

PROGRAM

MAY 2, 2023



nyjtl 2023

ANNUAL GALA

"LIVES CAN BE CHANGED AND SPIRITS RECLAIMED."

- ARTHUR ASHE

A LETTER FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear New York Junior Tennis & Learning Family and Friends,

Welcome to an evening of celebration for our 50+ year organization, and thank you for joining us for this very special occasion. Tonight we have the opportunity to reflect on the past year, and to spend quality time with you knowing that we are all working to build a better New York City for thousands of underserved young people each and every day.

At NYJTL, we know that the future of our city lies in the hands of our youth. This is why we invest in the education and wellness of 85,000 young people across all five boroughs to ensure that they are well-positioned for success. Tennis provides the groundwork for this journey, helping young people develop attributes in critical thinking, self-direction, a positive attitude, a competitive spirit, and a strong sense of resilience that all contribute to one's character development.

Founded in 1971 by Arthur Ashe, NYJTL is proud to be the largest youth tennis and education nonprofit in the country — one that is able to make all of these character traits come alive in our youth. Through NYJTL's free programs, children learn how to carve their own pathways and grow into the best version of themselves.

Because our young people and the challenges of today are always changing, we know that we need to adapt our programming to help them overcome new obstacles. As much as our work is focused on physical health and academic enrichment, the pandemic highlighted the need for us to prioritize mental health in the wake of isolation and a worsening youth mental health crisis. Thus, we are proud to share that this past year we brought social work interns and professionals to our ACES Afterschool programs, which serve nearly 5,000 youth in more than 30 afterschool programs throughout the city.

We also know how important it is for youth to have role models in their lives, helping them find success both on and off the court. So over the past few months we started our Holding Court: Player Series, inviting professional tennis players to the Cary Leeds Center to play tennis and connect with hundreds of youth in underserved communities. One such inspirational icon who has mentored our youth and staff is Lori McNeil, who we are honoring tonight.

In addition to these new initiatives, tonight we are also celebrating the first year of our comprehensive Scholar Athlete Program, offering youth in grades 3-12 in-depth tennis instruction, educational enrichment, and college preparedness with the goal of 100 percent high school graduation and college entrance and graduation, which we believe can change the life trajectory for its participants. Several of these champions are here with us this evening.



A LETTER FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR —CONTINUED

Our flagship site, the Cary Leeds Center in the South Bronx, is home to many of these activities, providing more than 6,000 hours of free court time including through the aforementioned programming and our Community Tennis Program (CTP). CTP also provides free tennis and instruction at approximately 60 additional sites located in schoolyards, gyms, parks, community centers, and playgrounds throughout the year. We are also proud that our community initiatives include Serve and Connect, which brings youth and NYPD officers together to bridge divides in their communities through tennis.

This programming would not be possible without the help of our dedicated staff who actualize our mission and bring endless energy to work each day, ensuring that our young people receive the support they deserve for a lifetime of success. A special thank you to Joyce Short, who we are honoring today, who has devoted 30 years of her life to this organization, serving as a mentor and leader for tens of thousands of kids on Roosevelt Island and changing their lives for the better. We have much to celebrate, in part because of the incredible support from Larry Leeds and Stuart Weitzman, who we are recognizing tonight for their dedication to NYJTL's mission and the youth of New York City. Their contributions, like yours, remind us why we do this work. We thank you for your generosity, which ensures that NYJTL will continue to improve lives for years to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Horne & Udai Tambar

Bob Horne & Udai Tambar
BOARD CHAIR AND CEO & PRESIDENT



THE MISSION OF NEW YORK JUNIOR TENNIS & LEARNING IS TO
DEVELOP THE CHARACTER OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TENNIS AND
EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE COURT.

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NYJTL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The NYJTL Lifetime Achievement Award provides special recognition to individuals who, during their lifetimes, have made significant and sustained contributions to the mission of NYJTL. The recipients have displayed outstanding commitment to advancing the work of the organization and represent the most influential minds in the fields of tennis and education.



2023 NYJTL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT AND HONOREE LARRY LEEDS

Laurence C. Leeds, Jr. (“Larry”) had two distinguished careers. He retired as Chairman of Buckingham Capital Management, Inc, a New York based investment advisor, in 2019. He joined Buckingham after leaving Manhattan Industries following a hostile takeover led by Michael Milken.

