# James Lane

- POST -

Spring 2025 www.jameslanepost.com



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# Courtney Halverson

#### The Beauty In **Little Moments**

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

ctor and creative Courtney Halverson understands the importance of romanticizing one's life. With her cinematic storytelling style on social media, she has gained the admiration of hundreds of thousands of followers (handle: @prettylittlefawn). We spoke with Halverson about her work, life, and upcoming projects.

#### Tell us a bit about your background as an actor and creative.

I'm originally from California and began working as an actor when I was 13, with my parents driving me to LA for auditions after school most days. Truthfully, I wanted to begin as an actor when I was much younger; I think I was 5 when I first pointed at the TV and said, "I want to do that." My parents waited until I was a little older to allow me to begin in the industry, and I'm so grateful for that.

I've worked in film and television on and off for over half my life, in shows like "True Detective" and "Criminal Minds," and in films like "Unfriended" and "St. Agatha." Nearly all of my roles as an actor have been in darker projects — lots of drama and horror. My work as a creative online has, in a lot of ways, been the opposite. I still have an urge to create content that leans into the cinematic, but my videos and photos online tend to be much more romantic and dreamy. I think it's maybe because I've never been cast as a romantic lead in anything. I've sort of carved out that space for myself online. It's been fun to get to dabble in that world.

#### What inspired you to get started as a content creator?

I began over 12 years ago, sharing content on my blog — it predated sharing content on apps like Instagram and was a much more long-form way to share what I was interested in. I'd write about brands and clothing I was excited about, and my outfits were largely vintage or thrifted items. I had lots of time in between filming projects, so it was nice for me to have a creative outlet. I never expected it to become the career it has today, as blogging content turned into sharing photos on Instagram, and the photos turned into videos. In a lot of ways, it feels very full circle as someone who began as an actor to create miniature cinematic moments to share with an audience.

Your page offers storytelling with a cinematic eye and stunning imagery. Tell us about your message and aesthetic and how "you'll never regret romanticizing your life."

A few years ago, I moved from Los Angeles to the Hudson Valley of New York. I had lived on the West Coast my entire life, and one day, my husband and I decided to pack up our entire lives and move to the countryside. It was a bit daunting, but I knew that I wanted a slower pace of life, to be surrounded by nature, and to slowly work on fixing up an old house. During that time, as my life began to slow down to match my new settings, I realized how much I craved the simpler moments — how much pleasure I derived from romanticizing even the simplest things. And so I began to share that with my audience, encouraging them to romanticize their lives in the same way. Choosing to use the nice tea cups for a morning cup of coffee, lighting that candle that they were keeping for a special occasion on an ordinary day, wearing a dress that felt like it needed an outing just for the simple joy of it. It's a way of looking at the world and finding the beauty in little moments — and realizing that there's no time like the present — that life itself is the special

#### Throughout your acting career, has there been a specific role or project that has held the most meaning for you?

I had the absolute honor of working on the second season of "True Detective," and that was such an incredible experience. I worked opposite both Colin Farrell and Rachel Mc-Adams — which was daunting, but both of them were so kind and lovely to work with. I think because the show had seen such success in the first season, it was a really large moment for me. And because there was such secrecy around the plot and filming, I wasn't allowed to tell anyone I knew what I was working on. It was a strange but fun time for me.

#### Living close to New York City, what does your perfect day look like?

I visit New York City often. I tend to spend a lot of my time on the train, riding about two

hours into the city several times a week. I've really treasured my time on the train riding particular favorite. And, of course, there's

I visit Paris often for work and will never cease to be amazed by how beautiful it is. I

ago, but now, when I visit, it feels a little like seeing an old friend. There are so many neighborhoods to see, and I feel like I could spend a lifetime visiting and never see even a fraction of it. There's so much history there, so much attention to detail, and so much beauty, even in the simplest street corner.

I am also very drawn to visiting the Cotswolds and the English countryside in general — and I dream of one day having a little cottage there (no matter how unrealistic that is). There are some similarities to where I live in the Hudson Valley, sure, but it truly feels like its own world. I think I grew up watching so many costume dramas and so many BBC adaptations of Jane Austen novels, and such, that a part of me will forever be in love with romanticizing the English countryside.

## Who are your personal style

As a teenager in the early 2000s, I have to say

Alexa Chung shaped my early ideas of fashion and style. As I've gotten older, I've found myself gravitating towards classic photos of Jane Birkin, although I can never master her carefree style. I think I tend to always look a bit as though I've fallen through a time machine with lots of classic cuts and fabrics, but always with something a bit dreamy or romantic. A scarf tied onto a basket, floral dresses paired with ballet flats, a trench belted with a bit of lace.

