



tra-Curricular

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE South Country Education Foundation

From the Helm



It is my pleasure to greet you as president of the South Country Education Foundation. So far, our year has been very exciting and busy as we fulfill our mission to enhance the education of the children of the school district. This year the foundation has awarded over \$15,000 in grants to teachers and students, provided six students with summer music lessons through the Becker/Gambles Music Fund, awarded scholarships to ten scholar-athletes from the Clipper Classic, hosted a very enjoyable and profitable Auction/Cocktail Party, ran the Clipper Classic road race and fun walk, administered three memorial scholarships and produced a glorious concert by the Daedalus Quartet (three of whose members are alumni of the district).

The foundation is hard at work planning further activities. Highlights include: increasing the amount of money awarded for teacher and student grants, creating a "signature" project that will be fully sponsored by the foundation, expanding the scholarships provided by the Becker/Gambles Music Fund and supporting the Hohner Institute of Percussion in music lessons for our students who will perform in a concert at Bellport High School on January 16, 2003. Our Auction/Cocktail Party is scheduled for July 12, 2003 and the Clipper Classic will be run on July 13.

The heart and soul of the foundation are the hard working members of our board, our supportive community advisory committee and our generous donors.

Words cannot express enough thanks for their (your) efforts on behalf of our children. Certainly, great things are possible when many lend a helping hand! Please consider joining our family of supporters; a donation form appears on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.

—GENE WESTHOFF, *President*

2002 SCEF Grants

The South Country Education Foundation is pleased to announce its educational grant winners for 2002. Twelve grants to fund innovative programs and projects of benefit to students in the South Country School District were awarded in May. The grants, totaling over fifteen thousand dollars will fund educational initiatives both in the district schools and in the surrounding community. These funds have been raised by generous donations to the foundation from community members, alumni, and local nonprofit organizations. SCEF board members Mary Jane Cullen, Dr. Vincent Lynch and Robert T. Young served on the Grant Review Committee. Congratulations to all recipients!

This year's grant recipients are:

Celebrating Ourselves at the Bellport Middle School, sponsored by the Shared Decision-Making Team. This year long project is created to target the sixth grade students. The objective is to bolster the students' self esteem while reinforcing the positive values of racial and cultural diversity.

Kindergarten Classroom Manipulatives at the Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Nancy Paradise. This project is an integrated language, literacy and math approach that uses manipulatives to help the children explore and reinforce many different language and math concepts.

Breakfast With Books at the Kreamer Street Elementary School, sponsored by Annmarie O'Sullivan. This event is a celebration of LITERACY designed to promote the importance of reading at home with young children.

Project Earth at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, sponsored by Peter Cisek. This is an enrichment program for fourth and fifth graders that emphasizes hands-on learning through woodworking projects.

The Garden Club at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, sponsored by Peter Cisek. This enrichment program meets in the morning before school begins to help beautify the school's self-contained courtyard.

Keep Books at Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Katherine Frankie. This project will provide inexpensive take-home books to the entire Kindergarten at Brookhaven Elementary School. Parents will be encouraged to help foster the reading process at home.

An Art Festival by the District Art Department, sponsored by Juliette Marotta, District Art Chairperson. All students will be able to participate in a variety of hands-on individual activities, work on a group project, and observe high school art student's work in progress as well as professional artists.

School Newspaper at Brookhaven Elementary School, sponsored by Jennifer Cerrito and Debbie Becht. Second and third grade students will work together to create a bi-monthly school newspaper.

Pack-N-Read Blue Bag Book Program at Verne W. Critz Elementary School, sponsored by Angela Muller. This program is designed to help reading students in grades 1-3 read at home with parent/guardian/friend.

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READ? at Bellport High School, sponsored by Monica K. Maghini (teaching assistant), Brenda Sandoval and Lisa Beneducci (BHS students). This is a book group whose mission is to improve student performance and self-fulfillment by allowing reluctant readers to explore literature within the comfort of a non-threatening, peer group environment.

Star Gazing at Bellport Middle School, sponsored by Donna Spradley and Nancy Caiaccia. This is a program for sixth graders and their parents that utilizes astronomy and incorporates math, social studies and language arts, along with science in a multi-modality approach.

Teaching Tolerance Together at Verne W. Critz Elementary School, sponsored by the Shared Decision-Making Team. This project involves the students, staff and parents. The purpose is to provide the school community with resources and strategies to teach tolerance and resolve conflicts peacefully

—MARY JANE CULLEN

Cocktail Party and Auction —Raises Record Money!

