



**Cultural Council for Palm Beach County
Announces**

**The New
CULTURE & COCKTAILS
At The Ben**

Four Fun Conversations on Fame, Food & Fashion

Photographer/Producer Bonnie Lautenberg – January 10

Chefs Lindsay Autry, Pushkar Murathe, Lisabet Summa –

February 7

Designers Badgley Mischka – March 7

Singer Deborah Silver & Songwriter Dennis Lambert – April 11

(Lake Worth Beach, FL – November 8, 2021) **Dave Lawrence**,
President & CEO of the **Cultural Council for Palm Beach County**
today announced the 17th annual season of one of its most popular
series, but with a new name, new focus, and new location:

**The New
CULTURE & COCKTAILS
At The Ben
January – April 2022**

“After a year of all-virtual conversations, the Cultural Council is proud to be presenting four all-live events featuring some of the most exciting personalities in the world of politics and photography, high class fashion, tasty cuisine, and award-winning music—all at our beautiful new venue, **The Ben**, in the rooftop ballroom overlooking the waterfront in West Palm Beach,” says Lawrence.

All four **CULTURE & COCKTAILS** will be held in The Ben’s gorgeous Blue Heron Ballroom, downtown’s only rooftop venue with outdoor terrace and stunning water views, overlooking the intracoastal packed

with pleasure boats and yachts.

The Ben is located at 251 N. Narcissus Avenue in West Palm Beach. Free valet parking will be provided for each of the **CULTURE & COCKTAILS** conversations, running from 5 to 7 pm.

January 10

WASHINGTON TO WARHOL

A Revealing Conversation with

Bonnie Lautenberg, an esteemed photographer, writer, philanthropist and businesswoman. She is the widow of former U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (Dem., NJ), who got to know many of the nation's leaders from Clinton to Biden, and her photograph of the signing of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian Peace Accord ran worldwide. Her portrait series *How They Changed Our Lives: Senators as Working People* is in the Library of Congress archives, and her work is featured in the Eli Broad Collection and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History. She is currently co-producing a musical based on the life of pop icon Andy Warhol, along with music manager Steve Leber, director Trevor Nunn, and writer/composer Rupert Holmes.

Moderator: Carol Rose, Editor of *The Palm Beach Daily News*

February 7

FOODIES

A Tasty Conversation with

+ Chef Lindsay Autry, co-partner and founder of The Regional Kitchen & Public House in West Palm Beach. She has held positions in restaurants on the East Coast and in Mexico, made headlines as a finalist on Bravo's ninth season of *Top Chef*, and was a three-time James Beard nominee (2018, 2019, 2020) for Best Chef: South. Autry describes her cuisine as soulful, embracing Mediterranean flavors with a blend of her Southern roots.

+ Chef Pushkar Marathe, Executive Chef at Stage Kitchen & Bar in Palm Beach Gardens. Born in India, his culinary roots originate in the rich tapestry of flavors from his homeland. His early culinary training was in Switzerland and has held cooking positions in restaurants in the Caribbean, the Middle East and around the United States.

+ Chef Lisabet "LB" Summa, Executive Chef at Elisabetta's Ristorante in Delray Beach and West Palm Beach. After working in restaurants in Chicago and South Florida, she became the culinary

catalyst for the 18 restaurants of the Big Time Restaurant Group. Summa is one of the few women in the U.S. restaurant industry who is both a senior culinary operations executive and owner.

Moderator: Libby Volgyes, Award-winning Food & Restaurant Photographer

March 7

BADGLEY MISCHKA

A Stylish Conversation with

Mark Badgley and **James Mischka**, who have been hailed by *Vogue* as one of the “Top 10 American Designers” and as the darlings of the Hollywood set. The design duo made their mark over the past two decades with glamorous, stylish and wearable evening wear and accessories. Since launching Badgley Mischka in 1988, fashionable clients include Madonna, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna, Sharon Stone, Jennifer Garner, Julia Roberts, Kate Winslet, Sarah Jessica Parker, Helen Mirren, and Ashley Judd. Badgley Mischka is sold in the most prestigious stores in the world, including Bergdorf Goodman, Nieman Marcus, Nordstrom, and Saks Fifth Avenue, in addition to the designers’ flagship boutiques in Los Angeles and Palm Beach.