Leeds entered the investment industry in 1988, when he became an analyst for The Buckingham Research Group, Inc. In 1996, he started Buckingham Capital’s RAF fund which, as its name suggests, invested primarily in retail, apparel, and footwear related equities.

Leeds launched his career in financial services after a fulfilling career in the apparel industry which began in 1955, when he joined the Manhattan Shirt Company, founded by his great-grandfather in 1857. After a series of promotions, he became the President in 1968. In 1974, he became Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Manhattan Industries, a post he maintained until 1988. One of Leeds’ notable success stories was his role in the discovery of the designer Perry Ellis and the launching of his career.

Leeds is a graduate of the Lawrenceville School and received a BA from Yale University and a MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. For many years he was the Republican District Leader for the New York 66th Assembly. He has served on the Development Board of Yale University and the Board of Carnegie Hall, D.A.R.E New York, and Phoenix House. He currently serves on the Boards of the FIT Foundation, Prep for Prep, New York Junior Tennis & Learning, Alzheimer’s Drug Discover Foundation, and the Hudson Institute. Additionally, after 15 years as a Trustee, he now serves as an Overseer of NYU Langone Health.

Leeds served on active duty in the United States Naval Reserve from 1952 until 1955. He has two daughters, Ashley and Tracy Leeds, and six grandchildren. He was also the father of Cary Leeds, who passed away in 2003, and loving husband to Dalia Benary for over 60 years until her passing in 2016. He remarried in 2022 and lives in New York City, Palm Beach, FL, and Stamford, CT with his wife Ginger. He is an avid tennis and golf player and is a member and former golf champion of The Century Country Club in Purchase, New York and the Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, NJ.

2023 NYJTL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The NYJTL Leadership Award, recognizes individuals who have provided inspirational leadership to the youth of New York City. The recipients have shown outstanding 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.



2023 NYJTL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT AND HONOREE LORI MCNEIL

Lori McNeil, former pro and national USTA coach, was on the WTA Tour for 17 years and reached career-high rankings of No. 8 in singles and No. 4 in doubles. She won 12 singles titles and 40 doubles titles over the course of her career, including a mixed doubles championship at the French Open. Additionally, Lori represented the U.S. for three years in the Fed Cup competition.

She served as personal coach for Amanda Coetzer for three years, and was an assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic team in both 2004 and 2008. She also serves as chair of the Lori McNeil Foundation, which raises money for youth tennis programs in Bermuda.



NYJTL SERVICE AWARD

The NYJTL Service Award recognizes a person who has dedicated their life to serving others, particularly in the realm of tennis and education.



2023 NYJTL SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT JOYCE SHORT

Joyce has devoted more than 30 years to NYJTL, serving as a District Developer for Manhattan and Western Queens. In 1991, Joyce opened NYJTL's site at Roosevelt Island, and, under her leadership, it has been thriving since. Over the years, she worked with tens of thousands of children, becoming a well-known person on Roosevelt Island, having worked with so many of the island's families. Joyce doesn't simply teach tennis skills. She creates a sense of community and camaraderie regardless of individual or cultural backgrounds. For Joyce, her job is a passion; she loves to see NYJTL's children grow and prosper by providing opportunities for them to build self-esteem and be the best version of themselves.



CHARLES B. BENENSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Charles B. Benenson Leadership Award, formerly known as the NYJTL Leadership Award, was established in 1986 to recognize individuals who have provided inspirational leadership to the youth of New York City. The recipients have shown outstanding 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.



2023 CHARLES B. BENENSON LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT AND HONOREE STUART WEITZMAN

Stuart Weitzman's passion for design has been a lifelong pursuit, leading to the internationally renowned company that bears his name. He has been honored extensively for his unique approach to entrepreneurship, and for his uncompromising commitment to prioritizing function as an integral element of fashion.

Today, his shoes dominate red carpet events and are worn by celebrity fans around the world. Beyoncé, Kate Middleton, Meghan Markle, Taylor Swift, and Jennifer Lopez are just a few who are regularly seen in his designs, along with millions of other women in over 70 countries.

