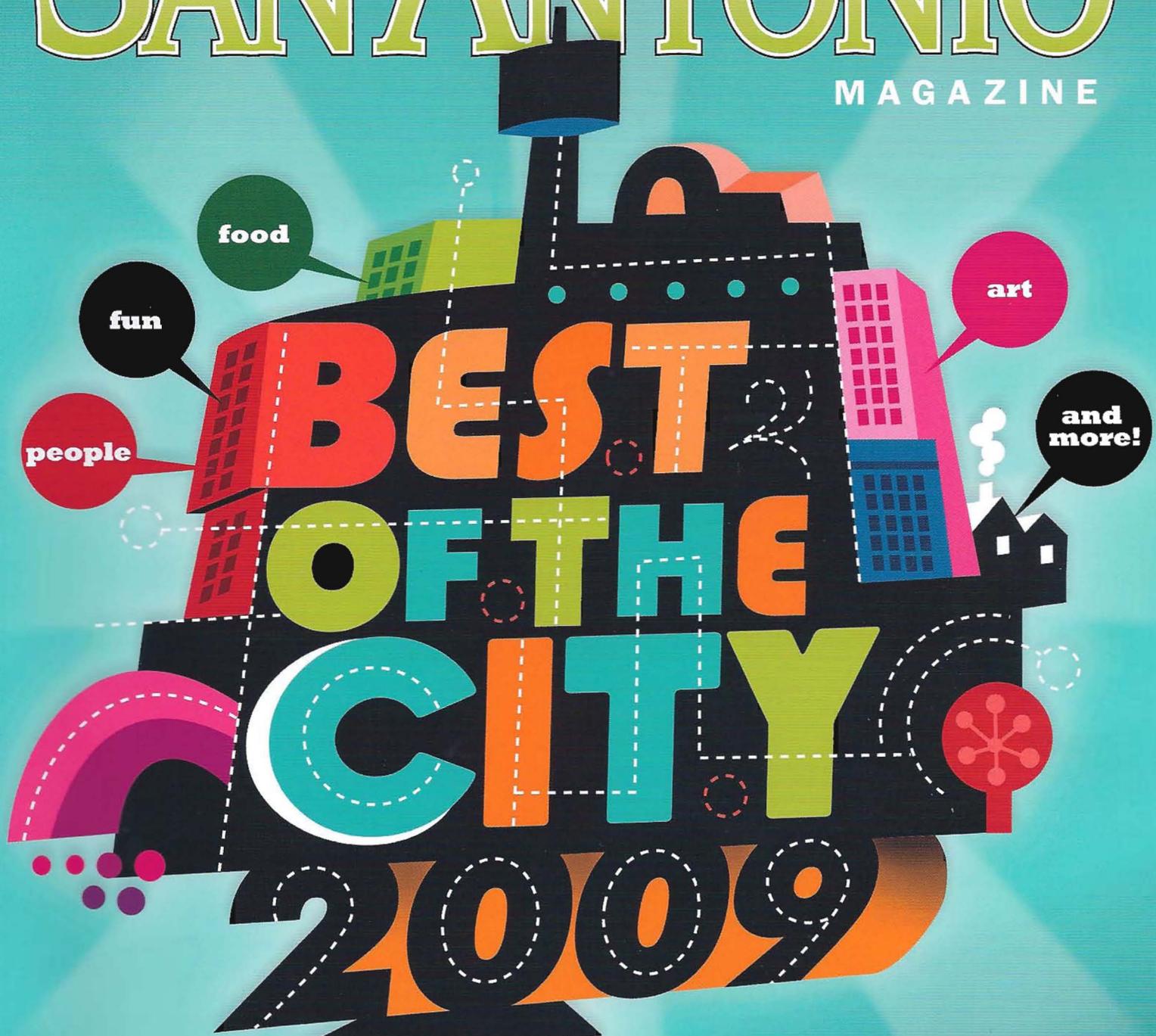


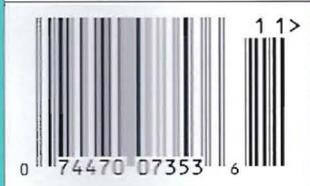
# SAN ANTONIO

MAGAZINE



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**EDITORS'  
AND READERS'  
TOP PICKS**



## **ART IN THE AFTERLIFE**

5 Day of the Dead offerings  
for SA's dearly departed

## **DON'T GO HOME THIS HOLIDAY**

Chill out at one of these winter escapes

## SHOP FOR CHILDREN

### Sugarplum Dreams

Ranging from furniture to jewelry, Sugarplum Dreams magically fills your children's needs, whether they are large or small. Whether it's baby shower essentials or formal wear for your four-year-old, the seemingly endless bright boutique specializes in the hard-to-find and top-of-the-line. 999 E. Basse Road, Ste. 161, 826-5402, [sugarplumdreams.com](http://sugarplumdreams.com).



