



## **Barnstable resident's vision helped create organization that continues to bring nationally recognized voices to Cape Cod**

BARNSTABLE, MA — When nationally respected presidential advisor, educator, and Barnstable Village resident David Gergen passed away earlier this year, Cape Cod lost not only one of the nation's leading civic voices, but also the visionary whose idea helped create the Cape Cod Speaker Series.

On Thursday, July 23, at 7:00 p.m., the organization Gergen helped found will honor his life and legacy during the inaugural David R. Gergen Address at Cape Cod Community College. Members of the Gergen family will join the community as businessman, philanthropist, and historian David Rubenstein delivers the keynote address.

Although Gergen advised four U.S. presidents from both Republican and Democratic administrations and later taught at Harvard Kennedy School, one of his lasting local legacies began with a simple conversation among neighbors in Barnstable Village.

During that discussion, Gergen remarked that he had spoken at forums on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and wondered why Cape Cod did not have a speaker series that regularly welcomed nationally recognized leaders. When he learned none existed, he helped create one.

That conversation led to the formation of the Cape Cod Speaker Series, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing nationally recognized leaders to the region while supporting student financial aid through the Cape Cod Community College Educational Foundation.

In support of the organization's inaugural event in 2023, Gergen wrote, "Since coming to Cape Cod for many summers, first as renters and now as owners, my wife and I have marveled at the spirit of community found here. That's why we are joining our friends and neighbors in taking a next step: creation of a speaker series inviting luminaries to share their wisdom and joy. We are all in this together!"

"David believed Cape Cod deserved a place where people could gather to hear influential thinkers and engage in meaningful conversations," said Gene Guill, President of the Cape Cod Speaker Series. "That vision has become a reality, and we are proud to honor the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind."

Established in Gergen's honor, the annual David R. Gergen Address recognizes leaders whose commitment to public service and civic engagement reflects the values he championed throughout his life.

This year's speaker, David Rubenstein, will present *Keeping History Alive: The Declaration of Independence and the Call to Lead*, exploring America's founding principles as the nation prepares to commemorate its 250th anniversary.

According to Gergen's wife, Anne, "David believed deeply in the power of informed citizenship, respectful dialogue, and leadership rooted in service. He cared greatly about helping people better understand one another and engage thoughtfully in civic life. Our family is honored that this annual address, held in a place that has deep meaning for us, will continue the conversations he valued so much and inspire future generations of leaders."

Tickets and season subscriptions are available through the Cape Cod Speaker Series. Please visit [capecodspeakers.org](https://capecodspeakers.org).