Pete and Robin Roe once again opened their gracious home in Bellport on July 13 for the fourth annual South Country Education Foundation Cocktail Party & Auction. The event was a treat for all senses as the beats of the Boys and Girls Club Steel Drum Band set the scene while guests mingled, sampling hors d'oeuvres and refreshments donated by our local restaurants and served by Bellport High School honor students.

Local artists, businesses and residents generously donated talents and services to both the live and silent auctions. Auctioned events had winners sailing local-

Did you know that SCEF makes project grants to not-for-profit institutions, and individual grants to students and professional staff? We do. The grants can be given in the arts and sciences, the humanities, technology, career and personal development as well as professional development. Want to apply? Visit our website at <http://www.scefonline.org>



Pete Roe trying out a bike at the auction.

ly on the Peconic and Great South Bays and traveling with the Lindblad Expedition to the Galapagos. Under the tent, our local auctioneer John Stravinsky, helped us raise over \$34,000.00 for the South Country School District—a new benefit record!

The Cocktail Party & Auction is the SCEF's biggest fundraising event. It enables us to make the grants that enhance the educational opportunities of our students. Many thanks to our hosts, auction committee, volunteers, donors and especially you who brought your checkbooks.

We are starting to gather items for next year's auc-

tion. Please call a committee member if you have any ideas. Remember, in addition to contributing to our school district, there are great tax benefits to donating the use of your vacation home, boat or any other talent, service or treasure you may have.

—STEVE LAIRD

Another Roe Fundraiser

While the auction at the Roe house has been our main fundraiser for the past four years, another Roe threw a party to benefit the foundation this past summer. Adam Roe (BHS '92), Robin and Pete Roe's son, invited four rock bands from the NY metro area to perform for friends and family on his grandmother's lawn overlooking the Great South Bay. His own band, Jimmy James, was temporarily without a percussionist, so Adam devoted his time fully to the production of the August event. The day was conceived with the idea of accepting donations to the Becker/Gambles Music Fund of the foundation. The concert was a success and Adam presented the foundation with a check for over \$500.

"I've always wanted to do something to show my appreciation to the music department at Bellport High School. The music fund was a perfect fit," said Adam.

"The Flow" performing. *Left to right:* Mark Sakasi (BHS graduate, class of 1993), Steve Greco, Chris Klug and Don Smith (BHS graduate, class of 1992)





Standing left to right: Kendra Leone, George DeMott, Lori Klamut, Dick Realander, Jesse Realander, Thomas Glennon, Steve Schoppman, Jimmy Fedge, Connor Fedge. Sitting left to right: Fran Dunton, Kathy Leone, Jonathan Leone, Billy Hughes, Lou Scordamaglia, Karen Hughes, Bill Hughes. (Missing, photographer Tom Dunton)

Becker/Gambles Music Fund

We are still looking for donations of musical instruments for students in all our schools. A fine piano, donated in the spring, now has a happy home at the Brookhaven Annex. The purchase of other musical instruments for the students at the Annex was made possible by a generous donation. A wonderful shiny trombone has found a good home at the high school. And you? Have you unused musical treasures in your attic? Call me, Karen Rowley, at 286-0975 and I'll come collect your treasure and find it a good home.

Bellport High School Reunions

The class of 1952 held its 50th reunion September 28, 2002 at the South Shore Restaurant in Patchogue. There were 23 graduates in the class and several of them have passed away. Some could not make it due to medical problems, some could not be found (even with the internet). There were 23 people who attended—graduates and spouses. Some came from New Hampshire and upper New York State. Interestingly, many of the graduates have remained in the Bellport, East Patchogue, and Patchogue areas.



CLASS OF 1952

Back Row left to right:
Philip Roberts, William Lengyel,
Donald Murdock, Grace(Carle) Burwell,
Phyllis (Ross) Belcher, Quentin Reynolds,
Theresa (Cardamone) Laclair,
Chester Arthur, Gunther Raddatz.

Front Row left to right:
Barbara (DeVito) Giuliano,
Anna (Perino)McClure,
Lorraine (DeVito) Wood,
Josephine (Stephani) Fuoco.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
A tremendous
"Thank You" to Carol Holtz for
her assistance in locating
Bellport High School Alumni
for these reunion updates.

—ELENA BRODIE-KUSA

Class of 1957. The weekend of September 20th was our 45th reunion celebration. Friday evening an informal get-together was held on the patio of pine Grove Inn in East Patchogue. Saturday evening was the reunion at the Bellport Country Club with one classmate traveling from as far away as Germany. Sunday morning a brunch was in order for anyone wishing to continue and approximately 50 attended. Among the guests on Saturday evening were invited faculty Tom Feeney with his wife Marge, Richard Baldwin, William and Ruth Reynolds and, special guest, the present principal of Bellport High School William Griffith and wife.