Weitzman approaches his extensive charitable endeavors with equal commitment. Among these are his ongoing support for a wide range of hospitals and medical research centers, youth and sports organizations, and cultural institutions. He regularly mentors students on their entrepreneurial and design aspirations at several universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, and the London Business School. He is a graduate of the Wharton School of Business at Penn, where the university has honored him by renaming their design and architecture school the Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

During his free time you may find him on the tennis court or at the ping-pong table. If you've got a racket, he'll welcome the challenge.



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MASTER OF CEREMONIES PAT KIERNAN

Patrick Kiernan is a Canadian-American television host, appearing as the morning news anchor of NY1 since 1997. He is widely known in New York City for his “In the Papers” feature, in which he summarizes the colorful content in New York City’s daily newspapers.

IN APPRECIATION

We thank the following for helping to make this evening possible:

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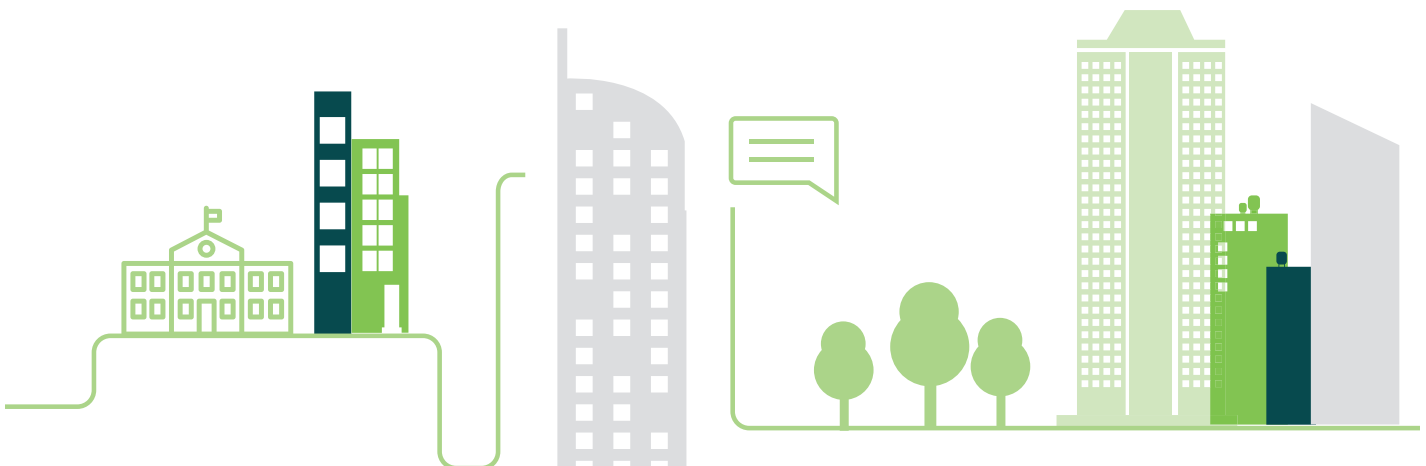
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We thank the following for donating their services and products:

TENNIS CHANNEL





NYJTL PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY TENNIS PROGRAM

- Free tennis instruction supervised by trained coaches
- Utilize schools and public parks sites across all five boroughs, including District 75 (special needs children)
- All equipment is provided free of charge

