2003, when I cochaired the Green Tie Ball, I asked him to design my gown. We agreed the dress should be green (obviously), and he drew me a picture of the floor-length gown he'd make. A few weeks later I picked it up and—surprise—it was a gold jersey minidress, draped so low in the front and back that even double-stick tape couldn't keep it from being scandalous. Watching him on TV has taught me that doing exactly what he wants is Calvin's trademark. Wish I knew that then.

I wore it (it was days before the event—what choice did I have?) and learned the cardinal rule of party dressing: Always have a backup.

Last year, a friend told me her favorite tagline—another important style rule—which has stuck with me ever since: Compassion is always in fashion. This month compassion and fashion collide at an event I'm cochairing with Eleni Bousis and Mary Jo George to benefit Little City Foundation, a nonprofit that assists people with autism and other developmental disabilities. We are hosting the group's second annual Little City Fashion Show Dinner on March 4 at the Hilton Chicago, and our sponsors—Neiman Marcus and Ford Models—promise to make it a spectacular night.

We're expecting about 700 guests and hope you'll be there, too. Tickets are available at [littlecity.org](http://littlecity.org); while you're there, shop the paintings created by Little City's residents (proceeds fund the group's acclaimed arts program).

I hope you enjoy all the spring fashion in this issue—and don't miss our story on Calvin and other standout local designers.

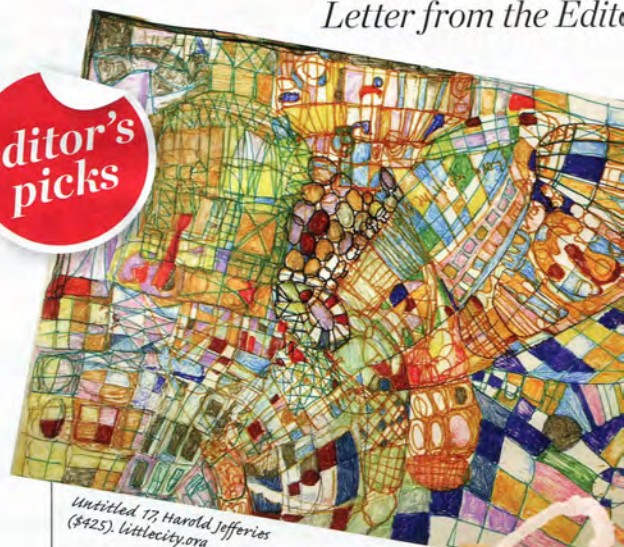
*Susanne Negovan*

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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editor's picks



Untitled 17, Harold Jefferies (\$425). [littlecity.org](http://littlecity.org)



Amazing Seven Lip Gloss, AmazingCosmetics (\$20). [amazingcosmetics.com](http://amazingcosmetics.com)



ZigZag headband, L. Erickson (\$28). Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand Ave.; [nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)

Loomed metallic tweed dress, Lela Rose (\$1,295). Neiman Marcus, 737 N. Michigan Ave.; [neimanmarcus.com](http://neimanmarcus.com)



Liza Beth earrings, Dana Rebecca Designs (\$7,260). Marshall Pierce & Company, 29 E. Madison St.; [marshallpierces.com](http://marshallpierces.com). Inspired by our glam staffer Liza Sweitzer!



Mini alligator tote bags, Tod's (\$17,500 each), 121 E. Oak St.; [tods.com](http://tods.com)

# Charitably Chic

Two events (on the same day!) flaunt high fashion and artwork with a message. BY ALEX SKJONG

## *Little City Foundation Fashion Show Dinner*

Don't let the cocktails and black-tie attire fool you—the Little City Foundation's Fashion Show Dinner on March 4 is just as much about raising awareness as it is about raising money.

It's no surprise, then, that the event features a Neiman Marcus-sponsored runway show starring Ford models, plus a trunk show featuring hand-made crafts from the foundation's Center for the Arts, which provides education in clothing design, textiles, ceramics and other media for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Last year, models walked the runway wearing accessories created by the organization's members. "Creativity has no disability," says Lisa Hoffman, director of communications and marketing for Little City Foundation.

## *Misericordia Women's Auxiliary Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon*

Sure, you'll covet the gorgeous clothes from Saks Fifth Avenue's Wear department, which caters to stylish working women, at this runway show and luncheon. But the real stars of the March 4 event are the residents of Misericordia's 31-acre Chicago campus. In their day programs, residents create ceramics, paintings and even furniture; at the event, many of these items will be up for silent auction, and several will serve as showstopping table centerpieces.

Kicking off the afternoon is the Misericordia Heartbreakers—a residents' song and dance group guest starring David Nerychel, a Misericordia volunteer staff member known for his pipes of gold. Proceeds benefit Misericordia and its continued efforts to provide an open community and maximize the potential of children and adults with developmental disabilities.



## MORE BIGHEARTED BASHES IN MARCH

### **Common Threads World Festival Chicago**

Head to Soldier Field on March 7 and feast on signature dishes from celeb chefs. Proceeds benefit Common Threads' after-school cooking courses for low-income families and children. *Soldier Field, 1410 S. Museum Campus Dr., 312-329-2501; commonthreads.org*

### **Dancing with Chicago Celebrities**

Watch as local stars strap on their dancing shoes March 11 in this dance-off with a "Viva Chicago" theme, presented by Arthur Murray and benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure. *Hyatt Regency Chicago, Crystal Ballroom, 151 E. Wacker Dr., 312-565-1234; dancingwithchicagocelebrities.org*

### **Face the Future Foundation's Annual Gala**

Benefiting patients treated at the Craniofacial Center at the University of Illinois Medical Center, this event on March 12 features emcee Mickey Williams and a can't-miss live auction. *Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware Pl., 312-280-1370; facethefuturefoundation.org*