

# Cultivating Champions

NEW YORK JUNIOR  
TENNIS & LEARNING  
APRIL 16, 2026  
ZIEGFELD BALLROOM

# Growing Leaders

# Welcome to our Gala

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Dear NYJTL Family and Friends,

Welcome to a very special evening celebrating **Cultivating Champions and Growing Leaders**. Thank you for joining us tonight.

NYJTL invests in the education, wellness, and character development of 90,000 young people each year across all five boroughs at 100 sites. Founded in 1971 by Arthur Ashe, NYJTL is proud to be the largest youth tennis and education nonprofit in the country, dedicated to empowering youth to chart their own paths through our free programs. We are doing our best to implement Arthur Ashe's vision of using "tennis as a way to gain and hold the attention of young people... so that we can teach them about matters more important than tennis." This vision lives on in the way our people, places, and programs interlock so that our overall impact is greater than the sum of its parts. NYJTL's pathway approach welcomes broad participation and, as commitment grows, guides dedicated students into more intensive tennis and academic programs that help pave their way to college and long-term success.

NYJTL's five core values permeate how we coach, teach, and show up for young people:

- **Healthy Living:** regular physical activity, nutrition, and mental wellness
- **Teamwork:** fair play and good sportsmanship
- **Learning:** a growth mindset and continuous improvement
- **Community:** service, inclusion, and belonging; and
- **Character:** honesty, integrity, and grit

These values are not abstract—they are practiced daily and become transferable life skills.

Students learn critical thinking by solving new challenges on court and in class; self-direction by setting goals and following training and study plans; a positive attitude by handling wins and losses with maturity; competitive spirit by striving to improve while showing self-control; and resilience by persisting through setbacks. Together, these habits prepare young people for long-term success—on the court, in school, and in life.

Tonight, we proudly honor Deborah Slaner Larkin and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario for their unwavering support of NYJTL's mission to develop the character of young people through tennis and education for a lifetime of success on and off the court. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to our board and staff who make this event possible.

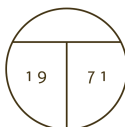
Your generosity tonight ensures that NYJTL will continue transforming lives through tennis and education, positively impacting tens of thousands NYC youth.

Thank you for joining us and for your continued support.

Warm regards,

*Kunj Majmudar and Udai Tambar*

Board Chair and President & CEO



# Our Programs

## Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning

NYJTL's flagship tennis facility in The South Bronx, combines free community and school-based programs and events with a full-service tennis club offering year-round junior and adult programming, serves as the hub that supports progression through NYJTL's pathway of programs.

## Scholar Athlete Program

Culmination of NYJTL's pathway of programs, combining high-level training with academic enrichment and leadership opportunities. A selective program to prepare motivated and skilled student-athletes for college and life beyond the court.

## OUR PROGRAMS NYJTL

## Accelerated Tennis Program

A selective program for motivated middle and high school players focused on advanced training, tournament play, and preparing for higher levels of competitive tennis.

## Varsity Tennis Program

A selective program for elementary and middle school players ready to build skills, compete on school teams, and gain match experience through structured training and competition.

## Community Tennis Program

Beginner-friendly tennis offered in schools, parks, and playgrounds across NYC, introducing young people to tennis in a safe and welcoming environment.

## ACES Afterschool Program

A comprehensive school-based afterschool program that blends tennis, academics, enrichment, and family engagement to support the whole child.

## School Time Tennis Program

Equipping public school P.E. teachers with training, equipment, and support from NYJTL coaches to integrate tennis into their curriculum.

# Meet Our Honorees

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Deborah Slaner Larkin

Deborah Larkin is a consultant in nonprofit management, advocacy, research, and education, dedicated to advancing civil and human rights, gender equity in sports, Title IX enforcement, and educational access for underserved youth, including communities of color and LGBTQ+ individuals, and eliminating sexual abuse.

She served as Executive Director of the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) from 1986–1992 and again from 2014–2017, and as Chief Advocacy Officer from 2017–2018, helping launch National Girls and Women in Sports Day and advancing national research, advocacy, and youth initiatives. She continues to serve on the WSF National Advocacy Committee.

From 2010–2013, Deborah led the USTA Foundation, significantly increasing scholarships and program stability. A longtime leader with the National Women's Law Center, she launched TitleIX.info, created The MARGARET Fund, and supported pay-equity victories including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. She served on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, receiving the Billie Jean King Contribution Award and Distinguished Woman of New York Award; served on the NYJTL Board (2014–2024); and currently sits on the International Tennis Hall of Fame Executive Board. She continues to play USTA League and tournaments, and coaches Bennington High School girls' varsity tennis.

# Meet Our Honorees

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Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario is one of the most accomplished and respected players of her era. A native of Barcelona, Spain, she began playing tennis at age 4 and went on to build an extraordinary 15-year professional career defined by grit, determination, and relentless competitiveness. She won 14 Grand Slam titles across singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, including four major singles titles: three French Opens (1989, 1994, 1998) and the 1994 US Open, where she became the first Spanish woman to win the championship.

Known for her tenacity from the baseline and her refusal to give up on any point, Sánchez-Vicario reached 12 Grand Slam singles finals and is one of only a select group of women to reach the singles final at all four majors. She was ranked in the world Top 10 for 11 years and rose to World No. 1 in 1995. A five-time Olympian, she also earned four Olympic medals for Spain and helped lead her country to five Federation Cup titles. With more than 100 career titles and a legacy of excellence on every surface, Sánchez-Vicario remains one of the all-time greats in women's tennis.

# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

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## **Visionary Sponsorship**

The Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation  
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Kim and David Wagman

## **Diamond Sponsorship**

Dalia and Larry Leeds Family Foundation  
Deborah Slaner Larkin

## **Platinum Sponsorship**

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Bruce Manson  
Kyle Kliegerman and Matthew Snyder  
Yvonne Buysman and Jason Wong

The background of the entire image is a dense, vibrant green fern. Scattered across this background are several vintage tennis rackets. One racket in the top left has a red frame and a white string, with the name 'MARTIN MARIANA' visible on the head. Another racket in the top right has a brown frame and a white string. A third racket in the middle left has a light-colored frame and a white string. A fourth racket in the middle right has a brown frame and a white string. A fifth racket in the bottom center has a blue frame and a white string. The rackets are arranged in a way that they appear to be lying on the fern, with some overlapping.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**May 19, 2027**

**NYJTL  
Annual Gala**

# Gala Chairs

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Bob Horne

Tory Kiam

Larry Leeds

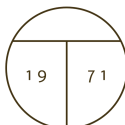
Kunj Majmudar

Polly Scott

Steven Simkin

Kim Wagman

2026



GALA

# In Appreciation

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Alex Li

Amy Sohn

Avery Rahr

Carol Burden

Cause + Matter

Christopher Hanke

Frances Tiafoe

Franny Shea

George Spetsieris

Gregg Monteith

International Tennis Hall of Fame

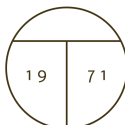
Jaclinn Tanney

Julie Galdieri and Loquent, Inc.

Sachi Kurup

United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Zac Roy





Thank you for supporting these programs  
and the young scholars and athletes  
we serve. Learn more about New York  
Junior Tennis & Learning's mission and  
the opportunities we offer young people  
across the city at [nyjtl.org](http://nyjtl.org)

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