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THE ALEC BALDWIN FOUNDATION

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by Arthur Ashe's proactive life as a conscience leader, humanitarian, educator and athlete, the Arthur Ashe Learning Center promotes his legacy to educate and motivate individuals — with an emphasis toward inspiring youth. By vividly focusing upon the areas of education, health and wellness, citizenship and self-reliance, the AALC fosters empowerment and leadership in the individual and the community, elevating their sense of purpose and quality of life.

## 2013 INSPIRATIONAL TOUR

This year, we will premiere the AALC Inspirational Tour: a dynamic, state-of-the art exhibition which vividly tells the story of Arthur's remarkable life and legacy while engaging visitors by using a combination of interactive experiences, personal memorabilia, photographs, video, games, cutting edge technology and more. This experience is timed to celebrate:

*February 6, 2013*

The 20th Anniversary of Arthur Ashe's passing

*July 10, 2013*

The 70th Anniversary of Arthur Ashe's birth

*August 23-28, 2013*

The 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

*September 9, 2013*

The 45th Anniversary of Arthur Ashe winning the 1st US Open as an American amateur and Lieutenant in the US Army

*To make a donation to the Arthur Ashe Learning Center please send a check to*

Arthur Ashe Learning Center  
77 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023

*or donate via credit card online by visiting*

[www.ArthurAshe.org](http://www.ArthurAshe.org)

The Arthur Ashe Learning Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We will promptly send an acknowledgment affirming this for tax purposes.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Won the ATA National Championship for boys 12 years and under in 1953.
- Graduated 1st in his class from high school.
- Earned a full scholarship to attend college at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).
- Elected as President of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) in 1974.
- Selected as captain of the U.S. Davis Cup Team in 1981.
- Inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame in 1985.
- Named Sport Illustrated Sportsman of the Year in 1992.
- He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1993.
- After Ashe died in 1993 his body was displayed at the Governor's Mansion in Virginia for public mourning. The last time this was done was for Stonewall Jackson, a general of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.
- The main stadium at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Park, is named Arthur Ashe Stadium in his honor. This is where the U.S. Open is played during which the annual Arthur Ashe Kids Day is held.
- In 2005 the United States Postal Service released an Arthur Ashe commemorative postal stamp, the first stamp ever to feature the cover of a Sports Illustrated magazine.
- Also in 2005, TENNIS Magazine put him in 30th place in its list of 40 Greatest Players of the TENNIS era.
- In 2007 Arthur Ashe was listed at #14 in USA Today's list of 25 Most Inspiring People of the Last 25 Years
- In 2009, he was inducted into the US Open Court of Champions by President Bill Clinton
- Numerous honorary degrees were bestowed on him during his life and posthumously including ones from: Amherst College, Barnard College, The College of William and Mary, Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Hartford College, Haverford College, Kalamazoo College, Le Moyne College, Le Moyne-Owen College, New York University, Northeastern University, Princeton University, Saint John's University, Trinity University, University of Delaware, Virginia Union University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Wake Forest University, Yale University



*To learn more about the  
Arthur Ashe Learning Center, please visit*

[WWW.ARTHURASHE.ORG](http://WWW.ARTHURASHE.ORG)

ARTHUR ASHE: *biography*

Childhood & Teen Years

Arthur Robert Ashe Jr. was born on July 10, 1943 to parents Arthur Sr. and Mattie C. Ashe in Richmond, Virginia. Arthur began learning tennis from an early age. In 1947 Arthur Sr. assumed the caretaker position at Brook Field Park: a blacks-only 18-acre park that included tennis courts and a house in which the Ashe family resided. In 1950, shortly before Arthur's Jr's 7th birthday, his mother died of complications from surgery. That same year Arthur met Ronald Charity, one of the best black tennis players in the nation and a part-time tennis coach. Charity began coaching Arthur regularly. As his skill progressed, Charity introduced him to Dr. Walter Johnson, who coached the only African-American competing in world tennis at that time, Althea Gibson. Dr. Johnson would become his lifelong coach and mentor. In 1958 under Dr. Johnson, Arthur became the first African-American to play in the Maryland Boys' Championships, his first integrated tennis competition. He spent his senior year in high school in St. Louis, Missouri to facilitate his tennis development. In St. Louis he competed against strong opponents and won multiple junior tennis tournaments nationwide. He was featured in the December 12, 1960 issue of Sports Illustrated as a Face in the Crowd.

College Years

Upon graduating from high school first in his class, Arthur matriculated to UCLA on a full scholarship in 1961. The university had one of the best nationally ranked college tennis programs, and his participation brought him increased recognition among tennis enthusiasts. That year he was named to the U.S. Davis Cup team as its first African-American player. He continued to play on the team until 1970, and then again in 1975, 1976 and 1978. As a college student he maintained good grades and was active in other extracurriculars including the Upsilon chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity on campus. In 1966 Arthur became the first member on the paternal side of his family to graduate college with a degree in business administration. In addition to finishing his studies, Arthur won the individual NCAA championship in 1965: a significant contribution to UCLA's team NCAA championship win.