#### Can you tell us about Maison Miette, your collection of silk

I started Maison Miette a few years ago because I wanted to create something that felt equal parts feminine and playful — a line of scarves that, at first glance, features simple patterns, but upon closer inspection, you realize are all breads and pastas. Think ravioli checker print and repeating croissants as a motif. So far, we have launched a collection of pasta-themed scarves, boulangerie-themed scarves, and just last year, we released the Apéro collection with oysters and olives and wine glasses throughout. I personally love having a silk scarf on me at all times to tie in my hair, around the strap of a purse, or to protect my hair in the wind. I think they are so versatile and so timeless.

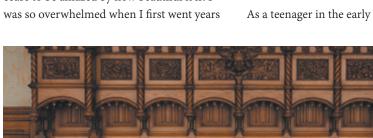
#### Any upcoming projects that you'd like to share?

I created a locket collection with Monica Rich Kossan last year, and it really took off. The theme is of these gorgeous shells that you can open up and keep your most treasured photos inside. I'm so thrilled because this summer, it will return with a bit of an addition. There's something so magical about knowing something that I've had a small hand in will become an heirloom and a keepsake for someone's most treasured memories to be stored within.









## **Out East** From Above

### An Aerial Tour of The South Fork

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro



Out East from Above | An Aerial Tour of The South Fork" is a new coffee table book by authors Lainey Stewart and Kaeley Michaelson. It offers a visual tour and a window into the heart and soul of the East End's villages and beaches. We asked sisters Stewart and Michaelson to answer a few questions about the book and the process.

#### What inspired you to create the book "Out East From Above"?

We're sisters, and we're very close. For years, we talked about doing something creative together and what that first project might look like. Funny enough, our inspiration was there all along. Together, we have decades of shared memories, experiences, and love for the East End community. When Lainey started capturing aerial drone photography for her company, Ten Anchors, a few light bulbs went off. Why not fuse her photography with our stories and love of the local history to feature locations and businesses we admire and appreciate?

Five years later, and we are so excited to share a curated visual tour of the East End, providing a unique window in the heart and soul of the South Fork. Inspired by our favorite places to stay, things to do, and eateries to try, we want viewers to enjoy something they can look at and feel when they want to remember the magic of being Out East.

#### Tell us about your background and creative process.

Our creative process began to take shape

through capturing countless drone photographs. We started to see a pattern as we sought out more of our favorite places to see how they appeared... from above. Then, we began pairing the photos with the recommendations and fun facts we shared with friends and family over the years. Whenever anyone asks us, "Where should we go when we come to visit?" we always have an answer.

In the beginning, we set a holistic look and feel to establish our aesthetic. We wanted to intentionally reflect colors from the natural environment and the vibrancy of the businesses we feature in an effort to compliment both the photography and the copy. Throughout the entire creative process, we've stayed in lockstep with each other, ping-ponging constructive feedback, back and forth, from one sister to another and then, using our family as a sounding board.

Overall, our goal was to create something meaningful together that would celebrate the places we love and give fellow fans of this special pocket of the world something beautiful to display at home.

#### What are a few of your favorite spots on the East

You'll have to check out our book! But in the meantime, we've included a few gems you'll see in these photos.

#### What do you love most about the East End community?

Everyone with roots here shares an overwhelming sense of appreciation for what the East End has to offer. The community is supportive, passionate, and inspiring. Every business owner we collaborated with was warm, welcoming, and excited to be a part of "Out

East From Above." Working with Joey Wölffer

is another great example of genuine community support. We shared our story with her, and she was humble, gracious, and excited to contribute and write our Foreword. The East End is truly a sanctuary, and the community

is a shining element of its culture.

Locally, you can find "Out East from Above" at BookHampton and the Parrish Art Museum.







# James Lane<sup>®</sup>

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#### Editor's Note

Telcome to our spring issue! We hope you enjoy the features on the following pages.

As we emerge from winter, it's time for the East End to come alive. With flowers blooming and seasonal restaurants reopening, this is the perfect opportunity to enjoy the region before the summer crowds arrive. Take in every moment.

In this issue, we invite you to relax and enjoy the articles — preferably in the sunshine, with a refreshing spring breeze, and a cup of coffee (or beverage of choice) in hand.

