

SHELBY'S SOCIAL DIARY

## Early party of the year contender? Asia Society is on a \$1 million mission to top last year's blowout

BY SHELBY HODGE

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Last spring's "Tiger Ball" was a four-day rollicking success celebrating the Asia Society Texas Center's new home in the Yoshio Taniguchi-designed building in the museum district. This year, the party will take a different turn with one magnificent evening during which the black-tie dinner will be served within the modern structure. An after-party will follow on the Festival Lawn.

Gina and Dr. Devinder Bhatia have signed on as chairs of the April 26 gala and have accepted the mission of raising \$1 million.

With that goal in mind, the Bhatias, Asia Society executive director Martha Blackwelder and development director John Bradshaw welcomed supporters to Hotel ZaZa for a launch party that drew more than 150 guests. Joining in the seven-figure fundraising effort are honorary chairs Muffet Blake, Sheida and Dr. Mohammad Etminan and Sheila and Ashok Rao.

Getting their party mode on were Margaret Alkek Williams and Jim Daniel, Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron, Carolyn and Jimmy Robertson, Marie and Vijay Goradia, Divya and Chris Brown, Monjula and Ravi Chidambaram, Jo and Jim Furr and Leela and Nat Krishnamurthy.



Margaret Alkek Williams, Dr. Devinder Bhatia, Gina Bhatia  
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Peter Brown, Jimmy Robertson, Jim Furr  
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Jo Furr, Lily Foster, Carolyn Robertson  
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Roya Taghdisi, Sheida Etminan, Fariba Taghi  
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Divya Brown, Chris Bown, Claire Cormier Thielke, Janae Tsai, Kenny Tsai  
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John Bradshaw Jr., Dr. Devinder Bhatia  
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