

**CITIZENS INTERESTED
ARTS**
KEEPING ARTS ALIVE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

www.CIA4Arts.org

Press Release:

Lenore Toby-Simmons
Event Chair
lenoret18@aol.com

Citizens Interested in Arts, Inc. announces its Honoree for the upcoming **Champion of the Arts Award Ceremony** on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 11 a.m. We are proud and excited that this year's recipient is none other than our own "born and raised in Miami" **Mitchell Kaplan**. As a former educator and lover of learning, Kaplan is the Founder of Books & Books in 1982, which is still a destination landmark in Coral Gables. Additionally, he was a driving force in creating the now internationally respected Miami Book Fair. This past year he added to his impressive credentials a movie adaptation of "The Man Who Invented Christmas" by Les Standiford.

To add to the excitement and allure of this event the luncheon will be held at the incomparable **Faena Forum**, 3300 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach. Making the day even more magical the renowned humor columnist and author, **Dave Barry**, will host as the Master of Ceremonies. Along with a sumptuous luncheon, there will be a Silent Auction with incredible offerings and live entertainment. This is an event not to be missed!!!

CIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to preserving the visual and performing arts in South Florida and is organized solely for the purpose of providing grants to qualified members of the South Florida artistic community. Since its inception in 1997, this all-volunteer organization has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to worthy South Florida arts organizations. Previous Champion of the Arts Honorees have been Shelton G. Berg, Joseph Adler, Charlie Cinnamon, Judy Drucker, Rhoda Levitt, Sonia "Tita" Puopolo, Florence and Robert Werner, Hon. Susan Gottlieb, Dennis Edwards and Mark Steinberg.

For tickets or sponsorship for this event or further information, contact Lenore Toby-Simmons, Event Chair, at 305 733-0061 or by e-mail at lenoret18@aol.com.