



# POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE, INC.

The best friend a kid can have

## PAL News

Fall 2018

In 1999 on a desolate corner of 119th Street and Manhattan Avenue in Harlem, the Police Athletic League built a beautiful PAL Center. Since then, tens of thousands of neighborhood kids have spent endless hours in every corner of the building -- especially in the gym. That gym endured the pitter patter of grade schooler's feet, the basketball skill of teens, Cops & Kids Sports tournaments, and thousands of kids at the annual PAL Holiday Party.

At the beginning of 2017, we began working with The Garden of Dreams Foundation (GDF) on redoing the second floor of PAL's Duncan Center in Hell's Kitchen and they came to us with an amazing proposition. GDF would provide a capital grant to renovate portions of the Harlem Center including the lobby, the game room and the gym. Every public space on the first floor would get a restoration with the gym receiving a complete makeover from the floor to the ceiling.

And renovate we did. The gym floor was completely redone: new bleachers, modern lighting, and of course, a new scoreboard was added. A stage adjacent to the basketball court was refurbished to allow for the use of the facility as a performing arts space, complete with a state-of-the-art audio-visual system. This \$1.1 million dollar renovation was a true joint effort between PAL and GDF. At the ribbon cutting on September 20, it was clear that this wasn't just another project of the foundation. The MSG Officials including; Barry Watkins, Garden of Dreams Chairman; Gary Fuhrman, Garden of Dreams Board Member; Andrea Greenberg, President & CEO, MSG Networks/ Garden of Dreams Board Member; Steve Mills, President, New York Knicks; Scott Perry, General Manager, New York Knicks and David Fizdale, Head Coach, New York Knicks, along with Frederick J. Watts, PAL Executive Director, PAL Board Members and all of the Harlem Center after school participants and PAL staff knew that this was something special. When that ribbon fell, it announced the rebirth of an amazing space and the celebration of PAL and GDF's commitment to the children of New York City.

Now it is PAL's job to create even better programs to fill this amazing space. Just as GDF invested in upgrading the building we know, we can count on our public and private supporters to help us take our sports and educational programming to a new high. Because of the Garden of Dreams Foundation, new generations of children will have a safe place to play, learn and grow.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIRMAN

Robert M. Morgenthau

### VICE CHAIRMAN

John A. Catsimatidis

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Robert J. McGuire

### VICE CHAIRMAN

John B. Osborn

### PRESIDENT

David J. Arena

### HONORARY PRESIDENT

James P. O'Neill

### VICE PRESIDENT

Richard A. Bernstein

### VICE PRESIDENT

Daniel Rose

### SECRETARY

Charles A. Stillman, Esq.

Keith Banks

Barbara Taylor Bradford

Christopher L. Canty

Tony Danza

John R. Greed

Maurice R. Greenberg

Stephen E. Kaufman, Esq.

Rikki Klieman

I. Dolly Lenz

Patrick J. Lynch

Danielle Maged

Mitchell B. Modell

Bruce E. Mosler

Pamela J. Newman

Ivan Obolensky

Ronald O. Perelman

Vincent F. Pitta, Esq.

Howard J. Rubenstein

Mitch E. Rudin

Bart M. Schwartz, Esq

Eric P. Sheinberg

Mark Simone

Philip Suarez

John Zeiler

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Frederick J. Watts

## YOU MAKE EVERY SEASON AT PAL AN EXCITING ONE!

Dear Friends,

The summer flew by, and we are now fully into fall at PAL. With your help we had another successful summer, our 104th to be exact. Over 3,000 children attended our Summer Camps, 1,300 neighborhood youth participated in PAL PLAYSTREETS, and 1,500 teens had jobs through our Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Among my favorite summer events is Carnival Day, when we bring 500 K through 3rd graders to Clove Lake Park on Staten Island for a day of games and activities. In addition to the staff, this year we had 30 volunteers for Goldman Sachs there to help.



With the reopening of our after school sites 3,700 kids are involved in PAL programming that you help make happen. Our Education Department creates academic enrichment programs from STEM activities to homework help. Thanks to a grant from the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) our Teen programs are going through a revamping that will enhance our reach to vulnerable youth. Our Early Education programs in Brooklyn and Queens are at capacity with 2 and 3-year-olds. Also, our Cops & Kids programs are heating up with games nearly every night of the week.