Front Row: Joe Vignato, Lee DiClemente, George Paul, Gil Pyron, Bernie Jefferson, Jackie Iarocci Haller, Richard Stafetas, Charles Reusch, Joe Salvato, Anthony Schaefer. *Second Row Seated:* Rosemary Tofte Horton, Louisa Mingino Morrison, Joan Owen Prybyzerski, Charlotte Van Alen Singleton, Edna Mae Kellerman Majestic, Judy Lancaster Kindell, Hatjey Philips Cossonay, Joanne Benincasa Canary, Juanita Van Slyke Fields, Alice Van Slyke Gwathney. *Back Row Standing:* Marge Feeney (*faculty wife*), Herm Haller, Tom Feeney (*faculty*), Richard Baldwin (*faculty*), Bill Reynolds (*faculty*), Ruth Reynolds (*faculty*), Artie Hoffrage, Fran Rideout Coyne, Barbara Knoetgen Fridrich, John Scharpeger, Jim Kinsella, Richie Kowalski, Dominick Capobianco, Joe Backes, Worth Austin, Les Nims, Geoffrey Smith, Richard Parliman.



CLASS OF 1957

photo courtesy Jim Mooney Photography

—JOAN PRYBYZERSKI

The Class of 1972 held its 30th Reunion at the Bellport Country Club in Bellport, on August 24, 2002. Over 70 people attended the reunion and 1971 Bellport alumni Peter Mistretta of US Male Entertainment DJ'd the event. An ice-breaker was held at Painter's restaurant in Brookhaven the night before. Fun was had by all.

The Bellport High School Class of 1981 held its 20th Reunion at the Snapper Inn in Oakdale on July 20, 2002. The reunion was delayed for almost a year due to the events of September 11, 2001. The original reunion date was scheduled for the weekend following those tragic events. Our dear classmate, Lincoln Quappe, originally of Brookhaven, was lost in the World Trade Center fire and ensuing collapse. Linc was a member of the NYFD and was memorialized at the reunion along with other deceased classmates. On a brighter note, the reunion brought together old friends in a real celebration of life and fond memories of Bellport High School.

The reunion committee headed up by Darlene (Printzlau) Towlen and Joanne (Eliowitz) Bottiglieri did an outstanding job of tracking down the alumni



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The Daedalus Quartet.
Left to right: Raman Ramakrishnan,
Min-Young Kim, Kyu-Young Kim,
Jessica Thompson

Just a Tuesday Night in Bellport High School

The greatest concert halls in the world had nothing on the high school's Ebersole Auditorium on Tuesday, October 15th. The Daedalus Quartet provided an evening of superb music and glorious entertainment.

The quartet is one of the brightest groups of young musicians on the classical music scene and they more than proved it during the concert as they played with precision and passion.

Since three of the four members of the quartet are alumni of our school district, the concert was a homecoming as well as an outstanding musical event. Min-Young Kim, Kyu-Young Kim and Raman Ramakrishnan, who are the alumni, were joined by Jessica Thompson in playing quartets by Mozart, Ravel and Mendelssohn. The audience, over 500 strong, was treated to music that led them to a standing ovation at the end of the concert.

The Tri M Music Honor Society inducted the quartet as honorary, life-time members at the conclusion of the concert. The musicians and members of the audience enjoyed a reception hosted by the Honor Society after the concert. Friends and fans were able to greet the members of the quartet who signed autographs and enjoyed their homecoming.

In addition to providing a cultural highlight, the concert raised funds to support the Becker/Gambles Music Fund's activities in support of music education for the students of the district. To all our generous donors, both corporate and private, we say thank you for having helped to make this evening of wonderful music possible.

—GENE WESTHOFF

2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Thurs, January 16 | Hohner Institute of Percussion Group Concert* |
| Early February | Grant Applications Available |
| April 14 | Grant Applications Submissions Deadline |
| July 12 | Annual Cocktail Party and Auction
(Contact Mindy Smith 286-6474) |
| July 13 | Clipper Classic 5K Road Race and 1500M Walk
(Contact Lori Klamut 286-2401) |

*Performed at BHS, Ebersole auditorium. \$5 tickets may be purchased in advance beginning Monday, January 6th. Call the high school at 286-4331, ext. 332.

Donors to SCEF

The **South Country Education Foundation** would like to express its gratitude to all those individuals, couples, alumni, and corporations for their generous donations. We are especially pleased to see the widespread support for our effort to fund innovative programs to enrich the education of our South Country students. The following list reflects contributors from September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2002. We have made every effort to include everyone, and we regret if anyone has been omitted.

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South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
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SCEF Mission Statement

The South Country Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District. Its mission is to promote and enhance educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that are outside of the South Country School District budget.

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