VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 1 Winter 2016

#### FROM THE HELM



"It Takes a Village." This well known adage, established so long ago, lives on in our wonderful community. You are the community members that make a positive impact on our students' experience in the South Country School District. Your generosity contributes to the enhancement of existing student programs, the building of

new STEM experiences and the expansion of student development within every school in the district.

The board of the SCEF joins me in thanking each of you for your continued support, year after year. Your contribution to the SCEF has fueled over \$50,000 of grants to teachers, students and community groups during the past year. I also thank the foundation's Board members, Robin, Andrea, Diane, Nancy, Susan, Geof, Nicole, Sue and Alison for being strong community leaders who volunteer in so many ways to enhance the SCEF.

The SCEF annual auction and cocktail party was a great success and raised over \$58,000. We thank those who attended and who share in our vision and goal which allows us to positively impact the SCCSD. If you have yet to see it, please go to www.bellport.com and watch a wonderful video of the SCEF Auction and Cocktail party.

In an effort to expand our community visibility we have grown our Appeal Newsletter this year so we could highlight more grants which are made possible by each of you. We also have a full listing of all grants awarded over the years on our website www.scefonline.org. Please know it is because of you that these grants are possible and we thank you for enabling our great success with the students of the South Country Central School District.

Recent grants enabled by you have supported students in the areas of Oceanography, Culinary, Future Business Leaders of America, Virtual Enterprise International Youth Business Summit, Ecology, Art, Community Life Skills, 3D Design and Printing, Woodworking and Forensic Archaeology. Your support of the SCEF enables our students to gain exposure to areas such as these and many others.

The majority of our grant money is raised at the annual summer cocktail party and auction. The back page of this newsletter provides an opportunity for you to contribute to the SCEF in your year-end giving. We hope and ask that you take advantage of this opportunity to contribute and help make a difference.

We wish you a joyous Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year. – Frank Lento

#### **BILINGUAL BOOK SETS**



The South Country Education Foundation is proud to support the continued efforts to enhance the capabilities of bi-lingual readers in the elementary schools. Sonia Orfin, Brookhaven Elementary School teacher, wrote a grant, "Bilingual Book Sets", to bring dual

language copies of books into the school as pictured. These particular book sets focus on teaching math concepts through literature. There are many students who are literate in Spanish and greatly benefit from the dual language copies of the books. They are able to gain content area knowledge in their native language and learn English at the same time.

# BROOKHAVEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM



During the week of January 11th, local artist and educator Lorena Salcedo-Watson visited the Art room at Brookhaven Elementary School for a one week Art-in-Residence program. The title of the program, "Nature and Transformation

Through Art", was generously funded through a grant from the South Country Education Foundation.

During her visit, Ms. Salcedo-Watson presented her collection of natural objects which included seed pods, glass encased bugs from around the world, and even a bat skeleton! She also brought several pieces of her artwork and discussed how her collection influences her creativity. Students discovered a new respect and understanding for the beauty of the natural world around them. The program was presented to over 600 students from kindergarten through third grade.

Photo: Pictured left to right, Mrs. Michelle Procida, Art Teacher at Brookhaven Elementary School, Artist Lorena Salcedo-Watson.

## FLAMENCO OLE AT BROOKHAVEN ELEMENTARY!



Brookhaven Elementary School welcomed back Sol y Sombra Spanish Dance Company. Their performance titled, Flamenco Ole, celebrated the Hispanic culture's influence on the arts

while providing the students and staff with an exciting opportunity to view a new art form with a live performance. This program was made possible through a grant received from South Country Education Foundation written by Mrs. Procida, art teacher and Mrs. Weinberg, ENL teacher.

## GET UP STAND UP DONATES TO SCEF



Meaghan Shannon of Get Up Stand Up NY, a Bellport company that offers rentals and paddleboard instruction, provided SCEF with a substantial donation for the second year in a row.

The proceeds from the 2nd Paddle to the Point Race on Bellport Bay were donated to the education

foundation. SCEF President Frank Lento said: "This is the second time they've given the proceeds to our organization and we couldn't be more grateful." In all, Get Up Stand Up has donated more than \$4,000 to SCEF.

