

Xtra-curricular

NEWSLETTER OF THE **SOUTH COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**



From the Helm



This past summer I was honored to become the president of the South Country Education Foundation. As a graduate of Bellport High School I have a special connection to our schools. Two of my children have graduated from South Country and my youngest daughter will be on her way to the high school next year. Over the last 15 years, I have been involved in our schools through a range of volunteer activities. Serving on the board of the Foundation for the last four years has been a rewarding way for me to give back to the educational community which has been such a positive influence for my family.

At the South Country Education Foundation, we have worked to provide opportunities for innovative staff of the district and interested community members to conceive projects that will offer a wide range of educational experiences to students here. Once again, we have awarded over \$15,000 in grants this fall, and we will continue our tradition of awarding spring grants in the upcoming season. It is gratifying to see our students engaged in learning situations they would not otherwise have if it weren't for the generous donors and volunteers who support our efforts.

Inside the pages of our newsletter you will be able to see the projects that are enhancing our students' lives as a result of our grants. Whether it is through science, art, music, physical education or reading, we strive to reach as many students as possible. The African proverb that "it takes a village to raise a child" is illustrated each time we award a grant and a student experiences something new. Every time you support the Foundation, you become part of the collective effort to raise our students to new levels.

I would like to thank all of our donors who have been so generous in their support and ask that you continue to help us provide our students with as many educational opportunities as possible.

—MARY MOJALALLI

Students 4 Art: Bringing Our Community Together through Art

"This was a magical experience for me—thank you..."

"A heartwarming experience for my daughter..."

"Can you do it for two weeks next year?"

These words are reflective of the sentiments expressed by the students (and parents) who participated in The Experience of Art, a one-week enrichment program developed by Students 4 Art this summer.

Local artists, art educators and members of our community came together to nurture, inspire and cultivate the creativity of our youth by creating an environment where these young people could experience the world through the eyes of an artist and then to have the freedom and confidence to express themselves in their art.



Above, fully engaged, award-winning artist Melissa Hin works her magic with charcoal.

Inspired, at left, students see the world through the eyes of an artist and draw with charcoal.



Younger and older students share reflections on their clay creations with local artist Marilyn Silverman at the end of the day.



“Our goal was to expose our youth to distinct art mediums and techniques and allow them to explore each in their own personal way,” commented Suzette Fandale, chairperson of the South Country art department. “It was a truly inspiring week for all of us.”

Creating connections and drawing inspiration from a team of five local artists:

Our nurturing artists volunteered their time to bring a refreshing energy and diversity to the program. They



Creating peace banners decorated with Chinese brushpainting at the home and studio of Michael Ince.

shared their personal stories, brought work in for students to see and touch, and provided guidance and inspiration as students then created their own original works of art.

- Artist and ceramicist Marilyn Silverman shared her love of ceramics and urged the students to be ‘playful’ as they created their own structures.

- Award-winning artist Melissa Hin evoked her passion for drawing and guided the students as they embraced the challenge of drawing in charcoal.

- Artist and builder Michael Ince and his wife Zabby Ince invited the group into their home and studio. Together, the group built a Japanese-style bamboo bridge, a Chinese fishnet, a parasol for the canoe and peace banners decorated with Chinese brushpainting.

- Artist, printmaker and educator Lorena Salcedo-Watson introduced students to their first printmaking experience and they were “hooked.”

- Impressionist painter Mary Samuels ended the week with a splash of color as she guided students in creating their own sunsets, clear skies and natural landscapes with acrylic paints.

Words from the Visiting Artists:

“Students 4 Art is a fantastic resource with respect to instruction, socialization and inspiration” —Melissa Hin

“We opened ourselves to other visions and, in turn, re-energized our own.” —Lorena Salcedo-Watson

On the last day of the program, relatives and friends came to view the students’ original works of art. Students beamed proudly as they presented their work and introduced their loved ones to the artists and educators.

