

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



From the Helm

I am pleased to report the activities of the South Country Education Fund to you, our supporters. The foundation uses our resources to enrich the education of our children by supporting programs which we feel will improve their

educational experience.

The foundation supports programs at all grade levels in all the district's schools. We also support community-based educational activities. As I write this, we have just finished our annual grant process. We will fund over \$22,000 in grants to our teachers, student groups and community organizations.

We are supporting the high school guidance department by providing funding so that all students can register for, and take, the SATs. We hope that this will make it possible for more students to apply for admission to post-secondary education.

The foundation is supporting music education through the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. We have an Instrument Donation Program to accept donations of musical instruments for use in our schools, and we provide scholarships to students for summer study. Last summer we supported summer study for music students for a total of \$4,000. This year we will continue this level of support. In addition, we held three concerts this year and hope to host more next year.

The proceeds from the Clipper Classic Race and Fun Walk support scholarships for our graduating student athletes. This event is a highlight of the summer in our community. It will be held on Sunday, July 17th.

The foundation is always searching for other ways to use our resources so we can continue to enrich our children's education. All of our activities depend upon your

support. We know that the times are difficult financially, but we hope that the quality and quantity of our efforts will encourage you to continue your support. Our upcoming activities include our Annual Auction/Cocktail Party on July 9th as well as The Clipper Classic Race and Fun Walk on July 17th. Please make plans to attend these events and enjoy them. If you cannot attend them, please consider using the form on the last page to make a donation. Thank you for your continuing support of our children and their education.

—GENE WESTHOFF, *President*

Lindblad Returns to the 2005 Auction!

Lindblad Expeditions will once again donate a trip to our annual auction. Details are still to be firmed up, but the trip will be one of their wonderful cruises for two to Costa Rica. Please check our website www.scefonline.org in the coming weeks to receive full details. Also visit Lindblad Expeditions at www.expeditions.com for information about this world-class company and its extensive offerings.

In addition to the Lindblad Cruise, a 1988 Mercedes 560 SL convertible, laser eye surgery, a handmade wooden kayak, two Mies van der Rohe Brno chairs, original artworks and many more items will be auctioned.

Please join us on Saturday, July 9th from 5 to 7:30 PM at the home of Chantal and Richard Berman on the bay in Bellport and make this year's auction our best. For more information or an invitation, please call 286-3760.

Class of 1983 Makes Donation to Foundation

The South Country Education Foundation is the grateful recipient of a donation from the Bellport High School Class of 1983. Reunion organizers Michele Miller Ferrigno,



At the 1983 Reunion, left to right, are Teresa (Miller) Gomes, Michele (Miller) Ferrigno, Chris (Green) Schaeffer, and Cynthia (Delihias) DiGiacomo

Heather Halpin and Christine Schaeffer sent the foundation a check for \$493.50—proceeds left over from their recent twentieth-anniversary celebration. Many thanks to all of the Class of '83 for their generosity!

Camerata Sings at BHS

On December 10, 2004, the Becker/Gambles Music Fund was proud to host the SUNY-Stony Brook Camerata Singers for an evening of exciting choral music. The Camerata's thirty members represent a cross section of the University at Stony Brook and surrounding communities, ranging from business people and homemakers to voice students and teachers. (Brookhaven Elementary School music teacher Henry Finnegan is a member.) The singers compete in many choral competitions and have traveled extensively to music festivals around the world.

We were fortunate to have them with us in the Bellport High School Ebersole Auditorium and thank supporters of our Becker/Gambles Music Fund for making the evening a success.



Quartet Benefits Students

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12th and 13th, were filled with sublime music brought to us by the Daedalus Quartet. The quartet paid their third visit to the school district under the sponsorship of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund

of the South Country Education Foundation, Inc. The quartet is one of the best young classical groups on today's music scene. We are proud to say that three of the members are alumni of the school district. Violinists Min-Young Kim ('88) and Kyu-Young Kim('90), cellist, Raman Ramakrishnan ('94) and violist Jessica Thompson are the Daedalus Quartet. The quartet has recently made its Carnegie Hall debut and is about to embark on a concert tour of the most famous halls in Europe.

On Tuesday the members of the quartet visited the district to work with the orchestra students at Bellport High School, Bellport Middle School and Frank P. Long Intermediate School. They performed for the students, held master classes and conducted question and answer sessions. Their ability to communicate with the students was truly amazing to behold. They worked closely with musicians from each school. After the coaching the improvement in sound and richness could be heard. The warmth, caring and passion of these highly-skilled, professional musicians were completely evident during the entire time they spent with the young music students.