> Jessica Mackin-Cipro Editor-in-Chief, James Lane Post



# UNLIMITED EARTH CARE THE BALANCE OF COLORS

















## Summer Blockbusters On A Southampton Block

## Maria Ruiz Botsacos & Eric Kohn On Why We Will Always Go To Movie Theaters

By Bill McCuddy

n cinema terms, this place got a "sneak preview." The Southampton Playhouse, which first opened its doors in 1932, was shuttered for a while. Then COVID came along. And all other theaters joined them. This spring, the revamped four-screen "mini-plex" reopened slightly ahead of schedule to give locals a look. Now coming into their first big summer season, Executive Director Maria Ruiz Botsacos and Artistic Director Eric Kohn gave JLP a tour. And an audience scorecard so far.

How have the crowds been enjoying the "sequel on Hill Street?"

Maria: (Laughs) It's been going really well.

We've been pleased with the comments. People are coming in and exploring — back to their old stomping grounds. And we've been able to do some really wonderful things like student screenings. Our neighbors love it. And they love the IMAX. So it's been really exciting and positive.

Eric: I think Hamptons audiences are reflective of many parts of the country where you don't have a lot of cultural resources, and a movie theater stands out as a crucial one in a very specific landscape. I mean, of course, we have wonderful museums and musical programming, but in terms of a seven-day-a-week movie theater? We're the only game in town. So, we have a constant sense of what audiences want to see. We're cultivating a

community. And we can create a much more intimate relationship with that audience.

#### Even in this day and age, when more people are staying home? And theatrical windows are shorter?

**Maria:** I think the sense of community and being in the room with others experiencing the same thing is important. I think that people miss that. It's rewarding to sit in the room and hear the reactions, laughing together.

Eric: Also, building a movie theater is building a cultural hub for the community. So we embody what a lot of cinemas around the country are doing. Trying to create an independent path forward. And by being a notfor-profit, we can do that. We're first-run and repertory. We're working for the community. And we want to work with local filmmakers. There's an opportunity to bring more film production to the East End, and we want to support that in any way possible.

Maria: Don't forget the wonderful and unique experience we had with "Anora." While it was streaming, people still came back to the theater after it won its award. They wanted that visual pleasure that a movie in a theater brings.

## Besides showing movies, how does a not-for-profit film theater raise money?

Maria: Saturday, May 24, is our inaugural "Summer Kick Off" fundraiser. We're basically fundraising for the year-round operational costs. We want to continue to serve first responders and the schools in the area. We want to have films for the synagogues, churches, and other cultural organizations on the East End. Maybe do a film in connection with an art exhibit. We're rolling out a membership later this year. Because it's not just summer months.

## Besides the fundraiser, what are the plans for the next few months? Gimme the "trailer."

Eric: We've got lots of plans for summer. It's exciting. We have some major new releases like "Thunderbolts," but a lot of our repertory programming is going to play off of these films. Because every new movie is serving as a portal to other movies that came before. And that relationship between past and present is what we're trying to do. "Minecraft" is fast and fun and has a sarcastic vibe. It reminds me of "Guardians of the Galaxy," which was also a Marvel refresh. "Superman" is coming. "Mission Impossible" and "F-1," so at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter if you can eventually watch it at home if the theatrical experience is superior.

## Eric, is Brad Pitt going to die in 'F-1'?

Eric: (Laughs) If I knew the answer, I wouldn't tell you.

Maria alluded to one other secret weapon: the only IMAX theater within 50 miles. How

## does that help, and how is the programming different?

Eric: IMAX has almost 2000 screens internationally, and what plays in one often plays in all of them, and that's great. There's a lot of muscle in that because you have what's playing everywhere. But we brought "Led Zeppelin" back a bunch. Because it's worked well for us. We're hoping to bring more music documentaries. It's an ongoing conversation with IMAX. We have some of the big movies and then some that not every other theater is leaning into. It's an exciting time now... We've seen a "generational turnover" where a new audience is coming to movie theaters for the first time.

## You mentioned screening older films. We get those at home, too.

Eric: Repertory movie watching at home is almost overwhelming. And the quality can be terrible. So why not trust the "curator in town" and get the best experience possible?

# The James Bond franchise is huge to movie theaters. Amazon owns it now. What can they do to make Bond fresh for new audiences?

Eric: I don't think James Bond stops being fresh. I don't have advice for Amazon. But I will say Amazon has shown an interest in getting movies into theaters, and I hope that continues.

## If this was a movie and the credits were about to roll, what would the epilogue on the screen say?

Maria: There's a lot on our radar. And we are ready. Because you can't get all this at home. It's a unique human experience.

The Southampton Playhouse is a year-round four-screen cinema with a private screening room available for orchestral soundtracks, podcasts, and invitation-only presentations. In addition to IMAX, it also houses one of the areas only 35MM projectors. More at southamptonplayhouse.com.