The August 21st event attracted approximately 40 paddlers who braved choppy conditions and strong winds in the two-mile race. Young paddlers competed in a 200-yard race.

Volunteers helped with sign up and water safety. Food and beverages were supplied by It's Only Natural, The Bellport and Ace Coffee.

## STUDENTS SAY THANK YOU FROM "BOOK HEAVEN"



Mary Pettit, a teacher at Frank P. Long Intermediate School, requested \$1,859.30 in the 2016 grant cycle to fund a project titled "Book Talk Center."

Ms. Pettit observed that good readers as well as struggling readers enjoy listening to advanced material. Listening to books encourages conversations about books and the entire class benefits.

The grant paid for the center consisting of dozens of titles, wireless headsets and a console for the equipment. The program was quickly off and running.

The students were encouraged to pen notes of thanks to

SCEF and the contents of the notes revealed how a small amount of money can transform a classroom and young minds.

One student noted that the books "smell good." Another who admitted he "honestly used to hate reading" experienced a remarkable transformation and began to enjoy it. For one young reader, his thank you was summed up in a simple declaration: "I'm in book heaven!"

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SCEF SERVICE BARBARA KNOWLES & DAVA STRAVINSKY



Dava Stravinsky and Barbara Knowles recently retired from the SCEF Board of Directors. Dava was a founder of the SCEF and served on the board for over 15 years. Barbara's service to the board spanned over 12 years. We thank Dava and Barbara for

their dedication to the SCEF and as leaders in our community.

Dava held many positions on the board over the years as President, Vice President and lead numerous commit-

tees. Her influence creating and directing the SCEF will be bound to this organization for eternity and we thank her greatly for her devotion and leadership of the SCEF over so many years.

Barbara brought a unique set of skills to the SCEF as she was the head of the art and design departments at Viking Penguin and Harcourt Brace Jovanovich book publishing firms in NYC. She leveraged this talent to redesign the SCEF Newsletter along with its new name Xtra-Curricular. The large round dining table in the home she shares with her husband Edward was often where the monthly SCEF Board of Director meetings were held.

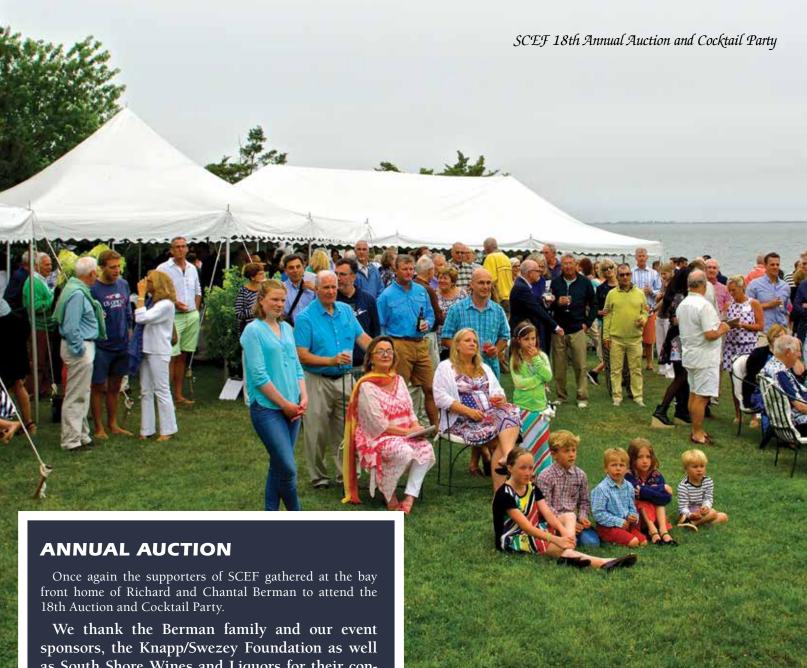
Dava and Barbara are now members of the SCEF Community Advisory Board.