On Wednesday evening the magic continued. At a benefit concert the quartet performed works by Beethoven and Sibelius. The performance was a *tour de force*. The precision, musicality, exuberance, clarity of expression and purity of sound had to be heard to be believed. The members of the quartet have reached the highest levels of the performing arts. The standing ovation they received was never more truly earned.

—GENE WESTHOFF

Bellport's Clipper Classic

This year will be the 22nd anniversary of the Bellport Clipper Classic's 5K Run and 1.5M Fun Walk to be held at 5:30pm on Sunday July 17th. This annual race has made it possible for tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship awards to be given to over 300 Bellport High School senior athletes. This year's race will be dedicated to the memory of long-time race committee member John Leone who lost his long battle with cancer in December. John was actively involved in the school community for over 20 years. From his chaperoning class trips to his involvement in the PTSA to being founder of Bellport Youth Football, John's positive attitude—along with his smiles, laughs, and hugs—are greatly missed!

Start to Finish, Inc., a professional computerized road race timing company, will assist us in conducting our race again this year. Their technology, which many great races in the area are now using, gives us the advantage of speed and accuracy. Last year the runners enjoyed knowing their results almost instantaneously. We hope that the improved

calculations will attract even more runners to this fine Bellport tradition.

Our sponsors for this year's race are King Kullen, Swezey Fuel Corp, Inc., Brookhaven Eye Surgery, Palermo Paving, Painters Restaurant,, Eileen Green Realty, the Long Island Advance, Sil-Kraft Custom Screen Printing, and Searles Graphics along with new sponsors Brown's Jeep Chrysler Subaru, Bellport Teachers Association, Frank R. Egan, DDS and IslandSports Physical Therapy of Coram, PC.

The Bellport Fire Department, Brookhaven and Hagerman Fire Departments, South Country Ambulance, the Village of Bellport, Bellport United Methodist Church, the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County DPW and many community volunteers will work together to provide participants with the high quality race for which the Clipper Classic has gained a reputation over the years.

We hope you will join us as a race participant, volunteer, or spectator!

—LORI KLAMUT

Poet Laureate Reads in Bellport at BMS

Billy Collins is a true American phenomenon. No popular poet since Robert Frost has managed to combine high critical acclaim with such broad appeal. His last three books have broken sales records for poetry his readings are usually SRO, and his audience has grown to include all backgrounds and age groups. Imbued with irony and grace, his poems are as playful and whimsical as they are deep and imaginative. In

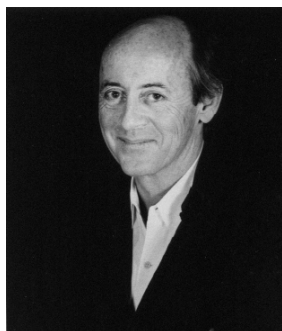


PHOTO BY JULIET VAN OTTEREN

Jeri Woodhouse and Jayne McCahill of A Taste of the North Fork hosted a fundraising luncheon to benefit SCEF at Dava Stravinsky's on November 6, 2004. Fifteen supporters enjoyed a delightful lunch made from the products of A Taste of the North Fork and placed orders for holiday giving. Woodhouse and McCahill made a donation of a percentage of the orders to the foundation and the event netted a total of \$573 for the foundation. Thanks to everyone for the generous support!



the words of noted author E. Annie Proulx, Collins' work is "rueful, warm-voiced, easy to love."

Even before his tenure as United States Poet Laureate (2001-2003), Billy Collins enjoyed great success for his engaging readings nationwide. He has appeared numerous times on National Public Radio and Prairie Home Companion and was recently profiled on 60 Minutes. He has published seven collections of poetry including Questions About Angels, The Art of Drowning, and Picnic, Lightning and was named New York State Poet Laureate for 2004 to 2006.

We are thrilled to be able to bring Billy Collins to the community for a reading on Sunday, November 6, 2005 at 2 PM in the Bellport Middle School auditorium. For ticket information please call 286-3760 or visit our website at www.scefonline.org.

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, June 6 / BHS Senior Scholarship Awards Night

SATURDAY, July 9 / Seventh Annual Cocktail Party and Auction

SUNDAY, July 17 / Annual Clipper Classic 5K Run & 1.5M Fun Walk

SUNDAY, November 6 / Billy Collins Poetry Reading

For details on events and updates on activities, see our website:

<www.scefonline.org>

SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. GRANTS AND AWARDS—SUMMER 2004 THROUGH SPRING 2005

In the last year, the South Country Education Foundation has awarded \$39,092.32 in dozens of grants and scholarships to both individuals and groups within the South Country community. We gratefully appreciate the generosity of our donors who have given their time, efforts and financial contributions. The following list has been made possible by all of you!