Bill McCuddy is a frequent contributor to James Lane Post. He is the last of a breed of something called a "Movie Critic," cohosting a PBS/AllArts review program and several film-related podcasts. He also co-hosts a monthly NPR radio show. He lives in Bridge-hampton with his wife, two dogs, a cat, and a 100-inch television. He occasionally goes outdoors.



## Kiss & Tell

By Heather Buchanan

## A Woman's Mystery

ise women, since the beginning of time, have known that there is a deep, secret, and sensual part of a woman that should never be shared — not with anyone, not her partner, lover, dearest friend, or even her cat (ok, well, maybe her cat.) In this guarded treasure box may lie past experiences, present passions, or future dreams. Not everything needs to be posted on Instagram.

Powerful women from Eve to Helen of Troy

to women whose sex tapes have leaked know this. If you show all your cards, you may ultimately bear the blame.

This secret stash, however, is not filled with misadventure and misfortune, as in Pandora's Box (although this may be another example of women getting the blame.) Instead, it is an emergency reserve, the emotional equivalent of a cellar filled with bottled water, batteries, and cans of line-caught tuna. This is where a woman finds comfort in her own skin, con-

tentment at being alone, and resolution in her personal interests and pleasure. One's own company should be a balm, not an irritant.

I have known women who may not have made it into a Victoria's Secret catalog lineup but who have reserved a sacred place to nurture their soul, emitting a Mona Lisa smile that is an elixir to men.

This is not to be confused with advice to women on how to be mysterious, such as in my mother's generation, which suggested surprising their husbands by being naked and wrapped in saran wrap under the dining room table when they got home (true story). Or the woman told to dress up and go to the mall and come home late with no explanation, causing her husband to not take her for granted. Neither of these experiences seems particularly soul-lifting. The mystery must be authentic to keep its power.

Some of the mystery may be innate since men's "private parts" are on the outside and women's on the inside. I often see so-called balls hanging off pick-up trucks, but I have yet to see a set of fuzzy ovaries slung on a woman's SUV mirror.

In Virginia Woolf's famous "A Room of Her Own," the room, both physical and metaphorical, is necessary for a woman to realize her creative potential. It is meant to house precious things and protect them from outside intrusion. This could range from writing to painting to meditation, full moon rituals, or learning aromatherapy or French.

Since a very young age, I have cultivated a private space, whether it was within my Barbie's camper where robin's eggs or Bonne Bell perfume might be kept or my fully adult lair complete with chinoiserie wall coverings, Egyptian Blue Lotus oil, candelabras, tarot cards, and Anaïs Nin diaries.

While this mystery can be a boon to a good relationship it has also been a protection from a bad one. I adore strong men who are defined by being protective and loving. Weak men are abusive, manipulative, and spiteful.

There are men out there who gaslight women and make them doubt themselves and their intuition. They steal youth and beauty for notches on their Viagra-infused bedpost and, after a series of broken promises, treat them like an empty bag of chips. They want to absorb all your light but not reflect it back. Your inner knowledge is your best defense against these types to give you a soft landing on your feet once you leave and reclaim your salf worth.

Woolf also extolled the need for women to have their own money. Any woman in a relationship should have her own bank account solely in her control. You never want to be caught out if you need an exit plan, especially with these aforementioned gaslighters. Practical magic has a proud place beside the esoteric

So, if the door to your private women's mystery has been locked or jammed shut or covered with cobwebs, this is a good time to open it, cleanse it, and decorate it with your joy — and maybe even some fuzzy ovaries.

## WELL(nest) Day

#### To Benefit Hudson's Helping Hands For Autism

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

udson's Helping Hands for
Autism will host a WELL(nest)
Day fundraiser at The Crow's
Nest in Montauk on June 8. We
spoke with the organization's founder, Kristen
Teodoro, to learn more about the event and
how it will raise funds for a new center in
Water Mill.

Tell us about the upcoming WELL(nest) Day for Hudson's Helping Hands. What are some of the classes and activations that guests can experience?

We are so excited to kick off the summer with our upcoming WELL(nest) Day fundraiser at the Crow's Nest. We want the day to be filled with all the amazing health and wellness things the Hamptons has to offer! We have four of the best studios coming to host large group classes on the main lawn: Post House, FormulaXMeredith, Forward\_space, and Gotham Gym, as well as ongoing yoga and breathwork sessions down at the beach.

In addition to this, we will have a large variety of health and wellness exhibitors stationed throughout the property (facialists, masseuses, IV drips, cold plunges, etc.) and healthy picnic-style food offerings, which will be a blend of Crows Nest's yummy foods and additional health food vendors from the Hamptons.

What are your goals for the event and your fundraising efforts?