Moderator: Roe Green, Arts Patron, Activist and CEO of The Roe Green Foundation

April 11

FINALE

A Musical Conversation with

+ **Deborah Silver**, #1 *Billboard* jazz vocalist, 2020 Broadway World Best Commercial Recording Award Winner, whose best-selling albums include *Glitter and Grits*, *The Gold Standards* and *Pure Silver*. Hailed by Quincy Jones for her “strong and sultry vocals (that) are seductive and soul soothing,” she has headlined concerts at Birdland Jazz Club in NYC, Blues Alley in Washington, D.C., The Kravis Center, and The Colony Hotel’s Royal Room. This year, she was the powerhouse behind the star-packed recording of *COVID-19 BLUES* that raised much-needed money for The Actors Fund and Jazz Foundation of America, and recently released a duet of *You’re Nobody ‘Til Somebody Loves You* with Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers, as well as a new EP, *Sunny Side*.

+ **Dennis Lambert**, the 12-time GRAMMY nominated songwriter who has helmed hit records for legendary recording artists such as The Four Tops, The Grass Roots, Dusty Springfield, Glen Campbell,

Richard Harris, The Righteous Brothers, Natalie Cole, Dave Koz, Dionne Warwick, and more. In 2021, he co-wrote *COVID-19 BLUES* with Deborah Silver.

Moderator: Copeland Davis, Emmy-Nominated Pianist, *Tonight Show* Performer Inducted into the Las Vegas Entertainers Hall of Fame in 2014

Note: Admission to each of this season's **CULTURE & COCKTAILS At The Ben** is \$75 per person in advance; \$85 at the door, \$125 for VIP Seating, and FREE for Supporter, Contributor, Patron and Business Arts Partner level members of the Cultural Council. RSVP to **Debbie Calabria** at **561.472.3330** (or visit www.palmbeachculture.com/cocktails).

The 2021-2022 season of **CULTURE & COCKTAILS** is generously sponsored so far by **The Roe Green Foundation, Roe Green, Founder; Donald M. Ephraim Family Foundation; Milton and Tamar Maltz; PNC Bank; Jean Sharf; Scott Teich, Teich Wealth Management of Raymond James; The Gardens Mall; Palm Beach Media Group; Piano Distributors; Palm Beach Daily News; Legends Radio;** and **PR-BS**, a Boca-based public relations firm. Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Please Note:

All proceeds from **CULTURE & COCKTAILS** go to support the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County's mission to champion, engage, and grow the arts in Palm Beach County. For membership information, please contact Debbie Calabria at 561.472.3330.

Also:

Topics and speakers are subject to change depending upon the availability of scheduled participants.

About the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County

The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County is the only organization solely dedicated to supporting arts and culture in The Palm Beaches, Florida's Cultural Capital®. In its sustaining effort to foster growth of the cultural sector, the Council provides support services to cultural organizations and creative professionals, administers public and private grant programs, advocates for cultural funding, enhances local arts education, and promotes cultural tourism.

The Council serves as a venue highlighting works by Palm Beach County visual and performing artists at its headquarters in the historic Robert M. Montgomery, Jr. Building at 601 Lake Avenue in Downtown Lake Worth Beach. The building is also home to the Roe Green Uniquely Palm Beach Store featuring items by local artisans; the Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Visitor Information Center; and the outdoor Project Space, offering the best view of the building's iconic Martin Luther King Jr. mural by Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra.

The Council is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays (12 to 5 pm), and limited capacity, with special guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all guests and staff. Facial coverings and social distancing are required at the Council and its outdoor project Space at all times.

For more information, including a comprehensive calendar of cultural events in Palm Beach County, please visit www.palmbeachculture.com.

Attached Jpegs:

1. Bonnie Lautenberg

Photo Credit: Brian Marcus

2. Carol Rose

Photo Credit: Damon Higgins, Palm Beach Daily News

3. Chef Lindsay Autrey

Photo Credit: Alissa Dragun Photography

4. Chef Pushkar Marathe

Photo Credit: Photo by Libby Vision

5. Chef Lisabet "LB" Summa

Photo Credit: Christopher Summa/tbc media

6. Libby Volgyes

Photo Credit: Jaime Kujala Photography

7. Mark Badgley & James Mischka

Photo Credit: Badgley Mischka

8. Roe Green

Photo Credit: Jacek Photo

9. Deborah Silver

Photo Credit: Fadil Berisha

10. Dennis Lambert

Photo Credit: Sandy Ireton

11. Copeland Davis

Media Contact:
Gary Schweikhart
PR-BS, Inc.
561.756.4298
gary@pr-bs.net