What’s next for Students 4 Art

- The Experience of Art 2010 program, August 2-6, 2010.

- Artists will conduct personalized mentoring sessions for art-bound high school students to help solidify their

foundation and provide support in creating well-rounded portfolios.

- “The Artist Connection” Studio Tour Sunday Series, planned for March, 2010
- Awarding scholarships for South Country students to attend specialized art programs with funds generated by Students 4 Art activities

A special thanks to:

- Pamela Lerner & Kate Carmel Antiques (pamelalernerantiques@msn.com) for contributing the sales of The Faces of Bellport collectable 2009 poster to benefit the Students 4 Art program and for hosting the cocktail reception to unveil the poster.

• Singer and songwriter Jo Williamson, inspired by the home and studio of Michael Ince, wrote and performed *Nature's Way* for the program.

• Meta Raddatz, for on-location drawing at the sheep farm.

Students 4 Art Committee

Suzette Fandale, Pamela Lerner, Louise Miller, Lorena Salcedo-Watson, Marilyn Silverman, Cheryl Steinhauer, Dava Stravinsky, Lilliam Villafane Di Giacomo

For a snapshot of The Experience of Art, please visit www.scefonline.org/students4Art and click on “The Movie”. Additionally, a program covering the day at the home and studio of Michael Ince will air on cable TV in the future.

For more information about the Students 4 Art programs, please contact Suzette Fandale by phone at 631.730.2108 or E-mail at students4art@gmail.com.

As part of the South Country Education Foundation, Students 4 Art is a non-profit organization focused on enhancing educational opportunities and experiences in the visual arts for students of the South Country School District.

—LILLIAM VILLAFANE DI GIACOMO



Running the press for the first time with printmaker Lorena Salcedo-Watson—Voilà!

Calendar of Events 2010

Monday, February 1st Spring grant applications available

Friday, February 26th, 7:30 pm Mark Wood, electric violin with vocalist Laura Kaye in concert
Walter Ebersole Auditorium, Bellport High School

Monday, April 5th Spring grant application deadline

Friday, May 7th Spring grant winners announced

Saturday, May 8th, 5 pm Opera and More: Voice and Piano Recital
Old South Haven Presbyterian Church, Brookhaven

Thursday, June 3rd, 3:30-5 pm Reception for Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 Grant Winners
Home of Barbara and Ed Knowles, Academy Lane, Bellport

Saturday, July 10th, 5-7:30 pm 12th Annual Cocktail Party/Auction
Home of Chantal and Richard Berman, Bellport

Check our website www.scefonline.org for up-to-date information

SCEF Awards More Than \$15,000 In Fall Grants

The board of the South Country Education Foundation awarded 10 grants during the fall grant cycle to projects such as poetry, life skills, strength training and electric violins. A total of 25 projects were reviewed before the final selections were announced.

Friends and Family

Suzette Fandale
Bellport High School
\$2,939.94

Ninety students in the photography program at Bellport High School will study portrait photography with a local portrait photographer creating original pieces of artwork using a variety of materials and equipment. They will also study the history and styles of portrait photography as well as digital photography, and they will explore lighting techniques using black and white film. The grant covers the cost of a SLR digital camera, inkjet print cartridges, lamps and floodlights.

Bellport Electric Strings

James Uzzi
Bellport High School
\$2,773.00

This grant will fund the purchase of a Wood Electric Violin and a Wood 5 string Electric Violin to be used by students in the orchestra program at Bellport High School. This project coincides with a workshop and performance project funded by the Becker/Gambles Music Committee that ends in a performance by noted electric violinist Mark Wood and Bellport High School students in February. The performance is part of a two-day workshop with Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood has developed a series of electrified string instruments that are growing rapidly in their accessibility and use throughout public schools, colleges and universities.

