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The James Beard Foundation Names 2013 Leadership Award Recipients

*Five Honorees Recognized for Work in Creating a More Healthful,
Sustainable, and Safe Food World During Fourth Annual Food Conference*

New York, NY (July 29, 2013) – Recognizing visionaries across a broad range of backgrounds, the [James Beard Foundation](#) today announced the recipients of the third annual [James Beard Foundation Leadership Awards](#). This year’s honorees are: **Hal Hamilton, Cynthia Hayes, Marion Nestle, Ricardo Salvador, and Gus Schumacher.**

“We are thrilled to have selected leaders who are shedding light on the important issues that our food system faces, and who are helping to examine, clarify, and resolve major conflicts in the food world,” said Susan Ungaro, president of the James Beard Foundation. “Our Leadership Award recipients are on the front lines of innovation and education, constantly working to make our food system a safer one.”

Now in its third year, the Leadership Awards recognize specific outstanding initiatives as well as bodies of work and lifetime achievement. Excellence of work, innovation in approach, and scale of impact either within a community or across the nation were among the criteria used to select this year’s honorees.

2013 James Beard Foundation Leadership Award Recipients

Hal Hamilton, Founder and Co-Director, Sustainable Food Lab:

For supporting food companies, nonprofits, and farmers to demonstrate and scale sustainability in the global food supply.

Cynthia Hayes, Executive Director, Southeastern African-American Farmers Organic Network (SAAFON):

For the impact her work has had on the network of African-American farmers dedicated to using sustainable growing practices.

Dr. Marion Nestle, Paulette Goddard Professor, Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health and Professor of Sociology at New York University:

For her research and writing on how science and society influence dietary advice and practice and the impact it has had on our food system and in improving the way America eats.

Ricardo Salvador, Director, Food & Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists:

For his work in academia, philanthropy, and advocacy in support of a healthy, green, fair, and affordable food system.

Gus Schumacher, Executive Vice President of Policy, Wholesome Wave:

For his lifelong efforts to improve access to fresh local food in underserved communities.

Honorees were chosen by past Leadership Award recipients Will Allen, Fedele Bauccio, Wendell Berry, Dr. Jason Clay, Debra Eschmeyer, Sheri Flies, Jan Kees Vis, Fred Kirschenmann, Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, First Lady Michelle Obama, Janet Poppendieck, Alice Waters, Craig Watson, Tensie Whelan, and Malik Yakini. The program is partially underwritten by a grant from the GRACE Communications Foundation with support from Bon Appétit Management Company.

The 2013 Leadership Award recipients will be honored on October 21 at a dinner ceremony co-hosted by *Good Housekeeping* and emceed by chef Art Smith at the Hearst Tower. The awards presentation will be part of the James Beard Foundation's fourth annual Food Conference, *Paradox of Appetite: Hungering for Change*, taking place on October 21 and 22 at Convene. Founding support for this year's JBF Food Conference was provided by GRACE Communications Foundation and Edens, with additional support provided by Bon Appétit Management Company and United States Healthful Food Council (current list as of press time). For more information, visit jbffoodconference.org or follow #JBFLeads on Twitter and Facebook.

Both the Leadership Awards and the Food Conference further the James Beard Foundation's work to highlight the importance of food and the culinary arts in our culture and to establish and support links between these arts, the community, and the key sustainability and public health issues of our time.

Tickets to the Leadership Awards dinner are available for \$1,000 to the general public or for \$500 for Food Conference attendees; tables of ten are available for \$10,000. A portion of each ticket or table purchase is tax-deductible as allowed by law. For event information or to purchase tickets, please contact Bowen & Company at 914.231.6180 or jamesbeard@bowenandco.com. Details can also be found at jbfleadershipawards.org.

About the James Beard Foundation:

Founded in 1986, the James Beard Foundation's mission is to celebrate, nurture, and honor America's diverse culinary heritage through programs that educate and inspire. A cookbook author and teacher with an encyclopedic knowledge about food, James Beard, who died in 1985, was a champion of American cuisine. He helped educate and mentor generations of professional chefs and food enthusiasts, instilling in them the value of wholesome, healthful and delicious food. Today the Beard Foundation continues in the same spirit by administering a number of diverse programs that include educational initiatives, food industry awards, scholarships for culinary students, publications, chef advocacy training, and thought-leader convening. The Foundation also maintains the historic James Beard House in New York City's Greenwich Village as a "performance space" for visiting chefs. In September of 2012, the Foundation launched the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Protocol and helped create the American Chef Corps as a way to champion American chefs abroad, promote American food products and foster an interest in American culinary culture and history through international programs and initiatives. For more information, please visit www.jamesbeard.org. Find insights on food at the James Beard Foundation's blog [Delights & Prejudices](#). Join the James Beard Foundation on [Facebook](#). Follow the James Beard Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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