## READERS' PICKS

### SERVICES

#### BEST SALON

**Versi the Salon**  
Multiple Locations  
[versi.com](http://versi.com)

#### BEST SHOP FOR FINE JEWELRY

**J. Green Jewelry**  
1207 N. FM 1604 W.  
492-0022  
[jgreenjewelers.com](http://jgreenjewelers.com)

#### BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

**Ranch at the Rim**  
18007 IH 10 W.  
319-3001  
[ranchattherim.com](http://ranchattherim.com)

#### BEST SPA

**The Woodhouse Day Spa**  
Quarry: 255 E. Basse Road, 822-8800  
The Rim: 17503 La Cantera Pkwy.,  
699-6500,  
[sanantonio.woodhousespas.com](http://sanantonio.woodhousespas.com).

#### BEST SHOP FOR FURNITURE

**Stowers**  
210 W. Rector  
342-9411  
[stowersfurniture.com](http://stowersfurniture.com)

#### BEST SHOP FOR MEN'S CLOTHING

**Ranch at the Rim**  
18007 IH 10 W.  
319-3001  
[ranchattherim.com](http://ranchattherim.com)

#### BEST SHOP FOR WOMEN'S CLOTHING

**Nordstrom**  
15900 La Cantera Pkwy.  
877-9933  
[nordstrom.com](http://nordstrom.com)

#### BEST SHOP FOR SHOES

**DSW**  
Multiple Locations  
[DSW.com](http://DSW.com)

#### BEST SHOP FOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

**The Children's Place**  
Multiple Locations  
[Childrensplace.com](http://Childrensplace.com)

## HEALTH CLUB/GYM

### Tripoint Family YMCA

We went a little off the beaten treadmill path with this pick. Among the high-design, 24-hour gyms in the city, the new YMCA stands out because in addition to improving our health, it feels like we're earning good karma by supporting this state-of-the-art nonprofit. The anticipation for its opening in spring grew to a near fever pitch among health-savvy neighbors from Olmos Park, Alamo Heights, Downtown, Quarry Village and students and faculty from nearby college campuses. It gets good buzz for its top facilities, reasonable fees, a mythical anti-gravity treadmill and Grace

Coffee Café — a down-to-earth option for a Starbucks-style fix. Caffeine-fueled workouts? We say yes. 3233 N. St. Mary's, 246-9622, [ymcasatx.org](http://ymcasatx.org).

## SPA

### Woodhouse Day Spa

Sigh. Just the thought of a relaxing day at the Woodhouse puts us in the mood for hot stone massages, fluffy white towels and the magic effect that happens when you pair Zen music and fluffy robes. We're sticking with the Woodhouse as our pick for best spa in town for its inclusive packages, expert service and menu of beauty and health rescues, um, help. It's a saving grace in a world of hurries, worries and beauty-stealing stress. Quarry, 225 E. Basse Road, 822-8800; The Rim, 17503 La Cantera Pkwy., 699-6500, [sanantonio.woodhousespas.com](http://sanantonio.woodhousespas.com).

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### Amar Cosmetics

We're no beauty queeues, but Deborah Amar Schneider, owner of Amar Cosmetics in the Quarry Village, sure makes us feel pretty. Amar Schneider, a make-up artist, doesn't just hawk lipgloss, she curates a collection of the rare brands she coveted painting faces professionally. Her love of the products is evident, but she and an equally enthusiastic staff are never pushy, and always considerate of budgets. Besides offering carefully-chosen make-up, skin care and hair care lines, plus eyebrow, lash and make-up consultations, Amar Schneider and her team create an atmosphere that makes the customer *feel* young too. When was the last time you got this excited over eyeliner? 320 E. Basse Road, Ste. 105, 822-5777, [amarcosmetics.com](http://amarcosmetics.com).

