

YOU ARE INVITED

26th ANNUAL FIRST VIRTUAL LEAP YEAR EVENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

ADDITIONAL CONVERSATIONS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. EST with a virtual reception, with a welcome and update from LEAP, followed by your choice of conversation with fascinating Guests of Honor at 7:15 p.m.

Join us in continuing this cherished event with virtual conversations, connections, and community-building.



The evening begins with our virtual reception, followed by separate engaging conversations. You can choose a Zoom version of our usual intimate dinners, limited to 15 participants in conversation with a Guest of Honor, OR a larger Zoom presentation, with participants asking the Guest of Honor questions via Chat. Some ticket options include dinner from local restaurants and caterers that we are delighted to support during these difficult times.

All proceeds benefit LEAP. We thank everyone—our Hosts, Sponsors, and Guests of Honor—who makes this event possible. We expect small dinners to fill quickly, and restaurant dinner availability is limited, so sign up early!

BUY TICKETS ONLINE
www.leapforkids.org/LYE

● BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW ●

Thursday, February 25, 2021 With additional dinners Saturday, February 27

Please join us at our virtual reception to hear from LEAP staff, counselors, and alumni before proceeding to your conversation with a Guest of Honor.

LEAP Year Event Invitation

Creating A New Haven For Our Children

31 Jefferson Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 773-0770
leapforkids.org
@LEAPinc
@LEAPforkids
@LEAPforkids



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ABOUT THE EVENT

LEAP Year Event is a cherished New Haven tradition: an evening of camaraderie, fine dining and a chance to make a difference in the lives of children and youth in New Haven. For many, last year's LEAP Dinners were one of the last special community gatherings before the pandemic, enabling LEAP to keep children safe, connected, and cared for during this time. Your being part of the family of LEAP will be even more important this year.

While our 26th Annual LEAP Year Event will be very different from past years, we know it will be a night to remember, including interesting, illuminating conversations, and great food from local restaurants, benefitting our community in multiple ways.

LEAP Year Event is LEAP's most successful fundraiser. One hundred percent of your ticket price goes directly to LEAP's programs for children and teens. Your support ensures LEAP continues to Create A New Haven for All Our Children.

ABOUT LEAP

LEAP was established in 1992 to provide free social and academic enrichment, mentorship and leadership opportunities for children and teens in New Haven's high poverty neighborhoods. LEAP believes that young people—teenagers and young adults—are a solution for struggling neighborhoods, not the problem. LEAP serves more than 1,000 children and employs nearly 200 young people each year, making us New Haven's largest youth agency and youth employer.

We train New Haven college and high school students to work with children ages 7 to 15 living in some of the lowest income neighborhoods in America. These young people lead our nationally recognized program, providing children with a literacy-based curriculum as well as classes in art, computer science, swimming, athletics, camping, cooking and team building.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, strong relationships between our counselors and students allowed LEAP to quickly pivot to online programming in the spring. During the summer we offered both site-based outdoor programs and virtual programming safely. We continue to provide both vital enrichment programming for children as well as training, support, and jobs for our community of counselors. In response to the increasing strain on families we serve, LEAP added a social worker to our staff and started providing direct support for rent and groceries. Since March, we have distributed over \$100,000 in aid, along with more than 100 computers to help children connect with their teachers and mentors.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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If you are unable to join this year's event, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support LEAP's free programs, which are more necessary than ever with our families disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Mail a check to LEAP (31 Jefferson Street, New Haven, CT 06511) or donate online at leapforkids.org/donate.

TICKET INFORMATION

Virtual "seats" will fill quickly, so we suggest you buy tickets as soon as you can! Please purchase tickets online at www.leapforkids.org/LYE.

If you need assistance purchasing tickets online, please call us at 914-462-9116, and we can complete your reservation with you over the phone.

Choose from two options of virtual Conversations:

OPTION 1 • Intimate Conversation:

- This most resembles the traditional LEAP Year Event experience—a small group on Zoom sharing dinner and a conversation with a Guest of Honor
- Limited to 15 people, including Hosts and Guests of Honor, to provide an intimate and involved conversation for all attendees
- Dinner is included from a specific restaurant, covered by our generous Hosts.
- **Tickets:** Dinner-Included Tickets only

OPTION 2 • Large Group Presentation:

- Guests of Honor share their expertise with as many as 100 attendees who submit questions via chat
- A limited number of Dinner-Included tickets are available for guests to choose dinner from a selection of local restaurants and caterers
- Non-Dinner tickets are unlimited
- **Tickets:** All ticket types available

TICKET TYPES

All tickets include admission to the virtual reception.

