PALM BEACH EDITION WEEK OF JANUARY 4-10, 2024 | NEWS | A11

## "Hot Topic Luncheon" with Veteran Journalists Jan. 17

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County (LWVPBC) is inviting community members to its "Hot Topic Luncheon" Jan.17 at Mounts Botanical Garden. The three co-founders of the online newsletter, Stet Media Group, will discuss the crisis in local journalism and what they believe is the ongoing erosion of fact-based civic engagement.

Pat Beall, Carolyn DiPaolo, and Joel Engelhardt are all veterans of the Palm Beach Post and have a combined 75 years of Palm Beach County reporting experience.

The trio say they founded Stet Media Group to dish up public interest stories that are often overlooked amid staff layoffs at local newspapers across the country.



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Beall was named Florida Journalist of the Year in 2017 by the Florida Society of Professional Journalists for her reporting in The Palm Beach Post of local heroin users. That investigative report resulted in Florida's

declaration of a statewide public health emergency. In 2020, as senior investigative reporter for USA Today Network, she shared a Peabody Award for the PBS/Frontline documentary "Whose Vote Counts." The same year, she was part of the USA Today team whose exposes on Florida foster care abuses led to changes in state law.

DiPaolo is a respected editor who for 20 years managed the news operation



**DIPAOLO** 



**ENGELHARDT** 

of The Palm Beach Post. She oversaw more than 50 editors and reporters, including the "Corruption County" coverage that led to multiple arrests of local elected officials, and won numerous national awards.

Engelhardt spent more than 40 years in the newspaper business, including 28 years at The Palm Beach Post, where he was an investigative reporter, editorial page writer and columnist. He covered

local towns, large land deals, and the disputed 2000 presidential election.

The event will take place 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program start at noon. The \$25 fee is nonrefundable and the deadline to register is Jan. 10. Mounts Botanical Garden Exhibition Hall is located at 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County is a nonpartisan political organization of women and men of all ages and backgrounds, encouraging informed and active participation in government through education and advocacy.

For more information, go to lwvpbc.

## 3rd Annual Walk the Walk Raises \$250,000

Hundreds of adults and kids participated in "Walk the Walk" to support local children's charities with the Children's Foundation of Palm Beach County. The organization's 3rd annual fundraiser took place Dec. 9 on Flagler Drive, along the waterfront in West Palm Beach and raised more than \$250,000.

Palm Beach resident Sharyn Frankel chaired the event, which will support specific programs at more than 30 local children's nonprofit organizations.

The event included food stations and children's entertainment including balloon animals, face painting, stilt walkers, photo booths, and more.

Sponsors included Sharyn & Stuart

Frankel, Barbara & Myles Wittenstein, Hilary & Richard Cooper, Shirley & Jack Silver, Ina & Murray Pitt, Barbara & Richard Lane, Barbara & Andrew Murstein, Randi & Lonny Henry, Hotwire Communications, Stephanie Bacharach, Natalie Olstein, Susie Zeff and Tanya Pergament.

"We were delighted to see so many people participate in this fun, family event during which we raised a record level of funds for Palm Beach County's children," said Sharyn Frankel. "There are so many underserved kids in the area that need our help."

Visit childrensfoundationpbc.org or call 561-488-6980 for more information. ■





COURTESY PHOTOS

ABOVE LEFT: Barbara Stoller Wittenstein and Deborah Epstein. ABOVE RIGHT: Chris Shaffer, Adeline Shaffer. Jessica Corado and Hilary Cohen

