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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. Mail a check to LEAP (31 Jefferson Street, New Haven, CT 06511) or donate online at [leapforkids.org/donate](http://leapforkids.org/donate).

## TICKET INFORMATION

Seats will fill quickly, so we urge you to buy tickets as soon as you can! Please purchase tickets online at [www.leapforkids.org/LYE](http://www.leapforkids.org/LYE).

If you need assistance purchasing tickets online, please call us at 203-767-7413 or 203-773-0770 or email Alison at [abonds@leapforkids.org](mailto:abonds@leapforkids.org) and we will help you complete your reservation.

### TICKET TYPES

All tickets include admission to the reception.

#### ▶ Reception Only Ticket \$25

Want to chat with friends old and new, meet some of our amazing Guests of Honor, and hear from LEAP Staff and our Honorees, Ann Baker Pepe and Ed Cleary, without attending a dinner conversation? Join us for the Reception, where wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

#### ▶ First-Time Attendee/Student Ticket \$75

Are you curious about the LEAP Year Event but haven't joined before or are a student who wants to engage in thought-provoking discussion? We are offering a First-Time Attendee/Student Ticket at a significant discount. This discounted ticket includes the reception and a dinner party. Call Alison Bonds at 203-767-7413 for assistance purchasing this ticket type.

#### ▶ Dinner + Reception Ticket \$150

You love LEAP, you love the event, and you love sharing a meal with engaging conversation. This ticket will provide you with the traditional experience of fine dining and fascinating topics! This ticket includes the reception and a dinner party.

#### Tax-deductible portion of Ticket Types:

Reception Only: \$25

First-Time Attendee/Student: \$50

Dinner + Reception: \$125

Contact the LEAP Development Office with questions at 203-767-7413 or 203-773-0770 or [abonds@leapforkids.org](mailto:abonds@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.



**YOU ARE INVITED**

**30th ANNIVERSARY**

# LEAP YEAR EVENT

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

**Additional Conversations on  
Thursday, February 20 & Saturday, March 1**

**Reception Honoring Ann Baker Pepe and Ed Cleary  
Dixwell Community "Q" House  
▶ 197 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven (parking available on site)**

**LEAP Year Event Reception ▶ 5–7 p.m.  
LEAP Year Dinners ▶ 7:30 p.m.  
An Elegant Evening of Fine Dining and Conversation  
Hosted at homes and restaurants in Greater New Haven**

See old friends and make new connections at our reception, honoring Ann Baker Pepe and Ed Cleary, Co-Board Chairs, with the LEAP Community Leadership Award.

Following the February 27 reception, you may proceed to your chosen dinner party. Additional conversations will take place on Thursday, February 20 and Saturday, March 1.

We thank everyone—our Hosts, Sponsors, Guests of Honor, and dinner guests—who make this event possible. We expect dinner parties to fill quickly, so sign up early! For updates, please see our website and emails. All proceeds benefit LEAP.

**▶ BUY TICKETS ONLINE  
[www.leapforkids.org/LYE](http://www.leapforkids.org/LYE)**

**▶ BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW**

**Additional conversations on  
Thursday, February 20 and Saturday, March 1**

## Thursday, February 27, 2025

We hope you will join us for our 30th Annual LEAP Year Event, at the Reception where we will honor **Ann Baker Pepe** and **Ed Cleary** and celebrate with wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner conversations to follow.

## LEAP Year Event Invitation

Creating A New Haven For Our Children

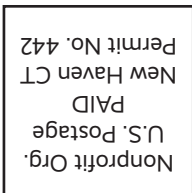


203-773-0770  
leapforkids.org

31 Jefferson Street  
New Haven, CT 06511



Address Service Requested



### ABOUT THE EVENT

LEAP Year Event is a cherished New Haven tradition: an evening of camaraderie, dining, and a chance to make a difference in the lives of young people in New Haven. In these challenging times, your investment in children, teens, and families is more important than ever. LEAP Year Event sheds light on the importance of coming together—as a community—to do good things for children and make a difference in New Haven.

The 30th annual LEAP Year Event will begin with a reception at the Dixwell Community "Q" House, after which guests will attend conversations hosted by generous LEAP supporters, offering delicious dinners in their homes and other elegant venues. Tickets for the reception only are also available.