Our big news is that on September 20th we had a grand rededication of three spaces at the PAL Harlem Center. Thanks to the generosity of the Garden of Dreams Foundation, the gym, game room and Rose Hall were completely redone. The gym is now state-of-the-art with everything from a refurbished floor and new bleachers, to modern audio/visual equipment. If you have not visited a center, I would strongly encourage you to contact us and to arrange a tour. Aldervan Daly, Director of Advancement, would be happy to help and can be reached at 212-477-9450 ext.357. Our job now, with your help, is to increase the programming in the Center. We particularly envision doing more programs where we bring together local police officers with PAL families.

In fact, family involvement is a big focus for us this year. In this newsletter, you'll read about some of PAL's family programs on Staten Island. Private and public funders support this PAL initiative and all of our programs. It is truly the combination of all of the support from all of our supporters -- individual, foundation, corporate and government -- that allows PAL to live up to its 104-year-old tradition of providing a safe place for NYC youth to work toward achieving their full potential.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Frederick J. Watts.

Frederick J. Watts  
Executive Director

### PAL NEWS STAFF

**Editor:** H. Aldervan Daly

**Design:** ELEVENODESIGN

**Photography:** PAL Staff

Love Haight Photography

Ben Asen

**Contributors:**

Domingo Justin Beltran

Renee Jamerson

Jami Landi

Evan Laura Ressegger

Pinky Vincent

# MAKE TODAY YOUR BEST DAY



## PAL SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

The Police Athletic League has served the youth of New York City with a diverse set of programming for over 104 years. As time goes on, PAL's partnership with community schools has allowed these programs to touch the lives of more students than ever before. These school based programs work diligently at fostering new ways to benefit both students and communities.

The goal of PAL school based programs is to expand on the school day curriculum. One example of this partnership was our relationship with last year's Principal at P.S. 78: The Stapleton Lighthouse Community School. Located in Stapleton, Staten Island, P.S. 78 is one of PAL's school based centers. Here, there is a strong working relationship between the school's staff and the staff of PAL. While PAL ran parallel to the school's routine in the past, today, PAL is a part of the school's curriculum.

PAL Center Director Michelle Cat-touse believes the success of P.S. 78's PAL students directly correlates to the strong relationship between PAL and the school's principal. Although Mr. Bruschi (formerly the P. S. 78 principal) has changed positions for the new school year, we know that our partnership will continue to grow at P.S. 78 with new Principal Jodi Contento leading the way.

Another important partnership is The Staten Island Foundation. Their generous support furthers enrichment for the students of PAL and P.S. 78.

Every day P.S. 78 goes by its mantra "Make today your best day," and together Principal Contento and her staff, along with PAL staff and supporters like you, make this possible.

The Police Athletic League has kept thousands of children safe and productive during high-risk afterschool hours. At PAL, school based programs are free and provide academic enrichment, build self-confidence and engage youth in recommended levels of physical activity. Recent studies show school children across the country are not engaging in sufficient amounts of education and arts learning. Here at PAL, kids take part in two times as much physical activity and three times as much arts activities as their peers.

School based programs continuously have positive impacts on New York City youth, as indicated by increased engagement in the arts, improved fitness and improved school day attendance. "School based sites have an 80% retention rate" says Miguel Balbuena, Director of School Based Centers. "By creating a community environment, these programs fulfill the needs of the students and families." With that, 95% percent of after schoolers improve social-emotional skills.

PAL's school based programs form true partnerships with principals. These partnerships promote communication, trust and collaboration between schools and PAL. Resources such as Parenting Advisory Boards are available because of these relationships. For example, PAL holds

monthly meetings for the families of the students at P.S. 78. These meetings are to educate the parents on their children's day to day activities while also providing resources for the families such as homework help, neighborhood watch information and behavior management. From academic enrichment to dental treatment and more, PAL school based programs are committed to being a resource for students.

Another special resource is Summer in The City, a summer program that provides academic enrichment for non-summer school students. This program is a collaboration with the Office of Community Schools and pairs school teachers with program staff to create the curricula. During the school year, PAL's school Based programming expands on the school day curricula through experiential learning and interactive activities.