First Time Attendee Ticket • \$75

Curious about LEAP Year Event but haven't joined before? This year we are offering a First Time Attendee Ticket at a significant discount. Ticket does not include dinner.

Non-Dinner Ticket • \$95

Want to join LEAP Year Event without a dinner? Tuning in from far away? This ticket will get you the LEAP Year Event experience, sans dinner.

- **Coupling up?** If you and a loved one are tuning in together, buy your tickets together for a total of **\$180**.

Dinner-Included Ticket • \$150

You love LEAP, you love the event, and you love supporting local restaurants. This ticket will get you the traditional experience of fine dining and engaging topics! Pick up your dinner the afternoon of the event.

- **Coupling up?** If you and a loved one are tuning in together, buy your tickets together for a total of **\$290**. PLUS, a **bottle of wine** will be included, courtesy of The Wine Thief. You can also pay for this ticket as a contribution to LEAP even if you don't want the dinner.

Tax-deductible portion of Ticket Types:

First Time Attendee: \$75
Non-Dinner: Single \$95/Couple \$180
Dinner-Included: Single \$125/Couple \$250

Contact the LEAP Development Office with questions at 914-462-9116 or ebond@leapforkids.org.

Ticket purchases based on availability. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and your placement will be confirmed immediately. Please provide contact information for you and your guests as well as dinner choices if you are purchasing Dinner-Included tickets.

LEAP YEAR DINNERS 2021

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

OPTION 1 • Intimate Conversations

- Each Intimate Conversation will be limited to 15 participants on Zoom, including the Hosts, Guest of Honor, and a technology coordinator.
- Participants are invited to join a conversation with the Guest of Honor, Hosts, and other guests, following a presentation by the Guest of Honor.
- The only ticket option for Intimate Conversations is the Dinner-Included Ticket. Plan to pick up your dinner from the restaurant your host has paired with the conversation on the afternoon of the event.

1. Bon Appétit!

Delicious smells will fill your kitchen when you join **Home Cooking New York's Jennifer Clair** for this cooking class dinner party. Ms. Clair, who has been teaching in person and virtual cooking classes for two decades and has authored two cookbooks, will instruct a small group to create perfect wild mushroom risotto paired with a lemony arugula salad. All the ingredients you need will be delivered right to you.

Hosted by Gisela & Richard Goldstein • Dinner ingredients will be delivered to guests.

2. Musical Interlude

Reconnect with our cherished community institution, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Music Director **Alasdair Neale**. Mr. Neale will walk us through his artistic leadership of the orchestra, including the various roles that make an orchestra work, the greater relationship between an orchestra and its community, and his vision for the future of the NHSO. The audience will be transported by musical excerpts performed by NHSO members.

Hosted by Julie Wilson & Tom Ruggieri • Dinner from Union League Café

3. Lessons from Plagues Past

Imagine finding yourself in the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy during the spring of 2020, having just published your book *Epidemics and Society: From the Black Death to the Present* in October 2019. Spend an evening with **Frank M. Snowden**, world-renowned epidemiologist and Professor Emeritus of History & History of Medicine at Yale University, to hear about that experience as he discusses his book, which the World Economic Forum calls the “#1 book to read for context on the coronavirus outbreak.”

Hosted by Cynthia Farrar & Paul Kennedy • Dinner from Caffé Bravo

4. Handpicked Pairings

“Every cheese has a story,” and no one can tell them better than **Jason Sobocinski**, owner of Mystic Cheese and Black Hog Brewing. Join Mr. Sobocinski, who holds a Master's in Gastronomy from Boston University, starred in the Cooking Channel's *The Big Cheese*, and founded New Haven's popular Caseus Fromagerie Bistro, as he leads participants through a carefully tailored menu of cheese and beer pairings.

Hosted by Cynthia & Matt Haiken • This ticket includes a selection of cheeses, each with a paired beer, with additional food pairings from Anna's Catering.

