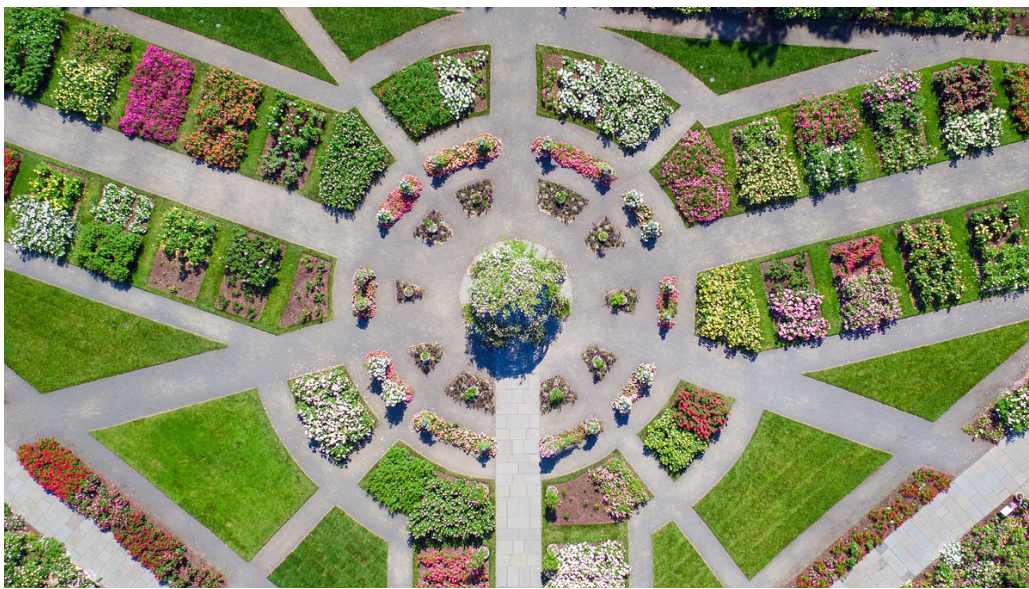


NYBG

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The New York Botanical Garden Honored the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust and Trustees Larry E. Condon, John J. Hoffee, and Jay Beckner at the Rose Garden Dinner, Tuesday, September 24, 2019

More than \$850,000 raised to support NYBG's Fund for Horticulture and the continued preservation of the historic Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden



Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden

Bronx, NY—On Tuesday evening, September 24, 2019, The New York Botanical Garden's Rose Garden Dinner honored the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust for more than three decades of generosity supporting NYBG's core programs. The Garden also honored Trustees Larry E. Condon, John J. Hoffee, and Jay Beckner for carrying forward LuEsther T. Mertz's passion and commitment for NYBG's mission. The evening offered the opportunity to enjoy cocktails and exclusive, curator-led tours among the acclaimed blooms of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden just before sunset, followed by an elegant dinner and dancing in the Garden Terrace Room.

Since the Mertz Trust began giving to the Garden, it has contributed more than \$70 million. It has been a lead donor every year to the Garden's critical Annual Fund and it has consistently made the most significant gifts for core operations, which have been used to move the Garden forward at many various times. LuEsther T. Mertz was an early environmental

philanthropist. She was a philanthropic visionary and a garden lover. Since her death in 1991, her Trustees have made possible many benefactions to the Garden too numerous to cite here. Larry E. Condon is a Vice Chairman of the Board of NYBG and a long-serving member of the Board, the Executive Committee, and many other significant committees in NYBG's governance structure. Along with fellow Trustees John J. Hoffee and Jay Beckner, they have made the Garden one of their principal interests for many years.

"We salute the Mertz Trust, the child of the visionary LuEsther T. Mertz, raised and nurtured by her dedicated Trustees—Larry, John, and Jay—for a steadfast and unwavering commitment to NYBG," said Carrie Reborra Barratt, Ph.D., CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden. "It is our honor to offer this tribute, as we have all worked hand in glove with the Trustees since the early 1990s. On behalf of the entire NYBG Board of Trustees, as well as the staff of the Garden who recognize and appreciate with deep gratitude the Mertz Trust's superlative generosity that has catapulted this institution into its world-renowned position, we thank you."

At the Rose Garden Dinner, more than \$850,000 was raised to support NYBG's Fund for Horticulture and the continued preservation of the historic Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, where an astonishing array of roses is displayed with nearly 700 varieties thriving. The Rockefeller Rose Garden at NYBG is the only surviving New York City garden designed by eminent landscape architect Beatrix Farrand in 1916. Renowned as one of the most beautiful rose gardens in America, it has become one of the most sustainable public gardens in the world.

This year's Rose Garden Dinner Co-Chairmen were **Anne H. Bass; John Bernstein and Diana Davenport; Friederike Kemp Biggs; Mr. and Mrs. Coleman P. Burke; Jeanie and Harry Burn; Maureen and Richard Chilton; Whitney and Jonathan Clay; J. Barclay Collins and Kristina Durr; Steven Feldman and Gina Love, Auvere & Peryton; Amy Goldman Fowler and Cary Fowler; Lionel Goldfrank; Vera Aryeh and Bob Gossett; Hearst; Jill Joyce; Diane Katzin and Rick Kurnit; Gregory Long and Scott Newman; Susan E. Lynch; Susan and George Matelich; Janet and Tom Montag; Susan and Gregory Palm; John and Barbara Robinson; Kenneth and Ellen Roman; Marjorie and Jeffrey A. Rosen; Janet C. Ross; Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Royce; Julie and Nick Sakellariadis; Gillian and Robert Steel; Mr. and Mrs. William C. Steere, Jr.; Carmen and John Thain; Douglas Dockery Thomas; Caroline A. Wamsler, Ph.D., and DeWayne N. Phillips; Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Weld; and Shelby White.**

Constellation oversaw catering. Music was provided by Nanny Assis. Recording artist and Drama Desk Award-winner Doreen Montalvo performed in honor of LuEsther T. Mertz's love for musical theater. The evening's décor was by fleursBELLA.

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum. An oasis in this busy metropolis since its founding in 1891, the Garden is a dynamic, leading New York City cultural institution.

A National Historic Landmark, the 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. More than one million annual visitors enjoy the Garden not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora, but also for programming ranging from renowned exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and LuEsther T. Mertz Library to celebrations on Daffodil Hill.

The Garden is also a major educational institution. More than 300,000 people annually—among them Bronx families, schoolchildren, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG's hands-on curriculum-based programming; 90,000 of those visitors are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are teachers from New York City's public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels.

NYBG operates one of the world's largest plant research and conservation programs, with 200 staff members—including 100 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden's state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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