Chelsea McDermott, who shared her story as a transplant patient. The event raised $610,000, which will assist organ-failure and transplant patients receiving treatment in the Texas Medical Center. This year’s gala celebrated honoree Million Air, a private-airplane services company, and its contributions to rapid organ recovery and transportation. Pictured are chairs Chelsea McDermott and Susie Cunningham.

Shades of pink

Susan G. Komen Houston kicked off its 30th anniversary with the inaugural More Than Pink Luncheon. More than 300 supporters celebrated the past, present and future of the breast cancer foundation. The luncheon was chaired by Carrie and Jonathan Brinsden, who lost their sister to breast cancer in 2007. The keynote speaker was Heidi Floyd, who was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant with her fourth child and has served as the “voice of the patient” for several organizations including Ford, Google, the U.S. Department of Defense and Susan G. Komen. The luncheon honored the legacy of the late Eileen Campbell, an advocate and former board president of Komen Houston. Pictured are (from left) Maria Bush, Jane Parker and Julie Voss.

Honoring Houston history

Supporters of NoTsuh (Houston, spelled backwards) gathered in costume at the historic Crystal Ballroom. King Nottoc XIX and Queen Ailongam III, Duke and C.C. Ensell, had a coronation ceremony with Truett Letimer, King Nottoc XV, and Catherine C. Brock, Queen Ailongam II (pictured). Catherine Anspoon and Mister McKinney, co-chairs and emcees, held court on the main stage and introduced Heritage Society executive director Alison Bell and interim board president Minnette Boesel (Queen Ailongam I). There was a second line parade led by the king and queen with horn players joining in. Honorees were Jo and Jim Furr. From 1988 to 1995, NoTsuh was Houston’s biggest celebration, rivaling New Orleans’ Mardi Gras. The last celebration in 1995 took place at the Rice Hotel ballroom. After a gap of 100-plus years, the Heritage Society has brought it back and aims to make this a signature annual party in Houston, celebrating our history, culture and spirit.

Mission possible

More than 350 supporters gathered at the River Oaks Country Club for the annual Judy’s Mission Possible luncheon, which raised $170,000. Chairs were Robin Klaes, Kittsie Klaes and Tany Jeter Klaes, and honorary chairs were David Peck and Michelle Phillips. Haley Odlor, a young cancer survivor, shared her touching story and received a standing ovation. The speaker was U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame gymnast Shannon Miller, who shared her journey as a survivor of ovarian cancer. Pictured above are (from left) Kittsie Klaes, Tany Jeter Klaes, Shannon Miller and Robin Klaes.

Modeling success

Nearly 200 supporters of Dress for Success Houston gathered at their facility for the 17th annual Models of Success event, which featured inspiring success stories of clients whose careers and lives have improved from DFSH’s programs. The event also served as the kickoff for DFSH’s city-wide suit drive. After mixing and mingling,

well-suited “models” walked the runway while honoree Ilona Carson shared their stories. Pictured are (from left) Diana Laudat, Christina Blackwell, Angie Castaneda and Audrey Schemsdaider.

Editor’s note: All in-person events featured in this month’s column took place prior to the Coronavirus pandemic. See thehizzymagazines.com for more stories about your neighbors.

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