5. Heritage for the Future

Travel with the adventures of Turquoise Mountain, an NGO founded in 2006 by HRH The Prince of Wales and **Rory Stewart**, and led by CEO **Shoshana Clark Stewart**. Currently senior fellows at Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, the Stewarts will share the challenge and joy of creating Turquoise Mountain amidst political turmoil in Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Middle East to drive economic development based on the arts—preserving the cultures and traditions of these lands, restoring over 150 historic buildings, training over 6,000 artisans, and building over 50 small businesses.

Hosted by Nancy & Rick Antle • Dinner from Caffé Bravo

Intimate Conversations • Saturday, February 27

6. In Sickness & In Health Saturday 2/27 at 7:15 p.m.

COVID-19 and the presidential debates have highlighted the challenges, intricacies, and controversies surrounding America's complex healthcare system. Join award-winning journalist, author of *The American Sickness*, and Kaiser Health News Editor-in-Chief **Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal** for a discussion investigating our country's healthcare failures, implications for the pandemic today, and what we can do to move forward.

Hosted by Helen Kauder & Barry Nalebuff • Dinner from L'Orcio

7. Innocent Until...? Saturday 2/27 at 7:15 p.m.

Explore the systemic hurdles facing wrongfully convicted prisoners with **Christina Swarns**, Executive Director of the Innocence Project, and **Miriam Gohara**, Yale Clinical Associate Professor of Law. Learn how the Innocence Project exonerates the wrongfully convicted through DNA testing and reforms the criminal justice system under the leadership of Ms. Swarns, a renowned civil rights and criminal justice attorney representing death row inmates and one of the few Black women to argue (and win) a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hosted by Kica Matos & Henry Fernandez • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers on the next page.

OPTION 2 • Large Group Presentations

- Guests of Honor will present to as many as 100 attendees.
- Attendees may submit questions to the Guest(s) of Honor via chat during a Q & A following the presentation.
- Dinner-Included Tickets are available. Guests can choose from a participating local restaurant or caterer and pick their dinner up the afternoon of the event.
- First Time Attendee Tickets and Non-Dinner Tickets are also available.

8. Doing Well by Doing Good

Join a lively conversation with two trailblazing entrepreneurs as they delve into the explosive growth of purpose-driven businesses. **Esi Eggleston Bracey**, COO of Personal Care at Unilever overseeing a \$5B portfolio including Dove and Suave, and **Ziad Ahmed**, Yale College '21, founder and CEO of the Gen Z-focused JUV Consulting and nonprofit Redefy, will take you on an exploration of how young people of color are shifting industries and the impact on the strategies and fortunes of the global market.

Hosted by Shelley & Gordon Geballe • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers on the next page.

9. Say Anything?

Join *New York Times* journalist and Yale Law Fellow **Emily Bazelon** for a reflection on free speech in an era of disinformation and the aftermath of the 2020 election. Ms. Bazelon is a co-host of Slate's Political Gabfest and the author of the national best-seller, *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*.

Dinner made possible by our generous hosts • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers on the next page.

10. Pandemic Disruptions

Explore the relationship between the uprisings over police violence and racial inequity within the pandemic of 2020 with **Dr. Khalilah Brown-Dean**. The author of *Identity Politics in the United States*, host of Connecticut Public Radio's *Disrupted*, and Associate Professor of Political Science, and Senior Director for Inclusive Excellence at Quinnipiac University, Dr. Brown-Dean can show us a path through these disruptions to a better and more inclusive community.

Hosted by Deborah & Gary Desir • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers on the next page.



11. Telling Untold Stories

Spend an evening with the first undocumented immigrant finalist for the National Book Award in non-fiction, **Karla Cornejo Villavicencio**, author of *The Undocumented Americans*, Harvard graduate and Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at Yale University. **Kica Matos**, VP of Initiatives at the Vera Institute for Social Justice and immigrant rights activist, will join Ms. Cornejo Villavicencio to discuss her genre-defying book, which has been widely praised for its sensitive reporting, personal narratives, and the unique lens through which it depicts the lives of America's undocumented. *Dinner made possible by our generous hosts • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers.*