*Please note: We will live-stream our reception but we will not have any virtual conversations. All dinners will be in person.*

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

### ABOUT LEAP

LEAP was established in 1992 to advance racial equity by providing free social and academic enrichment, mentorship, and leadership opportunities for children and teens in New Haven's low-income neighborhoods. In addition to a focus on literacy and phonics, LEAP provides children opportunities in art, swimming, camping, cooking, team building, and more. As the largest employer of youth in New Haven, LEAP trains high school and college students as mentors to the children while also expanding their college and career options. LEAP provides year-round programming at eight community-based sites, including the Roslyn Milstein Meyer LEAP Community Center in Wooster Square and the Dixwell Community "Q" House.

In 2024, LEAP worked with more than 1,300 children, employed over 300 young people, continued our phonics program, hired six summer social workers, expanded out-of-New Haven experiences for teens, offered overnight camping to all children, and bolstered college access with more free college tours and an academic success coordinator to assist with college and financial aid applications.

# LEAP YEAR DINNERS 2025

- ▶ Tickets are first-come, first-served, so sign up early!
- ▶ Participants will dine together and share in a conversation following a presentation by the Guest of Honor.
- ▶ **BOOK dinners involve a discussion with the author.** You can purchase noted books at your local bookstore (Possible Futures, RJ Julia's, Atticus, etc.) and bring it to the dinner for the author to sign.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 7:30 p.m.

(See right column for alternate date dinners on Thursday, February 20 and Saturday, March 1.)

### 1. WOMEN'S WORK

If you are astonished to hear that until 1995 health research was conducted almost entirely using male subjects, you will appreciate an update from **Carolyn Mazure**, who shone a spotlight on the critical need for health research focused on women. After 25 years leading Women's Health Research at Yale, Mazure was appointed the first Chair of the White House Initiative on Women's Health Research.

*Hosted by Barbara Riley, Guilford*

### 2. LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Follow **Eboni Nelson**, Dean of the UConn School of Law, on her personal and professional journey as she shares lessons learned along the way, as well as strategies and challenges to develop a diverse and inclusive legal profession amidst a national push against DEI.

*Hosted by Elena Grewal & Eleazar Lanzot, New Haven*

### 3. A REMARKABLE LIFE (BOOK)

Step into *Outside In* and the life of Guido Calabresi, one of the most famous figures in American law. Author **Norman Silber** will share stories of Guido's life within a larger historical context, from his childhood in Italy to New Haven, Yale, and his role as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, blending oral history and biography within a larger historic context.

*Hosted by Sarah Bilston & Daniel Markovits, New Haven*

### 4. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

Join the innovative environment of ClimateHaven, offering state-of-the-art facilities and resources for entrepreneurs to develop new technologies enabling their companies to drive significant changes for our planet. CEO **Justine Lee** brings legal and venture capital experience to lead ClimateHaven as it builds a path toward a resilient and sustainable future.

*Hosted by Shelley & Gordon Geballe, Branford*

### 5. A WRITING LIFE (BOOK)

Jump into a lively discussion with **Betsy Lerner** about writing fiction and the anatomy of a novel. Author of the recent novel *Shred Sisters*, as well as the popular advice book for writers, *The Forest for the Trees*, and memoirs *Food and Loathing* and *The Bridge Ladies*, Lerner has been a publishing professional and literary agent for over 30 years.

*Hosted by Meg & George Knight, New Haven*

### 6. QUANDARIES AND QUAGMIRES

Bring your questions to **Philip Galanes**, longtime advice columnist for *The New York Times*. In his regular column and his book, *Social Q's: How to Survive the Quirks, Quandaries, and Quagmires of Today*, Galanes considers how the changing social and political landscape in America has changed his work—and may affect your life too.

*Hosted by Alexandra Daum & Alex Kleiner, New Haven*

### 7. MORAL MOVEMENT FORWARD (BOOK)

A nationally renowned leader, **Reverend William J. Barber II** is the author of *White Poverty: How Exposing Myths About Race and Class Can Reconstruct American Democracy*. Professor in the Practice of Public Theology and Public Policy at the Yale Divinity School, Barber will discuss the vital effort to build a multi-racial, multi-generational coalition of working-class people to fight unprecedented economic inequality.

*Hosted by Deborah & Gary Desir, Woodbridge*

### 8. NATURAL IMMERSION

Magic happens when Emmy award-winning filmmaker **Ann Johnson Prum** shines her extraordinary lens on our natural world. Explore how our sense of empathy can motivate and inspire conservation. Recently producing *Born Wild: The Next Generation for National Geographic*, Prum combines her deep knowledge of the natural world with skills as an expedition leader. She will show clips and share a behind-the-scenes view into the making of her most recent projects: *Bugs that Rule the World* and a feature documentary *Every Little Thing*.