#### YOGA IN ELEMENTARY P.E.



Lou Ann Roche, is a retired elementary school teacher and certified Yoga instructor. She instructed the elementary school students at V.W.C. on the basic elements of Yoga. Strength,

breathing, flexibility and calmness of mind were featured in the Physical Education classes in her one week program. The objectives of the program were to introduce and build upon the concepts and basics of yoga into the elementary school. Yoga breathing, postures, relaxation and positive social themes were incorporated. A calmer and less reactive student body was created by this program. It has tremendously benefited the students themselves, as well as the faculty and staff. The students, grades K-3 adored this program! They loved Mrs. Roche, each of her activities, and simply stated that they felt "so much better after Yoga". Since Mrs. Roche completed her program, Mrs. Brower and Mr. Champlin include Yoga in their Physical Education class each and every day.



as South Shore Wines and Liquors for their constant support of our event. This year's turn out hit a new high.

Local merchants supported our event in full force through donations of appetizers and auction items. The education foundation raised more than \$58,000 with the generous support of the community. The donations go a long way in our efforts to enhance the educational experience of students in the South Country School District. Grant summaries in this newsletter are just a sample of the positive impact SCEF makes on the lives of students in South Country.

"I'd like our supporters to know that their participation makes our efforts more impactful," said SCEF President Frank Lento. During its existence, SCEF has expanded its reach to include reading, mathematics, STEM, culinary, music, art and stage programs. Next year's event is set for July 8, 2017. "We will strive to improve upon our fund raising records," said Mr. Lento.

Additionally, Mr. Lento and the board thank the dozens of volunteers who work tirelessly to create an event that is a staple of the community's summer season.

#### MAKING READING FUN

The materials from NASCO have been used daily in Ms. Hartill's. Mrs Albrecht's and Mrs

Donovan's classrooms. In Mrs. Albrecht's and Mrs. Donovan's classrooms these materials have helped students to maintain focus. The ball chairs and foot fidgets have provided increased attention to task for the students they are being used with. In Ms. Hartill's class, the materials have been used to assess students on their speech goals while covering content appropriate material. The book sets from High Noon Books have provided wonderful reading programs for students who have a weakness in the area of reading. These books have helped to increase students' sight word vocabulary and decoding/encoding skills. We have observed a significant increase in comprehension skills as a direct result of the improved reading skills gained through these materials.

#### \$26,600 FUNDS 18 GRANTS IN THE 2016 / 2017 SCEF FALL GRANT CYCLE...

Every school participated in the SCEF 2016/2017 Fall Grant Cycle. With the grants awarded, BHS students will be able to perform college-level laboratory research at SUNY Stonybrook, create large scale murals to decorate the BHS, and participate in several art workshops. Bellport Middle School students will be able to use technology to advance their math skills with interactive student notebooks. Frank P. Long students will participate in a Woodworkers Club, visit the Suffolk County Farm, utilize their STEM skills through small group activities, and further their math knowledge through literacy. The Elementary school students will have opportunities to participate in a Yoga program, learn about Oceanography, and participate in art workshops. All these efforts could only have come to fruition with the great support of the community.

#### STEM PROJECT BRAIN BOOST P. Gallina, M. Pettit | Frank P. Long Intermediate School \$2,750.09

Fifth Grade students will use their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills to work in small groups to construct miniature solar houses, simulate earthquakes (small ones), and build simple machines.

## MATH READS HELPS KIDS REACH NEW HEIGHTS! M. Pettit | Frank P. Long Intermediate School \$1.425.29

Fourth and fifth grade students will deepen their understanding of math concepts with reading materials by noted mathematic educator, Marilyn Burns, the author of books that promote math knowledge through literacy.

#### YOGA IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### D. Brower, W. Champlin | Verne W. Critz Elementary School \$500.00

Lou Ann Roche, a retired elementary school teacher and certified Yoga instructor will instruct elementary school students on the basic elements of Yoga. Strength, breathing, flexibility and calmness of mind will be featured in Physical Education Classes during this one week program.

### INTERACTIVE STUDENT NOTEBOOKS I. Nhotsouhanh, I. Salnietro, I. Bellnort Middle

### I. Nhotsoubanh, I. Salpietro | Bellport Middle School \$500.00

This grant will provide funding for Interactive Student Notebooks that will help students organize their notes, take better notes, and provide interesting and engaging ways to create a study document.