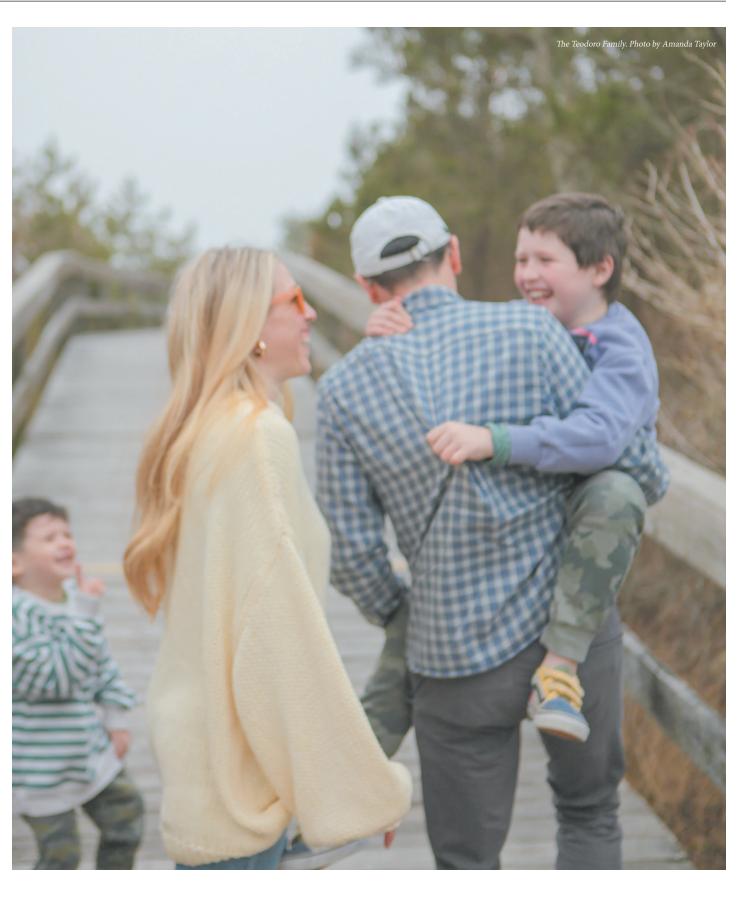
Through a day of all things wellness, we will also simultaneously raise both money and awareness for a great cause. As Hudson's Helping Hands hopes to break ground on its Water Mill center this fall, both funds and community awareness will help make it happen!

#### What are you most looking forward to at the event?

Everything! I am so excited to host, showcase, and try all of the amazing wellness-affiliated businesses that are on the East End. I am also looking forward to the energy that all four workout classes will bring to the event! I know firsthand that these instructors really know how to build a community and get everyone excited, and I'm looking forward to seeing that on such a large scale! I want everyone to leave this event feeling well, healthy, connected, and with a huge smile on their faces.

Looking back at how much you've grown as an organization over the past five years, what have been some of the most memorable moments? What's next for Hudson's Helping Hands?

I think overall, I love how Hudson's Helping Hands has organically grown because our community saw us, saw our need for support, and has never stopped lifting us up and pushing us to where we are now. The East End is truly a beautiful community, and has really helped us take our message of inclusion and run with it.



I can't really say there are one or two memories that stick out for me. They are all so monumental for me and Hudson's Helping Hands. As a parent to a special needs child, I know firsthand how isolating it can be, and

every single time we see a family, or even our own, feel connected and supported by the HHH community, my heart soars.

We are looking forward to breaking ground

this fall for our HHH Center in Water Mill. This center is going to be a game changer in so many ways for special needs families, and we cannot wait to provide this safe space to our community!

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## Panoramica

## Peconic's Playful New Café Is A Spring Destination

By Kelly Alvarez

tepping into Panoramica in Peconic feels like you've been teleported straight into "The Jetsons," minus the flying car, but with way better coffee. Think: comic book colors, retro-futuristic vibes, and enough quirky-cool details to make your Instagram followers do a double take.

Opened on New Year's Day (because obviously, they had to start 2025 with a bang), Panoramica is the latest brainchild from local legends Ian Wile, Rosalie Rung, and Travis Zurawski — the same team behind local favorites Little Creek Oysters and The Sunshine Shack at Orient Beach State Park. Translation? These folks know how to create iconic North Fork hangouts.

For this intergalactic café concept, they teamed up with local design wizard Ricky Saetta, who basically built a whole universe from scratch. We're talking curved wooden accents that make you want to touch the walls, a retro phone booth that looks like a movie set, and an interactive bathroom installation that, let's be honest, you're definitely going to film a Reel in. Ricky started the build in May 2024 and poured 60-70 hours a week into this place. It shows.

