



**TOP ROW:** Alexandria Ayala, Nathalie Pozo, Penny Murphy, Mary Freitas, Laurie Silvers and Nancy Brinker; Richard Johnson and Laurel Baker; Alan and Marissa Murphy; **MIDDLE ROW:** Cheryl Burkhardt and Vernique Williams; Suzanne Turner, Caroline Smith and Teresa LePore; Kip O'Brien and John Archer; Mack Benard and Taylor Materio; **BOTTOM ROW:** Cindy and Doug Hartwell with Michelle Renee; Deborah Adeimy and Stephanie Dather; Edward Kay and Kurt Crowl. PHOTOS: CAPEHART

# A Portrait of Leadership

**A** highlight of Women's History Month at the **Historical Society of Palm Beach County (HSPBC)**, *A Portrait of Leadership*, was held at the 1916 Historic Courthouse, home of the HSPBC's *Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum*. Following a cocktail reception, local women leaders shared their insights about representing their gender in their varied roles. More than 140 guests attended the free recorded event, which will appear on *Channel 20* and reside on the HSPBC *YouTube Channel*.

**Alexandria Ayala**, who represents the School Board of Palm Beach County on the HSPBC Board of Governors, welcomed attendees, and HSPBC Board Member **Mary Freitas** introduced Moderator **Nathalie Pozo**, anchor at *WPBF 25 News*.

The panel included **Nancy Brinker**, Founder of Susan G. Komen and Promise Fund of Florida; **Penny Murphy**, President, Pioneer Linens; **Laurie Silvers**, Attorney, Entrepreneur,

Board Chair of University of Miami and **Ethel Isaacs Williams, Esq.**, Attorney and National President, The Links, Incorporated.

All of the panelists shared nuggets of wisdom:

- Ethel Williams — "Philanthropy is not always money. All of us can give something back – time, talent, or resources."
- Penny Murphy – "To raise strong daughters, be a good role model."
- Nancy Brinker, who has the gene that took her sister's life at age 36 – "You cannot let it run your life."
- Ethel Williams – "Acknowledge that bias exists (against gender, race, or age). Bring the whole person to others."
- Nancy Brinker – "Always raise your hand, take the hardest job, and do the best job you can. Stick with your commitments and do not let others define you."
- Laurie Silvers – "To counteract the negative effects of social media, reach out and show kindness, show your heart. We are obligated to extend a hand and mentor the next generation."
- Penny Murphy – "We are so lucky to live

in Palm Beach County and to be sitting in this Historic Courthouse. Because Richard and Pat Johnson (and others) wrote their check, the Society is able to archive all that happens here."

- Laurie Silvers – "Our country is built on taking risks. If you realize failure is only a path toward success, you will overcome it. Don't let fear stop you."

Through their *Women's History Initiative*, the Historical Society facilitates a growing group of women and men who support activities to recognize and empower the strength of women in the community, past and present.

Women's History Month 2023 events were made possible with support from the following Sponsors: **LocaliQ, Loreen Beisswenger Farish Charitable Foundation, The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation, Pat Moran Family Foundation, Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, Discover the Palm Beaches, The Palm Beach Post** and the **West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority**.

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