



A WINNER OF OUR OWN

When I became the editor of *Aventura* magazine in 2008, Yael Bloom—the daughter of Stern Bloom Media partners David and Amit Bloom—was a shy, rosy-cheeked second-grader who would come after school to the office with her little brother, Aryeh, and sit in the kitchen snacking on vegetables while he chomped on doughnuts, the yin to his yang. Over the years, I would bake her peanut butter cookies with kisses in them (her favorite) and bequeath glittery nail polishes and other tween-friendly beauty items that would come my way from PR agencies.

Today, at 13, this young lady is now tall, graceful and gorgeous—still with rosy cheeks and cascades of beautiful blonde hair—and has come into her own. She has her own distinctive style (including her signature bandana headband). Always creative—she loves to cook and would text me pictures of omelets she'd prepare with her dad on weekends; I would pass to her children's cookbooks for her to experiment with—today her great passion is fashion design. As a student at DesignLab Miami, under the auspices of owner Angie Cohen, an FIT graduate who has worked as a fashion designer and in production for labels like Calvin Klein, Yael recently fashioned a '60s-style dress out of plastic wrap, using a hair dryer to shrink and crinkle it in the bodice. In November, she received an email that read: "Congratulations! The garment you created for Art Basel has been chosen by House of Art Gallery owner Henrique Souza to show during Art Basel."

We are all so ridiculously proud of Yael—not just her parents, but also those of us who have watched her bloom (pardon the pun) over the years, and who look forward to continue watching her on her journey to success and the realization of her dreams. I, for one, while reluctantly accepting the fact that she, like my teenage son, is growing up and into her own, will also continue to hang onto the little girl I met and became enamored of nearly seven years ago. The cookie dough is in the fridge.



Henrique Souza and Yael Bloom.

Rori Capullo