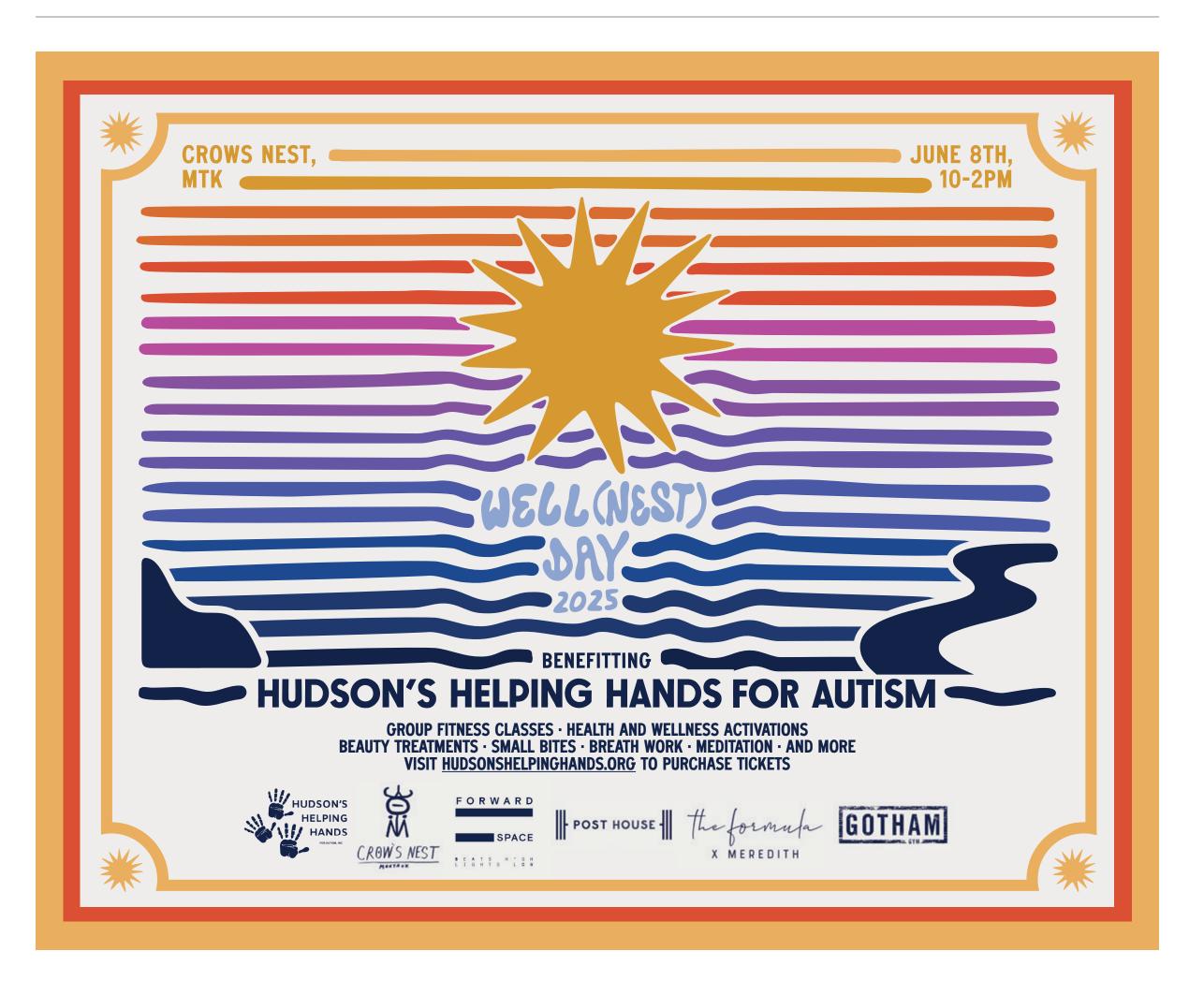
But Panoramica isn't just a cool place to take a pic. It's got some serious substance, too. The coffee? Out of this world. Sourced from North Fork Moto, a group of caffeine-loving motorcycle enthusiasts who roast their own proprietary blend. And the menu? Think elevated breakfast and lunch with a side of fun. There are baked goods that pair perfectly with the experience and a retail wall filled with colorful snacks and treats.

In short, Panoramica is not just a coffee shop. It's a full-blown experience. A funky, feelgood, futuristic pit stop you didn't know the North Fork needed, until now.

So this spring, when you're planning your NOFO adventure, make sure you pencil in a little time for Peconic. Trust me: Panoramica is a must-visit. Your tastebuds and your photo roll will thank you.