12. The Magic behind the Podcast

Hear how **Jake Halpern** and **Jack Hitt** turn a complicated tale into an audio delight as they discuss their new podcast, *Deep Cover*, and their celebrated episodes on *This American Life*. Mr. Halpern is a contributor to the *New Yorker* and the *New York Times* and winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize. Writer at large for the *New York Times Magazine*, Mr. Hitt has won Peabody Awards for his radio program, *Uncivil*, and *Habeas Schmabeas*, about Guantanamo Bay for *This American Life*. *Hosted by Anne Higonnet & John Geanakoplos • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers.*

13. A Shot of Hope

The newly appointed co-chair of President Biden's Coronavirus Task Force and founder of Yale School of Medicine's Center for Equity and Innovation **Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith** will share a conversation with **Dr. Gary Desir**, Chair of Internal Medicine at Yale, about her plans to lead the fight against coronavirus and to ensure equity in the governmental response to the pandemic. *Hosted by Cynthia Mann, MD and Claudia Rankine & John Lucas • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers.*

14. Preserving Democracy in the Age of Disinformation

Join **Asha Rangappa**, former FBI counterintelligence agent, CNN analyst, and Senior Lecturer at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, to learn how Russia adapted Cold War tactics for a digital age to exploit social media and target and manipulate the American public. Ms. Rangappa will highlight how the political fragmentation in America facilitates these efforts and the implications of this for the future of our democracy. *Dinner made possible by our generous hosts • Choose from the list of participating restaurants and caterers.*

15. An Insider's View

Enjoy an exclusive virtual tour of highlights from Yale University Art Gallery's West Campus Wurtele Study Center with Art Gallery Director **Stephanie Wiles** and Wurtele Programs Manager **Roksana Filipowska**. Currently closed to visitors, the Wurtele Study Center is a state-of-the-art educational and research facility with over 42,000 of the collection's objects on display. Together, you will explore the Center, as well as learn about its neighboring Hume Furniture Study and the conservation laboratory on Yale West Campus. *Dinner made possible by our generous hosts • Choose from the list of participating restaurants and caterers.*

A Special Opportunity for Families

You can include the whole family in a LEAP Year Event Conversation this year, with this family-friendly option offered on Saturday, February 27 at 7:15 p.m. Children can attend for free!

16. Back to the Future Saturday 2/27 at 7:15 p.m.

Fly into the future Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History on a family-friendly animated tour guided by **Mark Simon** of Centerbrook Architects. Mr. Simon will share the plans to transform the museum, currently closed for a \$200 million renovation, into a hands-on interactive learning center. In this exclusive tour, get a sneak peak into the upcoming renovations, including the Peabody's beloved dinosaur exhibit. *Hosted by Sue McDonald & Corey Stone and D. Ellen Shuman & Douglas Rae • Choose dinner from the list of participating restaurants and caterers.*

DINNER CHOICES

If you purchase a Dinner-Included Ticket for #8 through #16, it includes dinner from one of these local restaurants or caterers. Each chef will prepare at least two dinner choices, including appetizer or salad, entrée, and dessert, viewable on leapforkids.org/lye. Pick up your dinner the afternoon of the event.

Vegetarian/vegan options may be requested. Guests make their dinner choices when they buy their tickets.

Dinner-Included Tickets are limited for each restaurant. Please register early to get your first choice!

Purchase tickets as a couple to receive a complimentary bottle of wine, courtesy of The Wine Thief, with your meals.

All Large Group Presentations will have dinners available from these restaurants and caterers:

Anna's Catering (East Rock, New Haven) ● A boutique caterer that specializes in unique dishes using the seasons' freshest ingredients.

Caffé Bravo (East Rock, New Haven) ● Established in 1994, Caffé Bravo offers quality Italian cuisine and other European specialties.

Camacho Garage (Westville, New Haven) ● Delicious contemporary Mexican street food including tacos, ceviche and cerveza!

Quattro's (Guilford) ● Specializing in Northern Italian cuisine and a fusion of Italian and Latin flavors.

Sandra's Next Generation (The Hill, New Haven) ● Chicken, pork, fish or vegetables infused with love and a blend of seasonings to create soul food.

September in Bangkok (Downtown, New Haven) ● Named the best Thai food in New Haven.

Soul de Cuba (Downtown, New Haven) ● Homestyle Cuban cuisine and cocktails that promote and preserve Afro-Cuban culture.

Union League Café (Downtown, New Haven) ● Named New Haven's best French Brasserie.

Zinc (Downtown, New Haven) ● Specializing in locally grown and globally inspired sustainable food.