

Philanthropy is in vogue when entertaining in Palm Beach

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Three authors recently celebrated the success of their book, *Palm Beach Entertaining: Creating Occasions to Remember*.

The gals celebrated the nearing of the book's second printing at Pioneer Linens in West Palm Beach.

Nearly 75 hosts and hostesses, designers and doyennes, joined co-authors Annie Falk, Aime Dunstan and Daphne Nikolopoulos in celebrating. Net proceeds from the book benefit the Palm Beach Division of Children's Home Society of Florida.

"There are so many wonderful ideas in the book," said Penny Murphy, third-generation proprietor of Pioneer Linens. "Our customers love the table settings and recipes, not to mention the intimate view that *Palm Beach Entertaining* offers into a very private world."

The popular tome offers a personal invitation into the private homes of Palm Beach's most-celebrated members of society and shows how to bring high style to your own gatherings at home. More than 20 hosts open their doors, revealing their secrets for entertaining along with 100 of their most tried-and-true recipes.

No stranger to entertaining at home in Palm Beach and Southampton, Falk offered her take on creating an occasion to remember: "Add something to your party that is uniquely yours - something you made, collect or simply a great thrift shop find. It sparks conversation."

Aime Dunstan, president and creative director of It! Event Concierge & Media Studio, a Palm Beach event planning and PR house, echoes this sentiment often. "Adding interest is key when entertaining on any scale. It's not all about simply setting the table with heirloom china and silver, it's about infusing your personal style into the presentation," Dunstan said. "Layering linens, mixing and matching china patterns, using fresh cuttings from the garden such as broad leaves for place mats or willowy branches woven through clustered centerpieces helps communicate that you put thought into your tableau, which guests will appreciate and applaud."

"To mix effectively, start with a common thread such as a colorway or a unique style (i.e., rustic chic) and remain faithful to that while you mix objects to your heart's content," added Nikolopoulos. "Smooth rocks or leaves from the garden make wonderful place cards, for example. Decorative items from nature (driftwood, shells, coral) add an all-important organic touch."

Spanish celebrity chef and cookbook author Victoria Amory, known for her effortless style and culinary prowess, suggests relying on the gourmet shop for things you don't care to make yourself, such as bread, cookies, dessert or hors d'oeuvres. And as for décor, she suggests that hosts stick to a defined color palette. "It helps define the menu and the look. Silver and crystal are not colors, but they do add sparkle and glimmer!"

Children's Home Society (CHS) of Florida is a beacon of hope for abused, abandoned and neglected children and for families wanting to grow and thrive. Founded in Jacksonville in 1902 to find loving homes for orphans, CHS has since grown and evolved to serve children, teens and families throughout Florida.

For more information or to purchase the book, visit <http://www.chsfl.org/PalmBeachEntertaining>. •

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