Keep a Poem in Your Pocket

Jo Ann Tomaszewski, Kimberly Esposito,
Carmela Quirk, Nicole O'Leary
Brookhaven Elementary School
\$1,850.00

Students at Brookhaven Elementary School will enjoy a visit from popular poet Darren Sardelli who is known for his creativity and humor. The organizers also see the project as a way to offer additional opportunities for struggling readers to express themselves through poetry. The grant pays for Mr. Sardelli's one-day visit as well as the purchase of 140 copies of his books of poetry for remedial students.

Home Literacy Connection

Jeanine Madrigales
Verne W. Critz Elementary
\$500.00

Home Literacy Connection for English Language Learners and Their Families would create a bilingual book exchange. The program would include books in English and books in the students' native language in order to promote literacy conversation between the students and their parents. To ensure that the program touches upon all student learners, books on tape in English would be available for early readers. The majority of the grant funds would be used to purchase books in Spanish, Bengali and Urdu.

Life Skills

Danielle Gulotta
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$500.00

This grant will fund a variety of field trips for students with multiple disabilities. The goal is to use the trips as an opportunity to re-enforce life skills such as appropriate manners, hygiene, restaurant behavior, grocery shopping and money identification.

Garden Club

Peter Cisek
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$300.00

This grant will fund the purchase of a garden mini-tiller, hoses, pumpkins, hay bales and mums for the existing Garden Club at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. The Garden Club is responsible for a new 600 square foot garden in the school courtyard as well as for other beautification projects.

Dancing Classrooms

Aimee Volk, L. Zaccaro
Frank P. Long Intermediate School
\$2,500.00

Fifth grade students at the Frank P. Long Intermediate School will have the opportunity to participate in the Dancing Classrooms program of the American Ballroom Theater. The classes will be given twice a week as part of the school day. The program is designed to help students learn to dance while developing qualities of showing respect for others, among other things. The program will run from January to March and has additional funding from the nonprofit dance organization CoDanceCo Foundation, the Frank P. Long PTA Cultural Program and New York State Assemblywoman Patricia Eddington.

Science Club

Matthew Gualtieri, Sharon Plotnick
Bellport Middle School
\$1,000.00

The Bellport Middle School Science Club will use this grant to pay for admission to the Science Olympiad and to purchase team T-shirts, technological and experimental supplies and books. The Foundation has funded other Science Club projects, and the students have performed well at several scientific competitions.

Kettlebell Training

Charles Maragliolo
Bellport High School
\$652.70

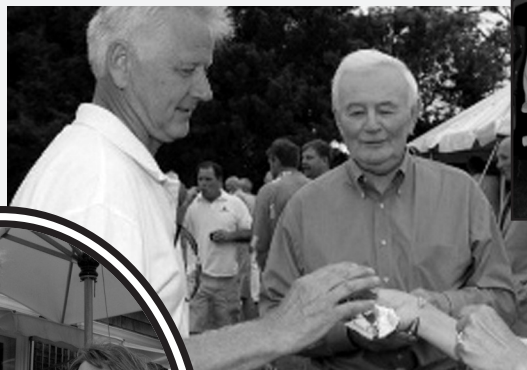
This grant is for the purchase of six kettlebells in a variety of weights to be used by male students in grades 9-12 to improve their muscular and cardiovascular strength. Kettlebells are Russian cast iron weights that are considered the ultimate tool for extreme all-around fitness. They will be used during the wellness unit of physical education classes.

How Did That Sound?

Brian Dinger
Verne W. Critz Elementary School
\$2,000.00

This grant provides funding for the purchase of computer equipment and software to be used to make and edit digital recordings of children's musical performances at the Verne W. Critz Elementary School. Recorded performances of older children will be used as a teaching tool for younger children, according to the grant writer. The new equipment will also be used to enhance assemblies, school functions and slide shows.

PRIDE OF BELLPORT BASKET—Pete Cisek sells raffle tickets as Superintendent of Schools Ray Walsh [right] lends his support.



