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# AN INTIMATE AFFAIR

*The Festival of the Arts Boca is 10 days of music, dance and ideas.*

BY MEGAN MORTMAN  
 Staff writer

The eighth annual Festival of Arts Boca returns to Mizner Park on Thursday for 10 days of music, dance and ideas.

Violinist Itzhak Perlman opens the festival on Thursday with the Festival Orchestra Boca conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos. Other highlights on this year's lineup: performances by Forte, a trio from "America's Got Talent," and Cirque de la Symphonie.

Charlie Siemon, co-founder of the Festival of the Arts Boca, said it was his "aspiration to present a quality festival."

Since the first festival in 2007, Siemon has wanted young families to be introduced to the world of arts in a casual and intimate environment.

The Authors & Ideas program will feature talks by six authors, followed by book signings.

Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin will speak at 7 p.m. March 13 about her latest book, "The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and the Golden Age of Journalism."

"The Bully Pulpit" chronicles Roosevelt and Taft, and their tarnished friendship. Goodwin said all of her books examine what makes a person a good leader.

"Looking at, on a human level, the char-



FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS BOCA/COURTESY  
 Pulitzer-Prize winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin, will speak at 7 p.m. March 13.

acters in the book, their relationships are pretty emotional," Goodwin said. "Teddy and Taft's ruptured friendship, their two wives...I think it's hopefully an emotional human story about relationships that get strengthened and then get ruptured and then reconcile in the end."

Director Steven Spielberg turned Goodwin's "A Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" into the 2012 film "Lincoln," starring Oscar winner Daniel Day-Lewis.

This is Goodwin's fourth year as a festival speaker. When she came to Mizner Park for her first festival, she thought Boca would be a great place for her and her husband, Richard Goodwin, to live during the winter.

"[The festival] does a great job with the combination of music and lectures and dance and people speaking about different kinds of things. And the amphitheater is a great place for it, so it's been fun to be a part of it," said Goodwin, whose primary residence is in Concord, Mass.

Barbara Schmidt, spiritual teacher, will be giving a lecture at 4 p.m. Sunday on Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning," the 1959 memoir from the Holocaust survivor.

For 14 years, Schmidt has taught meditation at Florida Atlantic University's Boca campus. As part of the class, she did a study of Frankl's book, which sparked the idea to use it for the festival.

"[The festival] is really an incredible opportunity for me to share one of my greatest passions," Schmidt said, "and that's taking these great masters and great books ... and see how they can try to help our lives and how can we learn from them."

Schmidt partnered with The Peace Studies Program at FAU in 2001 to promote inner peace, giving lectures and hosting workshops, and bringing in guest speakers like the Dalai Lama. Schmidt founded the nonprofit Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life three years ago, a spiritual learning center.

This is the first year Schmidt will be giving a lecture at the festival, but she and her husband have financially supported the event because of their passion for the arts.

"The Festival of Arts Boca is a place to nourish your mind and your heart, your soul," Schmidt said. "And to really have all of the artistic talent under one roof is incredible."

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## If you go

The Festival of the Arts Boca runs from March 6 to March 15 at Mizner Park, 590 Plaza Real. Tickets are \$25-\$125. Info: festivaloftheartsboca.org, 561-368-8445

## AMPHITHEATER EVENTS

**March 6:** Itzhak Perlman, violinist, with Festival Orchestra Boca, Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor. 7:30 p.m.

**March 7:** Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, 7:30 p.m.

**March 8:** Arturo Sandoval with The Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra. 7:30 p.m.

**March 9:** "Eternal Echoes" with Itzhak Perlman and Yitzhak Meir Helfgot, chief cantor of Park East Synagogue, and members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. 7 p.m.

**March 10:** Neuroscientist, musician and author Daniel J. Levitin, with Constantine Kitsopoulos, pianist, "Your Brain on Music." 7 p.m.

