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Amy Scherzer's Diary: Weekly wrap-up of the Tampa social scene

By Amy Scherzer

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Tampa Bay History Center Gala

The seventh Tampa Bay History Center gala, elegantly co-chaired by **Linda Ward** and **Rosemary Henderson**, offered more memories for the archives. Ward said seeing the excited faces of students on a field trip while visiting the museum impelled her to help plan the Oct. 9 benefit.

The picturesque buffet of paella campesina, roasted lean buffalo sirloin and much more catered by the Columbia restaurant was all the decor needed in TECO Hall. Hydroponic herbs and lettuce wraps from Uriah's Urban Farms were just as artistic, served by gala committee member chef **Caroline Brabson Thaxton**. Root beer floats and a waffle station put nostalgia on the dessert bar. Honorary chairmen former Gov. **Bob and Mary Jane Martinez** ended the night whirling on the dance floor. "Visionary" chairs **Jay and Erin Annis** welcomed the late-night, under-40, reduced-rate crowd.

The \$250-ticket affair raised \$125,000 —without auction or raffle hubbub — to create educational programs for exactly who inspired Ward, the museum's youngest visitors.

10th annual USF Women in Leadership & Philanthropy Fall Symposium

The University of South Florida's Women in Leadership & Philanthropy fall symposium on Oct. 9 began with six timely panel discussions. Members donate \$5,000 a year and in 10 years, they've raised \$2 million and granted \$500,000 in scholarships and faculty research stipends. Recipient Indira Ranaweer, USF '16, thanked the

200-plus members for changing her life. Applause for two prestigious honors: the Community Leadership Award to Pam Iorio for "combining head and heart" as the former Tampa mayor and current CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; and a Lifetime Achievement Award to Jan Platt for living the Girl Scout creed every day as an environmentalist, elected official and constant volunteer.

During lunch, guest speaker Amelia Rose Earhart shared her journey to self-discovery with the 700 guests at A La Carte Event Pavilion. The youngest woman to fly a single engine plane around the world — 28,000 miles, 14 countries, 128 hours — with co-pilot Shane Jordan, followed the route of the pioneer aviator she was named for, always thinking they were related. Learning she was not kin motivated her even more "There are two kinds of people in this world: critics and creators," she said, leaving no doubt as to which describes her.

Great Gatsby Gala for H.B. Plant Museum

Unflappable hostesses Thea Carroll and her mother-in-law Betty Carroll turned University of Tampa's Fletcher Lounge into a seductive speakeasy for Henry B. Plant Museum's annual Great Gatsby Gala on Saturday. Botanica International arranged the fun flapper and fedora era decor.

Psssst, a flirty cigar and cigarette gal whispered the password, "*bathtub*," to 220 guests vamping for SocialSnap's photos and eyeing mannequins dressed in vintage style by La France. Some tossed dice and spun roulette, some roared to '20s tunes played by Ward Cook Presents the Blue Notes. Everybody got a kick out of the UT dance students' charming Charleston routine.

28th annual Tampa Hispanic Heritage Gala

***Felicidades* to lawyers Norma Carmero Reno and Daniel A. Alvarez Sr., the 2015 Tampa Hispanic Heritage Man and Woman of the Year, honored Saturday at the Hilton Tampa Downtown. In accepting the**

honor, Reno, "an American by choice," underscored the importance of voting, saying: "If you're not at the table," you're on the menu."

The colorful celebration, co-chaired by Luz Lono and Sylvia Parker, brought a great variety of entertainment for the 350 guests, including Carlos Eduardo Rodriguez on guitar, singing by Los Ninos Cantores de Venezuela, *joropo* dancing by Paola Silva Perdomo and salsa/flamenco fusion by Dance World. Proceeds benefit Hillsborough Community College scholarships for Latin students.