Military Service

Upon graduation, Arthur joined the U.S. Army and was stationed at West Point where he rose to the rank of second lieutenant. During this time Arthur triumphed over Tom Okker of the Netherlands to win the first U.S. Open in 1968. However, due to his

amateur status he could not accept the prize money, which was given to Okker despite his loss. He is the only African-American man to ever win the title.

“  
*Success is a journey,  
not a destination.  
The doing is often more  
important than the  
outcome.*”

In 1969 Arthur co-founded the National Junior Tennis League with Charlie Pasarell, his UCLA roommate and fellow tennis pro, and Sheridan Snyder, a tennis enthusiast. The program was designed to expose children to tennis who otherwise might not have opportunities to play, while simultaneously fostering a sense of discipline and attention to academics.

Professional Years

Arthur first applied for a visa to travel to South Africa in 1969. At the time South Africa had a strictly enforced policy of segregation called Apartheid. He wanted to compete in the South African Open, but his visa request was denied. This cycle recurred several times. He leveraged this experience of discrimination to campaign for the expulsion of the nation from the International Lawn Tennis Federation.

In January of 1970 Arthur won the Australian Open, the second of his three career Grand Slam singles titles. Along with Arthur's growing celebrity status in the early 70s, the sport of tennis was gaining popularity. However, the tennis pros had little control over their schedules and earnings. In response to this concern he partnered with Jack Kramer and others to create the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for male tennis players in 1972. Two years later he was elected President of ATP.

South Africa eventually granted Arthur an entry visa in 1973. He was the first black pro to play in the national championships there, where he reached the singles finals and won the doubles title with Tom Okker.

1975 was a banner year for Arthur: on July 5, 1975 he defeated the heavily favored Jimmy Connors to win the Wimbledon singles title. He was the first and only black man to win the prestigious grass-court tournament. That year he attained the #1 men's ranking in the world.

Family Life

In 1976 Arthur met Jeanne Moutoussamy, a photographer, who he married on February 20, 1977. Andrew Young, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. presided over the ceremony. Arthur retired from tennis in 1980 after suffering a heart attack. He took on many new tasks: writing for Time Magazine, The Washington Post and Tennis Magazine; commentating for ABC Sports; and continuing his activism against the South African Apartheid regime. That same year, he was appointed captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team, which included players such as John McEnroe, Peter Fleming and Jimmy Connors under his captainship between 1980-1985. The U.S. team won the Davis Cup in 1981 and 1982. In 1981 he also served as national chairman of the American Heart Association.

In response to his heart attacks, in 1979 and in 1983 Arthur underwent coronary bypass surgery. After the second operation, he received a blood transfusion that resulted in him unknowingly contracting human immunodeficiency virus or HIV.

Engaged Activist

In 1983 he founded Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid with Harry Belafonte to raise awareness of Apartheid and lobby for sanctions against South Africa. Two years later, displaying the courage of his convictions, he was arrested outside the South African embassy during a protest on January 11, 1985. That same year he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI.

December 21, 1986 marked another milestone with the birth of his daughter, Camera. Around this time he agreed to teach "The Black Athlete in Contemporary Society" at Florida Memorial College. Finding no up-to-date resources for the course, he was inspired to write a three-volume history of the black athlete called *A Hard Road To Glory*. During this period he also founded the ABC Cities Tennis Program, the Athlete-Career Connection, and the Safe Passage Foundation.

“  
*Regardless of  
how you feel inside,  
always try to look like a winner.  
Even if you're behind, a sustained  
look of control and confidence can give you  
a mental edge that results in victory.*”

Arthur was hospitalized again in 1988, at which point he learned he had HIV. A newspaper forced Arthur to announce he had AIDS at a press conference on April 8, 1992. After this he founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS, raising money for research to treat, cure and prevent AIDS, and spoke before the U.N. imploring delegates to address AIDS as a global issue.

He continued his activism, including being arrested while protesting the U.S. policy toward Haitian refugees outside the White House. Two months before his death he founded the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, to address issues of inadequate health care delivery in urban minority populations. He also dedicated time to write his memoir Days of Grace, which was finished only days before his passing. In 1992 Sports Illustrated named him Sportsman of the Year.

On February 6, 1993 Arthur Ashe died of AIDS-related pneumonia in New York at the age of 49. He was laid in state at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond, VA, the first person to lay in state since the Confederate general Stonewall Jackson in 1863.

On what would have been Arthur's 53rd birthday, July 10, 1996, a statue of him was dedicated on Richmond's Monument Avenue. Previously, Monument Avenue had commemorated Confederate war heroes; in fact, as a child Arthur was not able to visit Monument Avenue because of the color of his skin. In 1997, the USTA named the new center stadium at the National Tennis Center Arthur Ashe Stadium, commemorating the first U.S. Open men's champion.