## James Lane Post Celebrates Winter Issue At Legends Restaurant

On Thursday, February 27, James Lane Post hosted an event at Legends Restaurant in New Suffolk to celebrate the winter issue. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, wine, and Simple Vodka's signature cranberry mule cocktail.

Photos by Guisela Corado





















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## 'Taking It To The Table'

Holiday House Table Top In Palm Beach Returns With Top Designers To Raise Funds For Breast Cancer Research

 $By Angela \ La Greca$ 



here is power in numbers, power in pink, power in flowers. Add artful design and philanthropy to the mix, and there is power in purpose.

Those were the takeaways from Holiday House Design's third annual "Taking it to the Table" event at The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach. The event featured the artistry of top interior designers who created stunning and sometimes whimsical settings and vignettes to raise money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Created by longtime breast cancer survivor, designer, and co-chairwoman Iris Dankner, the event drew a festive crowd of almost 400 supporters who reveled in the display of beauty and elegance. The VIP celebration with a made-to-order caviar station sponsored by Lugano Diamonds with Lewis Miller Design featured a jaw-dropping tablescape inspired by the sophistication of the original film "The Pink Panther" while evoking the

Flower historian Jill Brooke of @flowerpowerdaily, who judged the event's first floral competition, added this perspective: "Flowers always teach us we can bloom again."

And bloom they did. The Colony Hotel, also known as "The Pink Paradise," simply glowed in a variety of vibrant floral centerpieces while a palpable sense of design and camaraderie filled the vignettes in the Coral Ballroom.

"Palm Beach is known for its strong philanthropic spirit and exceptional design influences," said the event's honorary chair and owner of The Colony Hotel, Sarah Wetenhall. "This event highlights Palm Beach's generosity and creativity, using design to inspire hope and drive progress in the fight against breast cancer. It's a privilege to be part of a community committed to making a difference."

Table Top Palm Beach Philanthropy Chair Jean Shafiroff, who has supported this cause for many years and has certainly attended her fair share of benefits in New York, the Hamptons, and Palm Beach, seemed genuinely stunned by the event.

"The tables created by the designers are some of the most beautiful tables I've ever seen in my life," said Shafiroff. "The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is an incredible charity doing so much research. My mother and my grandmother both had breast cancer, and I feel very compelled to support this, among many other causes, of course. And Iris Dankner has done an incredible job with the Holiday House Designs."

When Dankner took the microphone to thank the crowd and "the village it takes to produce this," she acknowledged how "we have all been touched in one way or another" by breast cancer.

"To my fellow survivors," said Dankner, "let our scars be a reminder that we are warriors and that we could not let cancer bring us down." The crowd cheered.

Iris Dankner's indomitable spirit is infectious and inspiring. The Holiday House Design events she started 18 years ago, held first in New York City, then in the Hamptons and Palm Beach, have since raised over two million dollars for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

We caught up with Dankner, a longtime Hamptons resident, a week before attending "Taking it to The Table" in Palm Beach on February 24 to discuss her life-saving passion project.

## How did Holiday House begin?

I was diagnosed with my first routine mammogram at age 40, and it was at a time when nobody even said the word "breast cancer," it was something that was whispered, and I actually had no one to really talk to — it's not like it is now when people connect you with people for support. It was a time when it was embarrassing, and you didn't share it.

And I have two young girls, and I started fundraising basically as a way to help myself heal.

I created a team for the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure. It was called Iris's Bosom Buddies, and it was an opportunity for me to teach my girls about fundraising and that they don't have to be embarrassed that their mom had breast cancer... and we could celebrate that I was a survivor.

Before I knew it, I was asked to be on the board of (Susan G.) Komen, and they asked me to chair the Race for the Cure. I chaired the Race for the Cure for three years, and then I was invited to be a delegate at The Race for the Cure in Egypt... the next year, I worked with the Knesset, creating a Race for the Cure in Israel, and we turned the wall pink.

I get home, and now I have a full-time design career and a full-time fundraiser. So, I came up with the idea of Holiday House, which was a way of combining my two passions — my love for interior design and my passion to raise money to find a cure.

#### How did the Table Top evolve from Holiday House, which featured designer showrooms in a house?

I started Holiday House in the city, and then, during Covid, it was tricky. We did virtual showcases with the support of Hamptons Magazine and HGTV... and as the world started to open up, I realized what we were really celebrating was being back at the table; that's kind of what I missed for two years was entertaining, being together, so I came up with the idea of the Table Top show. We started that at Topping Rose (in Bridgehampton), and people were just so excited to be going out to events again and loved the idea of celebrating. It was called "Coming Together." We did it there for two years, and then my committee said, "You have to bring this down to Palm Beach."