**March 11:** Actress, playwright Anna Deavere Smith, "Reclaiming Grace In The Face of The Adversity," 7 p.m.

**March 14:** Cirque de la Symphonie with Festival Orchestra Boca, Constantine Kitsopoulos, conductor, 7:30 p.m.

**March 15:** Operatic tenor trio Forte. 7:30 p.m.

## CULTURAL ARTS CENTER EVENTS

**March 8:** James Fallows, "How Shall We Think About China?" 4 p.m.

**March 9:** Barbara Schmidt, on Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search For Meaning." 4 p.m.

**March 12:** Geraldine Brooks, "The Art of the Historical Novel," 7 p.m.

**March 13:** Doris Kearns Goodwin, "The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft," 7 p.m.

# S. Florida chefs among James Beard Award semifinalists

BY JOHN TANASYCHUK  
 Staff writer

If you thought Miami was the culinary center of Florida, the list of semifinalists in the 2014 James Beard Foundation Awards will set you straight.

Announced in Orlando, just three South Florida chefs and one bar are among the nominees.

Jose Mendin of Pubblelly in Miami Beach and Horacio Rivadero of The District Miami were nominated in the "Best Chef South" category. Mendin was a semifinalist in 2012.

The "Best Chef South" category includes seven other chefs from across the state:



HECTOR TORRES/COURTESY  
 Jose Mendin is a semi-finalist for a James Beard Award for the second time.

Greg Baker, The Refinery, Tampa; Chad Johnson, SideBern's, Tampa; James and Julie Petrakis, The Ravenous Pig, Winter Park; Steve Phelps, Indigenous, Sarasota; Hari Pulapaka, Cress, DeLand; and Henry Salgado, Spanish River Grill, New Smyrna Beach.

Michael Schwartz, who oversees four Miami-Dade County restaurants, was nominated for the "Outstanding Chef" award.

And The Broken Shaker in Miami Beach made the list of "Outstanding Bar Program" nominees.

One of the "Outstanding Restaurateur" contenders, Stephen Starr of Starr Restaurants, has South Florida locations: Steak 954

in Fort Lauderdale, Makoto in Bal Harbour, and Verde, inside Perez Art Museum Miami.

Statewide, Bern's Steak House in Tampa was nominated for "Outstanding Restaurant." And Joey Redner, of Cigar City Brewing in Tampa, gets a nod for "Outstanding Wine, Spirits or Beer Professional."

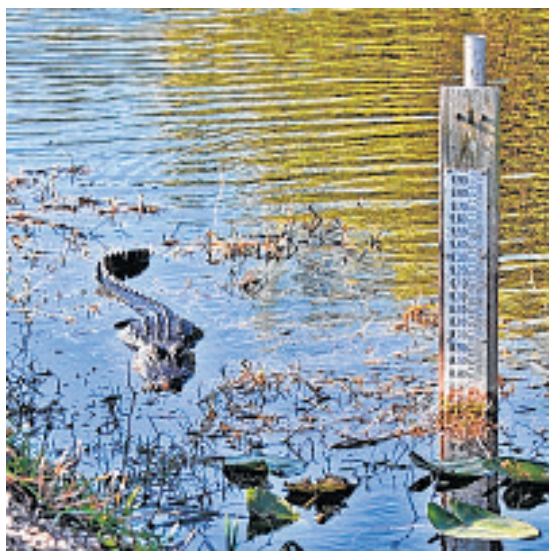
The semifinalist list will be narrowed down to finalists on March 18. Winners will be announced in May in New York City.

The entire list can be seen at James Beard.org/awards.

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## Instagrams of the Week

Tag your photos with #sunsentinel. We'll choose the best to showcase online and in this space next week.



### Later gator

Miami Springs resident Alessandro Abate was in Shark Valley, Everglades National Park, "waiting for the resident great blue heron to move when I noticed a gator making its way towards me. I liked the composition, so I snapped a few shots," said Abate.

Alessandro Abate, @sandroabate



### Colorful chairs

"This picture was shot on one of my daily walks through the neighborhood," said Miami resident Kelly Siegwald. "The multi-colors of the chairs playing off of the green grass just stopped me in my tracks."

Kelly Siegwald, @kellysieg



### Such great heights

Miami resident Miguel Chavez took his street photography passion to a whole new level. "This image was taken on a 60-story rooftop building," said Chavez. "I like to call it 'concrete jungle' since it's all concrete buildings."

Miguel Chavez, @michaellangeloo\_

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