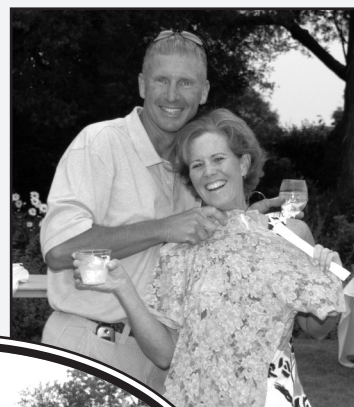
SMILES all around for, from the left, Susan Salomon, Rick Salomon and Harold Snedcof.

AUCTIONEER John Stravinsky encourages bidders.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD—Outgoing SCEF President Gene Westhoff receives a special gift from incoming president Mary Mojallali.

A FESTIVE NIGHT was enjoyed by Jamie and Gail Blumenthal.



TIES THAT BIND—Grant winners Katherine Frankie (left) and Dan O'Connor are joined by Linda Majowka, the mother of Ms. Frankie.



FORMER BHS STUDENTS Larry Potter and Lisa Anderson, Class of '68, talked about Ms. Anderson's duties as the provost of American University in Cairo.



Fun is the Main Event at the Annual Fundraising Auction!



Event photographers Angela Jansen and Patrice Casanova and SCEF's helpful helpers [above].



Chamber Music America Grant

The Daedalus Quartet, along with the South Country Education Foundation as a community partner, was awarded a three-year, \$45,000 grant to bring chamber music to the Bellport community and the South Country Schools. The grant is currently in its third year. The first two years have proven to be exciting and beneficial to the South Country musicians and the third year should prove to be equally exciting.

The Daedalus Quartet will perform interactive concerts and give master classes, coachings, lecture-demonstrations, and workshops for string students in the schools of the district. It will also present events for the public at large, many targeting the economically-challenged community of North Bellport. Our students have performed with the Quartet and will again. This year, a concert under the auspices of the Islip Council of the Arts is planned for May.

Members of the Daedalus Quartet divided students in the Bellport Middle School orchestra into groups to play a theatre game emphasizing how composers use phrasing and sound to create music. Similar composition workshops were held at the high school. A benefit concert for the public featuring works by Haydn, Tower and Beethoven was performed this past October.



The quartet illustrated their lesson on phrasing by playing for the BMS orchestra students.

All areas to be reached by this residency are underserved in the fine arts, particularly in chamber music. The Daedalus Quartet is especially concerned about this because three of its members grew up in East Patchogue and progressed through the South Country School District's public schools. They played together for the first time in Bellport High School's Baroque Ensemble. The South Country School District's constituents range from the very wealthy to the very poor; the train tracks of the Long Island Railroad forming a line of demarcation. The challenge in such an area is to find a force that unites rather than divides, and the Daedalus Quartet firmly believes that chamber music can be that unifying force. Its members continue to be excited about bringing chamber music, and its attending spirit of cooperation, to the community that nurtured them.

The plan for the residency grew out of the Quartet's relationship with SCEF. Since 2002, the Quartet has performed an annual fundraising concert for the Foundation to raise scholarship money for South Country music students. This has always been accompanied by a day of performing and coaching in the schools. After several years of following this format, both the Quartet and the Foundation felt that the students and community members would be better served by a more intensive residency, one that allows the Quartet to interact repeatedly with the same students and to construct a multi-year, multi-layered program for them.

Chamber Music America has agreed with the Quartet and the Foundation and has generously funded this three-year program. The members of the Becker/Gambles Music Fund Committee continues to work closely with the music faculty and the quartet to make the program a great success.

—GENE WESTHOFF

The South Country Education Foundation would like to express its gratitude for the generous donations received from individuals, alumni, businesses and organizations. Our mission to enhance the educational experiences of the students of the South Country School District is only accomplished because of the people whose names appear on this list.

This donor list reflects contributions made between October 2008 and November 2009. We have made every effort to include the names of all of our contributors and regret if anyone has been omitted.

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South Country Education Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 512, Bellport, New York 11713-1502
WWW.SCEFONLINE.ORG

SCEF Mission Statement:

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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