

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NYC HONORS NYSE HEAD STACEY CUNNINGHAM AND
EQUAL RIGHTS LEGEND BILLIE JEAN KING WITH BREAKING BARRIERS AWARDS**

New York City, May 28, 2019 – The League of Women Voters of the City of New York, celebrating its 100th anniversary, welcomed 225 guests at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City on May 21st. The Centennial Celebration event paid tribute to the women who fought to win the right for women to vote by honoring two New Yorkers who have broken barriers in their own fields: Stacey Cunningham, President of the New York Stock Exchange, and Billie Jean King, founder of the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative.

“We were delighted to honor these two women as we celebrate this historic achievement,” said League Co-President Ruth S. Altman. “Each has not only broken barriers in her own field, but encouraged and enabled other women to do the same.”

Honoree and equal rights leader, Billie Jean King, described voting as the “one time when we are all equal.” Honoree Stacey Cunningham, the first woman to hold the position as president of the NYSE in its 229 years, accepted her award encouraging all women “You have a say - use it.”

Catherine Gray, League Co-President, looked back at the goals of the League’s first presidents 100 years ago. “They thought the League would not be needed after three years because they would have finished their job, said Gray, “but our job is still not finished.”

The event was chaired by Jennifer J. Raab, President of Hunter College and past honoree of the League of Women Voters. Guests and supporters included Mayor David Dinkins, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Debra O’Connell, President WABC-TV, Sade Baderinwa, WABC News Anchor, Kathryn Wylde, President Partnership for New York City, Dare Thompson, President League of Women Voters of New York State, and Therese O’Higgins, Executive Director of the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative.

The awards presented were gifts created by Tiffany & Co in honor of suffragist Katrina Ely Tiffany, who was the second president of the NYC League.

A video produced by WABC-TV showcased notable WABC personalities Kelly Ripa and Sade Baderinwa describing their passion for voting. Debra O’Connell, president of WABC-TV and League Advisory Board Member, said “Voting is a responsibility and an opportunity. It shows that each of us has a voice.” Also in the video, past presidents and current League volunteers related how the League of Women Voters provides essential non-partisan election information to New Yorkers.

Guests enjoyed food stations and signature cocktails amid photo displays of League volunteers throughout its hundred-year history. From marches down Fifth Avenue to hosting debates, and conducting voter registration and training people how to vote, the League’s mission hasn’t changed in 100 years.

The evening was capped off with a cake cutting illuminated by the 225 lighted wands waved by all the guests, and Hunter student Kurie Koyohara singing “Happy Centennial to Us.”

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote informed and active participation in government. It neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties.

www.lwvny.org #lwvny100 (212) 725-3541.

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Link to Event Photos:

<https://nxmphoto.pixieset.com/leagueofwomenvotersgala/>

Photo:



Photo Caption:

Centennial Celebration a Huge Success!

LtoR: Catherine T. Gray, Co-President League, Jennifer J. Raab, President Hunter College, event chair, Stacey Cunningham, President NYSE, Honoree, Billie Jean King, founder, Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, Honoree, Ruth S. Altman, Co-President League, Mayor David Dinkins, 106th Mayor of New York City