GERMA FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

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A TRIUMPHANT RETURN

SAMPLE DISHES AND DRINKS FROM LOCAL CHEFS AND VENDORS AT JA WORLD UNCORKED

he non-profit organization Junior Achievement of South Florida has been making an impact on K-12 students for more than 60 years. With 20 different programs, their focus is on instilling students with the confidence to navigate their futures through learning about financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness.

"Our programs are realistic and impactful. It's all about teaching kids real-world skills they might not learn anywhere else, and we have 55,000 plus students who come through JA World each year," said Diana Metcalf, director of development at Junior Achievement of South Florida.

Unfortunately, for JA, one of its biggest fundraising events had to be cancelled earlier this year due to Covid but luckily this Jan. 29, the JA World Uncorked event will finally be making its triumphant return.

The annual event is hosted by one of the Junior Achievement's biggest supporters, the Circle of Wise

Women, which was founded in 2009 with the goal of supporting the organization and its programs in a substantial way.

"When we first founded the Circle of Wise Women, we had a very simple mission — to advocate for and support Junior Achievement of South Florida and their programs," said Metcalf.

Since its inception, the group has raised more than \$4.5 million for Junior Achievement of South Florida, and more specifically through its signature event, the annual JA World Uncorked. At the culinary showcase, guests may sample gourmet bites prepared by leading South Florida chefs and sip on wines, spirits, craft beers and cocktails from local vendors.

As guests try dishes and drinks from more than 35 different restaurants and beverage partners, they can also enjoy live music, participate in the raffle and silent auction, and experience for themselves the organization's interactive learning environments – JA









BizTown and JA Finance Park - as they walk through the JA World Huizenga Center.

Luckily, for this year's event, the setup will be the same as previous years; however, guests are expected to follow any current Covid-19 protocols including wearing masks, which are encouraged but not required. Yet, with the highly anticipated return of JA World Uncorked just around the corner, the event's organizers and four culinary chairs plan to come back better than ever after a year away.

"For me, personally, it's given me more time to come up with something that can be a little bit more outrageous, a little bit more eye catching," said Paul Niedermann, culinary co-chair and executive chef at Salt7.

"People have been waiting years and you want to always come back stronger than you were the year before so I think this year, we really want to make a bigger impact because of Covid."

However, as for how Chef Niedermann plans on setting himself apart from his fellow co-chairs, Chef Marc Gruverman of The Capital Grille, Chef Jose Gonzales of

Eddie V's Prime Seafood, and Chef Annibal Suarez of Cuba Libre, that'll be quite the surprise for guests.

"I'm not sure what the menu is going to be quite yet, but I have a couple ideas of what I'm working on. Liquid nitrogen might be a part of it," he said.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA STATS

Annual budget: Over \$4.7 million Reach: More than 55,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students reached annually in classrooms throughout Broward and South Palm Beach counties

Teachers and volunteers trained annually: 7,100 **Students served since 1959:** 1,000,000

WANT TO GO? JA WORLD UNCORKED

6:30 to 10:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29 JA World Huizenga Center at the Lillian S. Wells Pavilion 1130 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek Tickets: www.JASouthFlorida.org/JAWorldUncorked







A CIRCLE OF WISE WOMEN FOOD & WINE SIGNATURE EVENT

IS BACK!

Saturday, January 29, 2022

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

JA World Huizenga Center at the Lillian S. Wells Pavilion 1130 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek, FL 33066

Guests stroll the JA building sampling from local restaurants, while tasting wines from Breakthru Beverage and craft beers from Funky Buddha Brewery. Enjoy live music, specialty lounges, dancing, raffles, a silent auction and more!

Purchase Tickets at JASouthFlorida.org/JAWorldUncorked

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