*Hosted by Patricia Rossi & Robert King, New Haven*

### 9. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, GENUINE CONCERNS

Enter the exploding AI universe with **Kyle Jensen**, Associate Dean and Director of Entrepreneurial Programs at Yale School of Management. From his perspective as an entrepreneur, developer, and scientist, Jensen will explore the world-changing prospects, and vast threats of technologies and applications which may prove difficult to control.

*Hosted by Patricia & G. Davis Gammon, Hamden*

### 10. REVOLUTIONARY FASHION (BOOK)

**Anne Higonnet**, Professor of Art History at Barnard College and author of *Liberty, Equality, Fashion: the Women Who Styled the French Revolution*, describes the courage of women who survived incarceration and forced marriage during the violence of the French Revolution. You will be introduced to Joséphine Bonaparte, future Empress of France, and other women who dared sartorial revolt as they slipped into light, mobile dresses, cropped their hair short, and championed the handbag.

*Hosted by Helen Kauder & Barry Nalebuff, New Haven*

### 11. PARTING THE CLOUDS (BOOK)

Join **Todd Stern**, the U.S. lead negotiator of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, for a behind-the-scenes look at the multi-year, multi-national negotiation process. Author of *Landing the Paris Climate Agreement*, Stern is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution concentrating on climate change. He served as President Obama's chief climate negotiator, leading the U.S. effort in all multilateral climate negotiations in the seven years leading up to Paris.

*Hosted by Susan Sawyer & Michael Kaplan, New Haven*

### 12. BUILDING EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

Explore the urgency and challenge of the local and national priority to build inclusive, affordable, and quality housing with **Karen DuBois-Walton**, President and CEO of The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. From her recent perspective as President of Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of New Haven, DuBois-Walton will reflect on the shortage of affordable quality housing.

*Hosted by Ellen Shuman & Doug Rae, New Haven*

### 13. LISTEN CAREFULLY (BOOK)

The warning signs of fascism are clear if you know what to listen for. An authority on propaganda and fascism, **Jason Stanley**, Professor of Philosophy at Yale, brings tools from the philosophy of language to bear on political philosophy in his books, including the recent *Erasing History: How Fascists Rewrite the Past to Control the Future*.

*Hosted by Mira Debs, Hamden*

## 14. BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

**Jeffrey Fletcher** shares artifacts and remarkable stories of collecting them for the Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African-American History Museum in Stratford. Focusing on slavery, Jim Crow laws, and the civil rights movement, Fletcher proves that these difficult times are as important to understanding African-American history as the triumphs of pioneers and trailblazers.

*Hosted by Alison Bonds & Larry Levine with Chaz Warner moderating at the Dixwell Community "Q" House, New Haven*

## 15. TIME LINES (BOOK)

Explore Yale's architecture and intellectual culture with **Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen**, Assistant Dean and Professor at the Yale School of Architecture and author of *Untimely Moderns: How 20th Century Architecture Reimagined the Past*. You will meet a diverse group of thinkers from Yale who challenged the idea that to be considered modern, art and architecture have to be of their time.

*Hosted by JoAnn & Tony Scillia at Adriana's Restaurant, New Haven*

## 16. LIVE, FROM NEW HAVEN!

You'll be humming along to the soulful sound of **Manny James**, a local R&B vocalist with a large Elm City following. Raised in the Church Street South Housing Project, he spent afternoons at LEAP before launching his musical career. *Just Being Honest*, his first album, debuted in 2014 in the top 25 on iTunes.

*Hosted by Clifton Watson and Firehouse 12, New Haven*

## 17. PEOPLE-DRIVEN PHARMA

Meet **Vlad Coric**, CEO of Biohaven, a people-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to advancing scientific innovation with a focus on historically difficult-to-treat diseases, including rare disorders. Prior to leading Biohaven, Coric had over twenty years of drug discovery and clinical development experience at Yale School of Medicine and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

*Hosted by Sid Phillips at Zinc, New Haven*

## 18. MADAME PRESIDENT

Enjoy an intimate evening of conversation with Yale's first female president, **Maurie McInnis**, charged by the Yale Trustees with expanding and enriching the University's science and engineering programs. McInnis earned her MA and PhD in art history at Yale and has worked in university administration for three decades, most recently as President of Stony Brook University.