ACES AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER RISING PROGRAMS

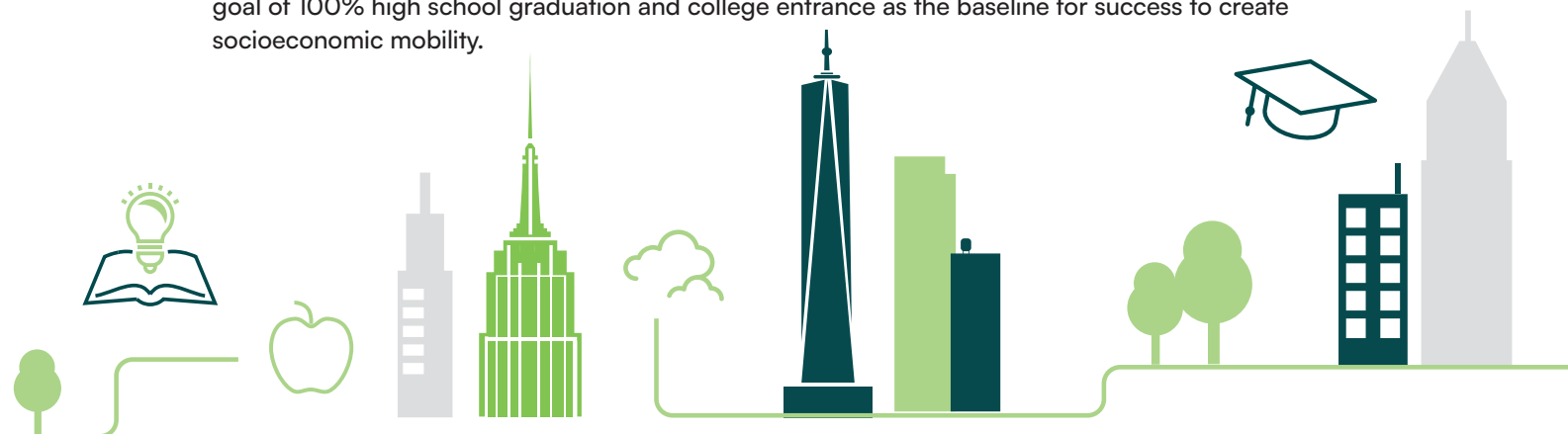
- 30+ locations in New York City
- Offered daily during critical afterschool hours as well as during the summer break
- Programs offered include academic enrichment and support, healthy living and character building modules, and tennis instruction

SCHOOL TIME TENNIS PROGRAM

- NYJTL's certified coaches train physical education teachers how to teach the fundamentals of tennis in schools during physical education classes
- Teachers are provided with equipment, lesson plans, and receive 6.5 CTLE hours.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE PROGRAM

- Provides students in grades 3-12 with academic support and top-flight tennis instruction, with the goal of 100% high school graduation and college entrance as the baseline for success to create socioeconomic mobility.



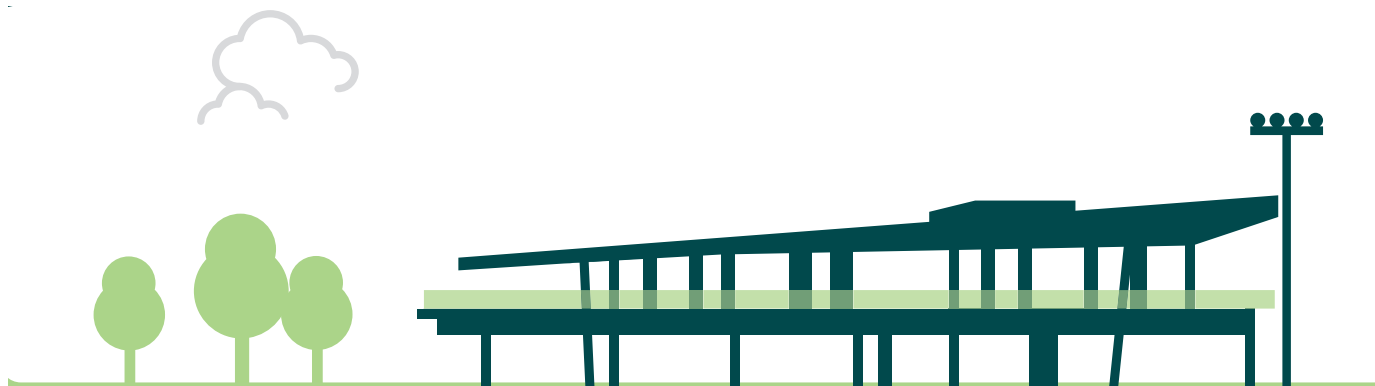


CARY LEEDS CENTER FOR TENNIS & LEARNING

NYJTL and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation formed a public/private partnership to build the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis & Learning, a multi-purpose tennis, recreation, and education facility located in the South Bronx, which is the poorest congressional district in the nation. The facility is in tribute to its namesake, Cary Leeds, who was a world-ranked professional tennis player and Wimbledon mixed doubles finalist.

The 12,000-square foot Cary Leeds Center features access to 20 tennis courts and two stadium courts with seating for more than 800 spectators. NYJTL's flagship location provides 6,000 hours of free court time to the local community as well as free tennis instruction and life skills programming to hundreds of NYC youth annually.

FOR SCHOLARS. FOR ATHLETES. FOR NYC.





**FOR SCHOLARS.
FOR ATHLETES.
FOR NYC.**

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