## MATH READS HELPS KIDS REACH NEW HEIGHTS! William Pettit | Verne W. Critz Elementary School \$1,425.29

Second and third grade students will deepen their understanding of math concepts with reading materials by noted mathematic educator, Marilyn Burns, the author of books that promote math knowledge through literacy.

#### HOW DOES A FARM WORK?

#### D. Whitman, S. Mineo, M. Winfield | K. Frankie, M. Drucker Kreamer Street Elementary School \$1,950.16

More than 100 students at Kreamer Street elementary will visit Benner's Farm and learn about, mammals, observe a milking demonstration, plant seeds in the garden area and conclude with a tour of the entire farm, petting and feeding baby animals.

#### SHOPPING TRIPS FOR CULINARY CLASS C. Masem | Bellport High School \$578.06

Duties of a chef including planning menus and shopping for food items. This grant provides transportation to Costco and Stop & Shop where student chefs, accompanied by advisors, will purchase items for their meal plans. The program teaches students how to plan, budget and calculate the cost of meals.

#### GO TO WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG TO SEE ALL GRANTS AWARDED

# SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

#### WHAT WE DO

The South Country Education Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to improving educational opportunities for all students in the South Country School District by:

- Giving Education Grants (upwards of \$50,000 for the past 12 months)
- Supporting Our Cultural and Educational Committees:
  - Becker/Gambles Music Fund, Martin Luther King Foundation and Students 4 Art
- Partnering with the Boys and Girls Club and Knapp/Swezey Foundation for the YMCA Swim Program
- Offering Professional Development Grants



### 2017 SCEF SAVE THE DATE

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 2017's auction:

19TH ANNUAL COCKTAIL PARTY AND AUCTION Saturday, July 8, 2017 from 5pm to 7:30pm in Bellport

> GRANT RECEPTION Thursday, June 1, 2017 from 3:30pm to 5:00pm

Please check our website,

www.scefonline.org,

for up-to-date information

The SCEF community of donors and contributors has once again exceeded our expectations. We thank you for your support of the students in the South Country School District. The 18th annual auction and cocktail event raised over \$58,000. Please take a moment to be proud of your contributions which continue to fuel our positive reach and impact in our community. We offer thanks to each of you and hope your generosity will continue to support the South Country Education Foundation in the year to come.

Dr. Amr Abdelaziz and John Calcagno Adventureland Connie Adee Adesa John and Connie Albin Lisa Anderson and Marc Rauch Jack and Barbara Antos Matilda and Worth Austin Jr. Avino's Italian Table Edward Bank and Steve Narker Scott & Christine Barden Debbie & Bob Barkley Richard Barthelmess Luisa and Alain Baume Diane & Gary Bavosa Alex and John Beitel Susan Belcher, Belle Shear Bellport Stationary Bellport Arts & Framing Bellport Cold Beer and Soda Bellport High School Bellport High School ESL Bellport High School PTSA Bellport High School Woodworkers Bellport High School Culinary Class Bellport Jewelers Dr. Richard and Chantal Berman Laurence and Valerie Berman Donald Bernstein and Jo Ellen Finkel Herb and Frances Bernstein Julia Binnington Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Binnington Brick House Brewery Elena Brodie-Kusa Brookhaven Elementary PTA Gary and Lynn Brown Brown's Jeep Chrysler Dodge Ram Nicole Brown Dana Buchman and Tom Farber Alison Buck Kathrvn Buck and Steve Cannella Helen Budny Andrew Budris and Ellen Hoffman Café Gia Ann Cameron and Rich Herrmann Virginia Reylek Cayey Celadon Home Bouitique Chachama Grill Dr. Robert and Judy Chernaik Carol Chester Mike and Michele Chiaramonte Chris Calhoun Agency Sara Cioffaletti Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cipp Jr. Peter Cisek Jean Coakley Complete Rehab and Sport Lisa Conk

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### SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. P.O. BOX 512, BELLPORT, NEW YORK 11713-1502

WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG

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.

HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN

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