

## Occasions to Remember

Submitted by Denise (Communications Director) on Thursday, June 7, 2018 - 09:30



Always looking for interesting topics to share, I braved a very torrential evening rainstorm in April to attend a lecture at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens (<http://www.ansg.org/>). The topic that intrigued - *Creating Occasions to Remember in the Style of Palm Beach's Legendary Hostesses*, presented by Palm Beach author and philanthropist, Annie Falk (<http://www.anniefalk.com/>), herself a legendary hostess.

What was the basis of the talk, you might ask? Her two bestselling books, *Palm Beach Entertaining* and *Hamptons Entertaining*. Annie shared a beautiful slide show with photos, excerpts and anecdotes from the books then opened the presentation to a Q & A. That was when I learned that I wouldn't be able to purchase a copy of *Palm Beach Entertaining*; she had only been able to obtain copies of the latter from her publisher. Why? Because the first was a hot commodity, only available through Amazon in new and used versions. So off I was to hunt down a copy. It was worth the wait! As soon as it arrived at my home, I was engrossed.

Mrs. Falk, with a true heart for charitable giving, determined that all proceeds from the book would benefit Children's Home Society of Florida (<https://www.chsfl.org/>). So she gathered a few like-minded ladies to help her and a local award-winning photographer, Jerry Rabinowitz (<http://www.jrabinowitz.com/>), to capture the gorgeous tables, magical parties and delicious food. Her book affords readers access to entertaining done well, with access to private homes around Palm Beach. The pages are full of photos, tips, and go-to recipes from some of Palm Beach's most notable hosts and hostesses.

A few tips from the book that you can apply whether entertaining big or small include:

- Ambassador Nancy Rinker always shows guests she cares about them by "creating a welcoming atmosphere and an enjoyable experience".
- Patrick Park believes that music sets the mood and is even more important than the food in creating a memorable occasion.
- Kathryn Vecellio and Karin Luter shared similar sentiments with readers. Relax and have a good time, then your guests will too. By planning ahead, you can then focus on your guests and enjoy the festivities.
- Finally author Annie Falk suggests that in addition to wines and specialty cocktails, offer sparkling water for non-drinkers. Don't forget to serve it in the same glass as your alcoholic beverages to make the teetotalers feel at ease.

Now I am off to test a few recipes. I think I might start with Baby Dragon Bowl with Five-Spice Dressing and a four-ingredient chocolate and almond cake. Only way for you to try them out, scour the internet for a copy of this "entertaining" book.

*Photo courtesy Annie Falk*

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