*Hosted by Kerwin Charles at Yale School of Management, New Haven*

## 19. POLLING PERSPECTIVES

Engage with **Matt A. Barreto** to unravel the threads of Latino voting patterns in the 2024 U.S. Presidential election. President and Founding Partner of BSP Research and Professor of Political Science & Chicana/o and Central American Studies at UCLA, Barreto served the Harris-Walz campaign as pollster and advisor. This evening promises to be challenging and illuminating, shedding light on the complexities of ethnic voting blocs.

*Hosted by Kasia Lipska & Jake Halpern, New Haven*

## 20. STROLL THROUGH THE GALLERIES

Join **Stephanie Wiles**, Director of the Yale Art Gallery, for a tour through the European galleries to appreciate new acquisitions and works on loan. A scholar of Old Master drawings and prints, Wiles will discuss opportunities and challenges in developing an encyclopedic collection. Following their private tour, guests will proceed to dinner at Union League Café, a short distance down Chapel Street.

*Hosted by Stephanie Green & Eric Grubman and Union League Café, New Haven*

## 21. BACK TO THE FUTURE

Explore the opportunities and challenges of real estate development in New Haven with **Alex Twining**, CEO of Twining Properties. Specializing in urban mixed-used properties at transit nodes in the Northeast, Twining is transforming Science Park into Winchester Center, a vibrant mixed-use place with apartments, shops, restaurants, offices, labs, parks, and open space. With deep family roots at Yale and in New Haven, Twining will reflect on the City's future potential and development.

*Hosted by Ilene Cooke & David Newton and Portofino's Restaurant, New Haven*

## 22. OIL FOR THE MIND AND THE SOUL

Recent research at Yale suggests that a daily serving of olive oil can improve cognition in those experiencing cognitive decline. Learn why it works and how to recognize delicious, high-quality olive oil from **Tassos Kyriakides**, New Haven's much-loved Olive Oil Sommelier.

*Hosted by Zehra & Huned Patwa, Hamden*

## 23. HISTORY FOR GEN Z

Educational activist **Kahlil Greene** will get your brain working with the little-known sociopolitical history he shares on TikTok, Instagram, and LinkedIn to build a more informed society. Twice nominated for Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award winner, and recognized in Forbes' list of 30 under 30, Greene, aka "The Gen Z Historian," is making his generation more politically, socially, and culturally aware.

*Hosted by Julie Wilson with Risë Nelson moderating, New Haven*

## ALTERNATE DATE DINNERS

**Reminder: If you attend one of these dinners, we hope you will still join us on Thursday, February 27 from 5–7 p.m. for the reception at the Dixwell Community "Q" House.**

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 at 7:30 p.m.

### 24. GETTING THE STORY STRAIGHT

In his daily *New York Times* column *The Morning*, **David Leonhardt**, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary, probes America's complicated economic questions—from the federal budget deficit to health care reforms. Join him to discuss the transition from democratic capitalism and the American dream to an economy that serves the individual and favors the wealthy.

*Hosted by Cynthia Farrar & Paul Kennedy, New Haven on Thursday, February 20*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1 at 7 p.m.

### 25. HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Your spirits will rise during this timely conversation with **Marc Brackett**, Director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and Professor at the Yale Child Study Center. His work blends science, passion, and lively storytelling to develop strategies to harness emotions to help, rather than hinder, our success and well-being.

*Hosted by Alva Greenberg, New Haven on Saturday, March 1*

### 26. DISRUPTED!

Consider new perspectives in conversation with **Khalilah Brown-Dean**, Professor of Civic Engagement at Wesleyan University and host of WNPR's *Disrupted* podcast. This intimate gathering will allow thoughtful reflection and debate benefiting from Brown-Dean's keen eye for the practical implications of democratic conflict, including criminal punishment, mass incarceration, voting rights, and U.S. elections.

*Hosted by Miriam Gohara & Marcus McFerren, Woodbridge on Saturday, March 1*

### 27. BON APPETIT!

Raise a toast with renowned chef **Jacques Pépin**. Well-known for his many books and television appearances, Chef Pépin will bring his trademark charm and extensive knowledge of haute cuisine to answer your food questions.

*Hosted by Roxanne & Kevin Coady, New Haven on Saturday, March 1*

### 28. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS REVISITED

Gather with **Emily Bazelon** to reflect on recent Supreme Court decisions and the unsettling of long-established law on presidential power and reproductive rights. Senior Research Scholar at Yale Law School and *The New York Times Magazine* staff writer, Bazelon writes about the law and its impact on people.

*Hosted by Katherine & Matt Glendinning, New Haven on Saturday, March 1*