

Dinner & A Speech

By Deborah L. Kunesh

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What do you get when you pair upscale gourmet food, a cozy upscale restaurant and a Chicago Broadcasting icon?

An amazing night of food, conversation and thought-provoking talk.

Niche Restaurant, located at 14 S. Third Street in Geneva, has collaborated with Broadcast icon John Callaway, for a series of after dinner talks entitled “After Dinner with John Callaway”.

Taking place after a 3 course gourmet dinner, the first in this series was titled “John Callaway’s State of the Union,” and featured Callaway’s take on the huge task of electing a president, and how the man we elect many times changes course once he gets into office and fully realizes everything he has to deal with, bringing to light, in his forthright yet humorous style, the coinciding paradoxes of the presidency.

Future talks will include the subjects, “Your Doctors and Your Health,” “The Cubs, White Sox and Bears,” and “Analysis of the Great Presidential Race of 2008”, among others, along with the next in the series, “The Economy and Your Money,” which will take place on June 25th. In this next talk, Callaway will be interviewing leading economist Brian Wesbury, Chief Economist at First Trust Advisors L.P., a financial services firm based in Lisle.

Wesbury also writes frequently for the editorial page of The Wall Street Journal and is the Economics Editor of “The American Spectator,” as well as being named a CNBC contributor in 2007.

Callaway’s broad range of subjects? Culled from many years of experience.

With this being Callaway’s 51st year in Broadcast Journalism, being described as “Chicago Television’s Number 1 Interviewer”, along with receiving more than 60 awards for his work, including the coveted Peabody award and seven Emmys, Callaway obviously has a lot to bring to the plate, no pun intended, and has been dealing with a wide range of subjects over the course of his career, and especially as of late as Host and Senior Editor of WTTW’s “Friday Night” and the Chicago Stories anthology series.

“This is what I’ve been doing for the past 50 years is dealing with this stuff,” said Callaway. “I deal with the arts one night, politics another night, health care and sports other nights, economics another night, China another night.” He brings this hard-earned expertise and vast knowledge right here to us in the Fox Valley with this much-awaited collaboration.

Callaway is also excited to be back in the Fox Valley, which he personally considers “God’s Country.”

“This is a return to a part of the Chicago area that is sacred to me,” said Callaway. “Years ago, about 40 some years ago, I started coming out here.”

With he and his wife looking for an area far enough away from home that they would find good deals on a hotel, a big pool and fun food, they landed upon the Holiday Inn in Aurora.

Callaway was happy with the pool and while his wife enjoyed the amenities, he went out in search of a local golf course. “I found it just up the road. The Fox Valley Country Club in Batavia on Route 25. Fell in love with it,” exclaimed Callaway. “I’m from West Virginia and the golf courses there are on rolling hills and the Waverling course in Chicago on the lake front is flat as a pancake. I fell in love with Fox Valley Country Club, just a public course, and started bringing all of my CBS buddies out here. We were like a little CBS mafia. We would get up at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning after a hard week’s work and drive all the way out here, play golf, and go back.”

The hosting restaurant for these talks, Niche, is a cozy, upscale restaurant that seats 72. With its rich wood panels featuring frosted glass sconces, to the hurricanes lining the windowsills, glowing with pillars that fill the restaurant with candlelight and atmosphere, you are welcomed in by its upscale simplicity and warmth. You stay for the amazing service, the entertaining talk, the wine and the out of this world gourmet food prepared by Chef Jeremy Lycan, former executive chef of 302 West.

One sampling off the dinner menu from the series? Roasted free range chicken on herbed mashed potatoes with truffled potato frites, a rich chicken reduction and sautéed baby carrots, served with a 2005 Edmunds St. John Pinot Grigio. For dessert? Raspberry sugar glazed chocolate cake with rich chocolate whipped cream, fresh raspberries and Glunz Family Farms Raspberry wine sauce. The ticket prices, dinner and wine menu as well as the guests Callaway will interview, change from event to event.

To purchase tickets to any of the upcoming of the “After Dinner with John Callaway” series and to get more information on ticket prices, call 630-262-1000. For further information, visit www.nichegeneva.com

Sidebar:

More About John Callaway:

- *“He is hands down, the best on-air interviewer in the land.”
The Atlanta Constitution*
- *Came to Public Broadcasting after spending 17 years with CBS in various capacities in Chicago and New York.*
- *At the CBS-owned radio station in Chicago, WBBM, he was host of the nationally broadcast Nightline program in the mid 1960’s*
- *Served as News Director at WBBM and helped transform it into an all-news station in 1968.*
- *Later in 1968, he was appointed Vice President of CBS Radio in New York for development of CBS all-news stations around the nation.*
- *Served as National Group Correspondent for CBS Radio in the early 1970’s and then returned to Chicago as a general assignment reporter for WBBM-TV.*
 - *In 1974, Callaway joined WTTW as News Director*
- *In 1975 He hosted the station’s first venture into nightly news analysis, “The Public Newscenter.”*
- *Was later host of WTTW’s Chicago Feedback town meeting series.*