Summer Music Study *Becker/Gambles Music Fund*

Twelve students from Frank P. Long and Bellport Middle School received grants for summer music lessons. Four Bellport High School students studied voice, violin and attended music camp.

Clipper Classic 5K Race and Fun Walk Funded Scholarship Awards *Lori Klamut, Race Chair*

Twelve graduating senior athletes awarded scholarships to further their higher education—funded annually.



Reading for Character *Carolyn MacLellan, PTA Kreamer Street Elementary Shared Decision Making Team*

Tote bags with books promoting kindness, friendship, respect, and tolerance for students in K-3 grade.

Achievement Breakfast *Dr. Robert L. Chakar, Jr., Principal, BHS*

Funds granted to support this Bellport High School breakfast honoring students who have made a significant increase in grade point from the previous quarter.

Long Island Philharmonic Youth Concert *Dr. Andrew Perea, Strings Teacher, Frank P. Long Intermediate School*

Fifth grade students attended a performance of "The Magic Orchestra" at Southampton High School.

Ms. Jordan, I wanted to thank you and the Ed Foundation for subsidizing the Frank P. Long Senior Orchestra field trip. Our students were able to see and hear a professional symphony orchestra up close, performing very powerfully. I know the children benefited greatly by this experience. In fact, many of them wish to participate in the statewide NYSSMA solo festival, no doubt a result of this experience. Thank you again for everything that you do for these children. I am truly grateful to be a part of the South Country community. —Dr. A. Perea

SAT Fees *Charles Graziano, Guidance Chair, BHS*

Provide aid for SAT fees for students at BHS.

KEEP-Kids Early Enrichment Program *Family Support Center*

After school enrichment classes to be held at the Family Support Center at BHS for students in grades K-3. Courses in science, drama, creative writing, astronomy, music, art, and Spanish offered this year.

Daedalus Quartet *Becker/Gambles Music Fund*

The foundation supported visits by the quartet to Frank P. Long, BMS and to BHS for performances and Master Classes for students in these schools.



Master Classes *Becker/Gambles Music Fund*

Doctoral candidates from SUNY-Stony Brook in voice, strings and brass held Master Classes with BHS students and performed for classes.

Continued ©

**Students for
Environmental
Quality/SEQ-Past and
Present**

Dan O'Connor, Advisor, BHS

This two-phase project will trace the history of this club by the students through research, interviews of past leaders, picture taking and finally the publication of its findings for distribution to libraries and organizations.

**Carmans River Maritime
Center Boat Building
Ralph Maust**

Using the stitch and glue method, parent/student teams will build Chesapeake Light Craft wooden kayaks at the center.



**Saturday Learning
Academy**

*Gabrielle Coyne, Crista Hasler,
Tim Maher, BMS*

This Saturday morning program will motivate struggling students to improve achievement.

**Go Wild! READ! Parents
As Reading Partners
(PARP)**

*Carolyn MacLellan, PTA,
Kreamer St. Elementary*

This program will encourage parents, teachers and students in grades K-3 to work together to make reading fun and to promote reading as an enjoyable lifelong activity. Assemblies and a field trip to an ecology center round out the program.

**Third Grade
Theme Days**

*Susan Cook, Margie Siegmund,
Heather Veitch, Sandy Winslow,
Jackie Reduto and Erica
Whitenack, Verne W. Critz
Elementary*

Based on the themes of Fall Harvest Day, Goodbye Winter—Hello Spring Day and Pioneer Day, several academic areas are incorporated into this program and social skills development will be emphasized.

Garden Club

*Peter C. Cisek, teacher,
Frank P. Long Intermediate School*

This year's project is to surround the newly located outdoor concert area with gardens that not only enhance the beauty of the courtyard but also involve the entire school community.

Woodworkers' Club

*Peter C. Cisek, Frank P. Long
Intermediate School*

The students reinforce mathematics and other skills by building wooden projects in this very popular after school club. The grant will provide materials and tools.

**Celebrating National
Library Month**

*Jayne Johnsen-Seeberger
Librarian, BMS*

Using an interdisciplinary approach, this grant will tie several literary events and ideas together during the 2006 National Library Week (4/2-4/8/2006) and National School Library Media Month (April 2006). Students enrolled in the classes "Introduction to Advertising and Design" and "Digital Imaging" will use their artistic talents to devise an advertising campaign and produce related materials to promote the library and reading.

**Parenting Skills
Workshop**

*Pegi Orsino, Director,
Family Support Center*

This is an 8-week series of 2-hour parenting skills workshops to yield stronger families and students in our community.

South Country Education Foundation, Inc.

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WITHOUT YOUR HELP**

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South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713

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

HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

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