PAL believes young people's individual strengths and capabilities can guide them to mature, productive adulthood with our encouragement and commitment. Along with supporters like you, these programs, resources, and partnerships continue to provide opportunities for young people to expand their horizons and realize their full potential.

# HERE'S TO UNLOCKING POTENTIAL – A TRIBUTE TO MR. FRED BASS

January of this year PAL said farewell to a longtime supporter and notable New Yorker, Mr. Fred Bass, owner of the Strand Book Store. Mr. Bass has helped PAL to unlock the potential of thousands of New York City children, and even upon his passing, he continued to give by bequeathing us a generous gift.

The story of Mr. Bass's youth is not unlike that of so many of our children. However, at the age of 13, he discovered a place where he could develop and unlock the potential that changed his life, his father's bookstore.

It is no surprise that he wanted to ensure that other children of our city have a place where they too can develop their untapped potential and excel in life. By remembering PAL in his will, he has helped to ensure that PAL will be here providing the programming that can make that possible for our kids.

From everyone at PAL we are grateful to Mr. Bass for choosing to be the "Best Friend a Kid Can Have."

If you have questions about making a planned gift to PAL, please call Renee Jamerson at 212-477-9450 ext 353.



*"The sole meaning of life is to secure humanity."*

– Leo Tolstoy



## Thank you.

With your support, we ensure that young people at PAL have numerous ways to stay engaged in meaningful activities through academics, sports, arts and civic engagement.

We are also grateful to have corporate and foundation funders and they - like you - are giving our young people a chance to dream big and fulfill their aspirations.

For example, longtime supporter, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, ensures that our teens get much needed opportunities: college readiness, job skills and paid internships.

Our friends at the John A. Reisenbach Foundation fund the Reisenbach Internships for vulnerable Youth Link participants while our new friends at the Barker Welfare Foundation

provide support for the overall program.

We thank Spectrum for upgrading our technology lab at Harlem Center with new computers – helping us give PAL youth the best environment possible to learn and to grow. We are also appreciative of the sports equipment donations from Good Sports, replenishing supplies for PAL's recreational activities and intramural tournaments.

Our friends at News Corp help us ensure that we run exceptional programs such as the PAL Science Fair for our afterschool youth. We also thank Pfizer for making PAL a place for our youth to thrive.

Thank you for your support to PAL where young people can become the best they can be.

# PAL'S FABULOUS FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

## 46th Annual Superstar Dinner

The Development Department's special events got off to a busy start. Our 46th Annual Superstar Dinner, honoring Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan and Chaired by Brian Moynihan, was held on October 2nd at the Plaza. The gala, emceed by Mark Simone, boasted a stand-out performance by Tony Danza, teens from PAL's Acting Program and NYPD Officers. The event raised over \$1.2 million.

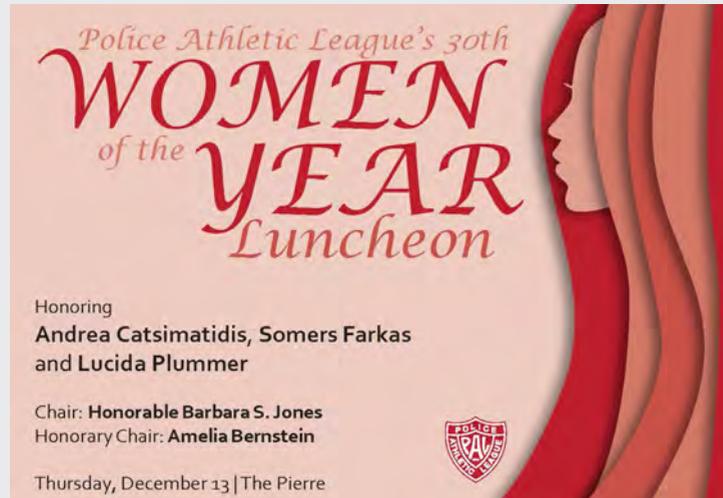
## 4th Annual 5K Run/Walk

On November 11th, PAL's 4th Annual 5K Run/Walk will take place in Riverside Park and the 30th Annual Women of the Year Luncheon, honoring Andrea Catsimatidis, Somers Farkas and Lucida Plummer will be held on Thursday, December 13th at the Pierre. The Luncheon's Chair Judge Barbara Jones and Honorary Chair, Amelia Bernstein promise it will be a memorable afternoon.

