

PARKLAND

L I S T E N TM

AUGUST 2011



The Spirit of Freedom

Alan Goldberg & Melissa Aiello



Melissa & Alan with the United States Constitution

Through the Constitution Plaque Initiative plaques acquired are identical in size and appearance to the original documents housed in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The Spirit of Freedom Foundation's outreach program provides students, teachers, administrators and other educators with collateral material and local fundraising programs to assist with obtaining the five-plaque set. The ultimate goal is to place these plaques in as many schools and facilities as possible across America.

"It is an exciting undertaking, and we envision these plaques as a wonderful complement to our storefront displays and other business enterprise elements," said Melissa Aiello, president of Junior Achievement South Florida. "Our goal is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. The motivation and encouragement that these plaques will generate we believe will definitely be inspirational so this new initiative will work in tandem with the many programs we currently have in place."

Goldberg noted the Spirit of Freedom is making a departure from housing the plaques at schools by selecting JA World as its home, but the educational elements and the sheer number of students that will have an opportunity to see and experience these plaques makes JA World an optimum choice.

The mission of Junior Achievement of South Florida is to ensure that every child in America has a fundamental understanding

of the Free Enterprise System. The organization's core values include; Belief in the boundless potential of young people, commitment to the principles of market-based economics and entrepreneurship, passion for what we do and honesty, integrity, and excellence in how we do it, respect for the talents, creativity, perspectives, and backgrounds of all individuals, belief in the power of partnership and collaboration and conviction in the educational and motivational impact of relevant, hands-on learning.

"With a dynamic and ever-changing environment, both locally and globally, Junior Achievement welcomes new ideas and ways to engage children so they will become productive and important members of society," added Aiello. "We are happy to have one such idea – the Spirit of Freedom Constitutional Plaque Initiative – already rolling."

In order to build excitement, Junior Achievement is launching several contests in the Broward County Public School system in conjunction with Civics classes where the constitution is part of the curriculum. Fifth graders will be competing to create the best poster to commemorate the program while eighth graders will be encouraged to write an essay on this initiative. The winning essays will be read at the Saturday event, while the top posters will be hung up in the Hall of Fame meeting rooms in wide display. High School students will also be participating.

“ Our *goal* is to *inspire* and prepare young people to *succeed* ”

The Spirit of Freedom Foundation and Junior Achievement will also be providing students with their own booklet containing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to keep.

The first plaque initiative was launched at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, Virginia in December of 2010.

Junior Achievement of South Florida and The Spirit of Freedom Foundation gratefully acknowledge the support of the numerous people that are helping make this initiative come to life.

The Steering committee includes; Chase Adams -The Adams Law Firm, Melissa Aiello -JA South Florida, Louise Ball -Broward County Schools, Caren Berg -Boardroom Communications, Theresa Brier -Congressman Ted Deutch, Amy Carpenter -Patten Family Companies, Larry Creeger -National Constitution Plaque Initiative, Jodi Danois -JA South Florida, Scott Eble -Windmill Advertising Group, John Hart -Hart Consulting Group, LLC, Isabel Hebert -FPL, Hal Herman -Worth International, Dale Hirsch -Volunteer Broward, Tom Lenz -National Constitution Plaque Initiative, Richard Paul-Hus-Hypower Inc., Brian Quail -Boys & Girls Club of Broward County, Mark Quintana -Broward County Schools, Elaine Vasquez, Julie Weidenfeld -M Power-Me, Michael Weinberg -Gateway Insurance and Kate Wesner -Congressman Allen West.

The following people comprise the Host Committee: Elliot Borkson, Piero Bussani, Amy Carpenter, Congressman Ted Deutch, Howard S. Dvorkin, Evan Farrell, Helen Furia, Mary Jo Finocchiaro, Isabel Hebert, Lifestyle Magazines, State Representative Jim Waldman, Congressman Allen West, and Michael Weinberg.

The Honorary Host Committee Chairpeople are Arthur Falcone, H. Wayne Huizenga, Harry Patten and Lorraine Thomas.

The launch of The Spirit of Freedom Experience at JA World Huizenga Center at Broward College will coincide with Constitution Week. The initial event on Friday, September 16th will feature the formal unveiling of the five beautiful bronze plaques – four representing the United States Constitution and one representing the Bill of Rights. The following day, September 17th, all of South Florida will be encouraged to participate in an exciting, patriotic and fun-filled celebration that will mark a wonderful event, and evoke memories of some of the best Independence day festivities.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available and tickets will go on sale the first week in August. Ticket price is \$250. For more information on this program and ways to get involved, contact Jodi Danois, jodi@jasouthflorida.org (954) 979-7115. **LM**