#### What is the goal?

My goal is to raise money to find a cure. My goal is actually to live in a world without breast cancer; that's my ultimate goal, but I would say how lucky we are to all have each other, to connect, and to be there with each other when people are going through this.

What has helped you get through the most challenging times? What advice do you have for those dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis?

I always say, "People are like tea bags; they don't know how strong they are until they get into hot water."

I would have never, ever thought that I could have dealt with that — it's really helping others that has helped me. When I get a letter or a call — and I've gotten so many — from someone who said, "I heard you talk, so I went for my mammogram, and they found cancer, you saved my life," or "You saved my daughter's life," that makes me feel really good... doing good while we're having fun.

Angela LaGreca is a four-time Emmy awardwinning producer, writer, and comedian. She can be reached at angelatvmedia@gmail.com.



## Supporting Local Care

## Dr. Dana Stern Brings Expert Dermatology To Sag Harbor

 $By\ Lisa\ Frohlich\ of\ Hamptons NY style$ 

hen I moved to East
Hampton from New York
City eight years ago, the
constant back-and-forth
to the city for doctors appointments made me
realize the importance of finding top-quality

medical care on the East End. That's why I was thrilled to hear that Dr. Dana Stern has opened her new office, Sag Harbor Skin & Aesthetics, at 34 Bay Street. She shares her new office space with dermatologist Dr. Mitchell Kline and oculoplastic surgeon Dr. Bruce Moskowitz.



Dr. Stern isn't just a top dermatologist — she's an active member of our community and a dedicated mom to three teenagers. Knowing her expertise and deep local ties, I didn't hesitate to book my annual Fraxel laser treatment with her this year.

Fraxel is a top investment in long-term skin health, effectively treating sun damage, dark spots, fine lines, wrinkles, acne scars, and enlarged pores by boosting collagen and elastin production. Dr. Stern tailors each treatment to individual goals, with adjustable downtime to fit any lifestyle. Winter and early spring are the best times for laser treatments, whether for a full series or annual maintenance. As someone who opts out of Botox and fillers, a yearly laser treatment is a key part of my self-care routine.

My Fraxel recovery was smooth and easy. I was able to wear tinted sunblock the very next day, and though my skin started to flake after a couple of days, I had no trouble meeting clients or taking Zoom calls. Just one week later, my skin looked plumper, refreshed, and

noticeably brighter, with a reduction in sun damage. I was so impressed with the results that next year, I plan to book two sessions back-to-back for even greater impact. And beyond that, Dana ensures you leave her office with a personalized post-Fraxel skincare plan, complete with recommended products and a detailed usage schedule.

Beyond lasers, Dr. Stern is committed to helping her patients achieve clear, healthy skin with real, visible results. Her personalized, results-driven approach has already made her a go-to expert on the East End. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Dr. Stern in her bright and welcoming office to learn more about her practice and her commitment to the local community.

#### What inspired you to pursue a career in dermatology?

In college I worked at the CDC in the pediatric HIV division and thought that I wanted to live in a hut in Africa taking care of kids. During medical school rotations dermatology opened

my eyes because it combined my visual nature, my love for doing procedures, infectious disease, and would also allow me to care for both adults and kids. It checked all of the boxes!

## What's your philosophy when it comes to skincare and dermatological health?

I truly believe that everyone can have healthy, beautiful skin. The path to getting there is not going to be the same for everyone, and always needs to be highly individualized. That's where a relationship with your board-certified dermatology becomes crucial. This has been an era of innovation for dermatology and between laser devices and a plethora of innovation in the therapeutic dermatology space, we have a tremendous amount to offer our patients. It's an exciting time to be a dermatologist!

## Are you involved in any community initiatives, educational programs, or charity work?

I am the medical liaison for Hamptons Community Outreach. Marit Molin founded and leads this incredible organization and over the years I have taken care of many patients who otherwise would have faced significant barriers to getting the dermatology care that they needed. Additionally, I help to find doctors across a wide range of specialties to assist HCO with specific medical cases. I am a trustee Emeriti at the Children's Museum of The East End (CMEE) and my husband and I support The Retreat, Bonac football, and Concerned Citizens of Montauk (CCOM).

### What do you love most about serving this community?

I feel so fortunate to work in a community where people know each other, care about each other and help one another. The year-round Hamptons community is filled with interesting people doing interesting things. In a typical day in my office, I am astounded by the diversity of patients whom I see and the fascinating and stimulating conversations we have. I am convinced that I have the nicest, most interesting patients in the world, and it's why I love practicing in Sag Harbor!



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