

everything Amelia

PEOPLE, PLACES, HISTORY & MORE



LES DEMERLE BIG BAND BASH BENEFIT GALA MOVED TO FEBRUARY 13

The Les DeMerle Amelia Island Jazz Festival Big Band Benefit Gala on September 5 at the Omni Resort has been postponed due to the Covid-19 virus until Saturday, February 13. Despite the postponement, DeMerle, Artistic Director of the Amelia Island Jazz Festival, is busily preparing for this year's festival, scheduled for October 4 to October 11.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Jazz Festival will present several world-class performances virtually, retaining popular themes from previous festivals. The AIJF will broadcast highlights of past festivals, featuring Delfeayo Marsalis, Nestor Torres, Bria Skonberg, and more. This year's headliners John Pizzarelli and clarinetist/saxophonist Ken Peplowski will be rescheduled to the 2021 festival, but they will perform a few songs virtually this year as a preview of things to come. DeMerle will also interview headliners Pizzarelli, Peplowski, festival favorite Trio Caliente, and others during the festival week.

The Dynamic Les DeMerle Jazz Trio and Little Big Band with Bonnie Eisele will perform tributes to Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, and Billie Holliday on the festival weekend. 2020 AIJF Scholarship winner jazz drummer Janae Yates will also play. For more information, visit www.ameliainslandjazzfestival.com.

OMNI AMELIA ISLAND RESORT FEATURES "THE SUMMER OF SPRITZ"

Every summer, Omni Hotels & Resorts spotlights one of the country's most popular ingredients, and their culinary masterminds create a unique and delicious menu of food and drink options. This summer, Omni Amelia Island Resort invites you to experience its "The Summer of Spritz," which takes traditional "spritz" cocktails to a whole new level, while also making them simple enough to enjoy at home.

Like the fizzy bubbles of their favorite cocktails, Omni Amelia Island is looking up to good times and the buzz of summer. Guests can enjoy the sparkle of spritz drinks and bright food pairings all summer long at the Omni, or if you prefer to stay home, you can recreate some of their specialty cocktails, including favorites like Lemon Lavender Spritz with Vodka and Salted Watermelon Spritz with Tequila.

Omni Amelia Island's "Summer of Spritz" is part of its "Summer Of" yearly series, highlighting Omni's original recipes created by their award-winning chefs and mixologists. Previous recipes have included ingredients like passion fruit, avocado, and mango. "Summer of Spritz" cocktails, along with food pairings, will be available through Labor Day. For make-at-home recipes for spritz drinks and pairings like watermelon cucumber salad and lobster roll, visit Omni Amelia Island's website at www.omnihotels.com/culinary/summer-culinary/spritz.



LOCAL AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR DEB BOELKES RELEASES NEW BOOKS

Did you know that Amelia Island's Deb Boelkes, who so many of us know as the former president of the Newcomers Club of Amelia Island, is also an award-winning author? Deb has stories that will pull on your heartstrings, as she takes you through her journey of losing her mom just hours after her high school graduation, finding a home in an unexpected place, and rising through the ranks of a male-dominated business world during her 30-year career leading sales, global business operations and professional services at various technology companies.

Don't tell Deb we whispered her secret, but the story shares how she learned to lead passionately, putting people first, and because of this, delivered WOW results. Today her company, Business World Rising, helps organizations everywhere create best place to work cultures, where heartfelt leaders at every level inspire their teams to be the best they can be.

Read it for yourself in her two new books, *The WOW Factor Workplace: How to Create a Best Place to Work Culture* and *Heartfelt Leadership: How to Capture the Top Spot and Keep on Soaring*. Visit www.businessworldrising.com to learn more about Deb and to get your own copies of her books.