## Business Luncheons

John Catsimatidis and Robert Morgenthau continue to Chair our Monthly Business Luncheons, hosted by Mutual of America, where professionals gather to hear notable leaders examine the country's issues.

As Mohammad Ali said, "Impossible is Nothing." Thank you for making dreams come true for our kids.



**We hope to see you at one or all of these special occasions. Please call us at 212-477-0830.**

## THE PAL CONTEMPORARIES



Event Host Committee member Jennifer Arena along with Caroline Gray, Nicole Acocella (top row) Maggie Kelly, Lauren Wade and Molly Driscoll

The PAL Contemporaries held its first annual spring cocktail party this past May. The PAL Contemporaries is the young professional supporters and advocates for PAL. This event held at The Woolly, a private venue in lower Manhattan, hosted over sixty young professionals. This year's event was Chaired by the PAL Contemporaries Co-Chairs Lucy Lang, Ryan Hayward, Linnea Wilson Hayward and Jordan Arnold. The Host committee included Jennifer Arena, Josh Einiger, Julie Einiger, Gina Lauriero and Zachary P. Lountzis.

This fall the Contemporaries will participate in multiple volunteer events, including a card-making day with children at our William J. Duncan Center in Midtown Manhattan. PAL is also excited to host the first annual PAL Contemporaries' Holiday Party this coming December. The PAL Contemporaries is a dynamic group of young professionals, if you are interested in joining this group, please email Evan Ressegger at [eressegger@palnyc.org](mailto:eressegger@palnyc.org).

## GIRL TALK

A Police Athletic League signature program, Girl Talk, just finished up a third season of operation. Girl Talk strives to be a cohesive mentorship, serving girls between the ages of ten to thirteen years old. The goal is to ensure that these girls build their self-esteem and combat negative outside peer influences. PAL Girl Talk is supported by AIG, Girl Talk's founding corporate partner. Founded in 1919, today AIG member companies provide a wide range of property casualty insurance, life insurance, retirement products, and other financial services to customers in more than 80 countries and jurisdictions. A main feature of AIG's support is the annual Girl Talk retreat, a culminating event for the nine-month mentoring program for the 75 participants. This year the girls were able to hear words of wisdom from a wonderful group of women. This year the Women of Inspiration included Community Affairs' Assistant Chief Kim Royster, Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, and NFL's Senior Vice



President of Special Investigations Lisa Friel. The girls visited AIG's headquarters, and the NFL headquarters- both were a huge treat to the girls in the program! The year concluded with an overnight retreat at St. Johns University in Queens. The girls were able to

experience what it is like to live in college dorm rooms, and navigate a college campus. PAL is excited to kick off the next season of Girl Talk this November. If you would like to support this program, please contact Evan Ressegger [eressegger@palnyc.org](mailto:eressegger@palnyc.org).

## PAL SUMMER RECAP



Every summer the Police Athletic League successfully provides NYC kids with summer day camps, free of charge. Summer 2018 was no exception, thanks to supporters like you.

This year our summer theme was "Broadway Musicals." Along with cultural and

social impacts, each center studied the plot, setting, and music of musical productions. As in previous years, third and fourth graders represented their centers and displayed their learning at our annual Cultural Day celebration. City wide special events give participants the opportunity to learn and practice team

work, self-control, center spirit, and friendly competition among representatives from all centers; and each one was a success.

Other activities included PAL's Summer Carnival and a basketball tournament with a visit from former NBA player, John Starks. PAL students also visited the NY Aquarium, the Aviator Sports & Events center, a NY Liberty game, Legoland Discovery Center and more.

Because of your support our kids experienced a safe summer of academic enrichment and fun. You really are the best friend a kid can have.

*"If there were no PAL, I would have just sat at home this summer and never made friends."*

– Wyatt M., Age 10.  
PAL Kid, Brooklyn