

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

From the Helm



I am intrigued and excited in taking on the position of President of the South Country Education Foundation. I thank you all for your continued support of this not-for-profit organization which works year round to excite students and energize teachers. You have supported us throughout and we hope you will continue to do so. We thank you for your generosity past and future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing president Mary Mojallali, for her successful terms as president and her many past years of dedication and service to SCEF. We know she will continue to be an ongoing productive board member of the education foundation.

Thank you letters come our way all the time. In September we were graced with one from Casey Leach (Class of 2014) as she returned from a four-week pre-college program at the Maryland Institute of Art. A SCEF scholarship paid for her studies. She describes the challenging courses that kept her busy for more than 12 hours a day. She talked about her exposure to a wood type printing press and her rigorous academic classes.

“I passionately believe that the Arts helps us understand our place in history and enriches our possibilities in the future. Your foundation helps young people, like me, to experience the arts on a higher level.”

Teachers, too, praise SCEF. Bill Corbett, science research teacher at Bellport High School, traveled to Colorado on a Professional Development Grant from our group.

Mr. Corbett reported on his return that “the trip was unbelievable.”

These are just two of the dozens of accolades bestowed on the foundation in recent months. We share them with you because you earned it along with us.

Most of our grant funds are raised at the annual summer cocktail party and auction. We hope, however, that as our work goes on throughout the year donors will think of us year round as we strive to keep a steady flow of educational opportunities present in classrooms in the district.

Please visit our website www.scefonline.org for a full list of programs we have funded. We wish you a joyous Holiday Season and do hope you include SCEF in your year-end giving.

—FRANK LENTO

MUSIC INSTRUMENTS DONATED. Jim Uzzi the chairman of South Country's music department and Isabella Rossellini the internationally known actress, arts patron and Bellport resident are surrounded by musical instruments donated by Ms. Rossellini to the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. The instruments are part of the collection of Ms. Rossellini's late brother Gil Rossellini, writer, producer and director, who passed away in 2008. We are grateful to Ms. Rossellini for donating these unique and valuable instruments so that they may enrich and inspire the students of our district.



More of Our Efforts with Grants and in the Community



BECKER GAMBLES MUSIC EVENT. The Ardea Quartet performed a "Konzert for Karen", a tribute to the late Karen Rowley, at the Old South Haven Presbyterian Church in late November and donated the proceeds to the Becker/Gambles Music Fund. A program of Renaissance and Baroque music played on recorders and viols was accompanied by song and spoken word with Brookhaven hamlet actress and director Deborah Mayo providing the readings. A reception for the performers and attendees was hosted in the church's carriage house by members of the Becker/Gambles committee. We sincerely appreciate this memorial to our fellow committee member and the generosity of the performers for their support of our mission. Pictured left to right: Lawrence Lipnik, Deborah Mayo, David Dixon, Deborah Love, and Diana Foster.

In April, CAC and Becker/Gambles Music Fund committee member Karen Rowley passed away at home. In lieu of flowers, Karen asked that friends send donations to the SCEF music fund. To date, dozens of these donations have been received benefitting our summer music lessons, master classes and more. We sorely miss Karen's intelligence, vitality and devotion to our mission and the students of this district. However, with these posthumous donations, her legacy lives on.

STUDENTS 4 ART SUMMER PROGRAM. This year, the Committee celebrated its fifth Experience of Art summer program with a medley of new and returning artists allowing our "young artists" to experience the art of printmaking, abstract painting, glass art, photography and wood/sculpture. In addition to the 12 student scholarships the Committee awarded for the summer program, the Committee was able to award the first scholarship for a student to participate in a four-week pre-college program at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).



SCEF would like to announce that the late Hugh Brown, retired Brookhaven National Laboratory physicist and longtime Brookhaven hamlet resident, has made a generous bequest to SCEF. Elise Brown, Hugh's daughter and Bellport High School graduate, writes "The fact that he chose investing in area youth as the focal point of his charity shows how much he loved Brookhaven and cares for its future. He was a quiet man who has left a legacy of grace and kindness." We are gratified that Hugh would remember SCEF in his will. His gift will allow us to continue to expand our efforts to enrich the educational experiences of students of the South Country school district.

We thank the community for its generous support of previous SCEF annual auctions and hope you will take notice below so as not to miss 2014's cultural events:

Project Trio, Tuesday, March 25th at 7:30pm at Bellport High School Walter Eversole Auditorium

Opera, Organ and More—Voice and Organ Recital, Saturday, April 26th at 5pm at Old South Haven Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven Hamlet

16th Annual Cocktail Party and Auction, Saturday, July 12th from 5–7:30pm in Bellport Village

Please check our website <www.scefonline.org> for up-to-date information



Humbled. This is how we feel every year when we compile a list of donors—business people, teachers, community supporters—that make it possible for us to enhance the learning experience of students in the South Country District. We know your generosity does not occur in a vacuum. Those who support SCEF are most likely to be on lists of donors to many other local charities and organizations. We offer thanks that your generosity extends to SCEF as well.

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The foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to improving opportunities for all students in the South Country school district. Its mission is to promote educational initiatives by providing supplemental financial support for projects and programs that fall outside of the District budget.

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